



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2016



Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
BOOK REVIEW: CATCH THAT TIGER	7
2016 TULSA FIGURE SHOW ARMOR ENTRIES	8
2016 SECOND QUARTERLY CONTEST	9
JOIN AMPS TODAY	10
NEW ON THE BLOCK	11
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	11
ABOUT US	12
MEMBERS' GALLERY	12

THE THRILL OF VICTORY, The Agony of Defeat

by
Bob Bethea & Henry Núñez, Jr.

Although the title is shamelessly stolen from *The Wide World of Sports*, it was chosen for the theme Henry and Bob wanted to

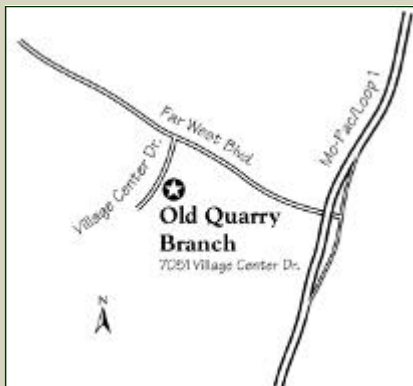
depict in their diorama. The story line depicts desolate German troops being marched out of a defeated Berlin past an abandoned late war German artillery piece by the victorious Russians. The faces of the Germans show a combination of arrogance and the anticipated misery they face as prisoners of the brutal Russians (the Agony of Defeat). On the other hand the Russians are enjoying their

(Continued on page 4)

Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

July 6, 2016

Annual dues for full membership are USD \$12 to be collected at each January meeting. Upon receipt of payment, a membership card will be issued. This card is valid for one year, and it entitles holder to discounts at various local hobby shops in the Central Texas and San Antonio areas.



Sabot Away! is the official newsletter of AABS and is published twelve times a year on/before each monthly meeting. Any inquiry on subscription issues or assistance on article contribution please contact editor Eric Choy via email aabsco@gmail.com.

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AABS.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ July 6 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 3 to 8 - IPMS-USA National Convention The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, Columbia, SC
- ◆ September 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ September 10 - SuperCon 2016, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington, TX
- ◆ September 24 - ASMS Capital Classic 2016, Norris Conference Centers, Austin, TX



AABS Officers May 2016 – Apr 2018

John Talley, President
(512) 388-3473, johnwtalley@hotmail.com

Ted Andreas, Jr., Vice-President
tedandreas1@yahoo.com

Eric Choy, Treasurer
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Ted Paone, Secretary
(512) 635-9516, theopaone@att.net

Eric Choy, Newsletter Editor
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Roderick Bell, Webmaster
(512) 507-6104
roderickobell@gmail.com



Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2016	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
February	Kevin Hutchison	Ted Paone
March*	David Davis (Guest)	Alex Gashev
April	Aaron Smischney	Rod Bell
May	Dave Bourland	Russ Holm
June*	Bob Bethea	Greg Beckman
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Eric Choy
August	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
September*	Rick Herrington	Ted Andreas, Jr.
October	Kit Auction	Joe Fisher
November	John Talley	Greg Beckman
December*	Eric Choy	Bill Menzie
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley

Here is a list of members who are responsible for providing articles for the newsletter and program presentation at our monthly meetings.

Please note any member may contribute as many articles as he wants any time. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure we have at least one article in the newsletter each month.

Prompt submission of your article is much appreciated. The deadline is always **11:59PM on the last Wednesday of the previous month** (e.g. Rick Herrington's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

July is fast upon us, and we're rolling quickly into mid-summer heat. Hopefully the July 4th festivities will give everyone a fresh outlook, and the fireworks will keep our minds off of the heat, if only for one night.

The heat does give us one benefit where this club is concerned: a great excuse to stay indoors with the air conditioning and start or continue modeling projects. I'll leave it up to each individual to persuade whomever they may need to convince as to the validity of that excuse!

I would feel foolish to miss pointing out that July marks the 100th anniversary of the start of **The Somme** offensive. This Allied offensive eventually included the first use of tanks in combat. I'm sure we'll have more to say about that in September.



*British Mk.I tank at the Battle of Somme
(Imperial War Museum)*

If you've been looking for more project inspiration, consider that even though Operation Barbarossa was still in its earliest days 75 years ago this month, the

German's were already managing to close some of the greatest encirclements in military history, based purely on quantities of troops and equipment. The Bialystok-Minsk pocket alone, closed July 3rd, ultimately captured a quarter million men and more than three thousand tanks! The variety of vehicles is staggering, which should provide just about any of us with inspiration for a new project, or pulling out a model we've set aside until we find the right subject matter for it.



*Soviet tanks and vehicles abandoned in a pocket in
July 1941.*

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting this Wednesday evening, and I hope you are all inspired by the July 4th celebrations, and we get to see an explosion of productivity.

John Talley
President

HAPPY 4th OF JULY



(Continued from page 1)

captured prizes of war, holding German mementos and enjoying the Thrill of Victory.

The figures in the diorama were assembled and animated by Bob to depict the variety of units and uniforms that were encountered in 1945 Berlin, both Russian and German. They are a mix of plastic, resin and metal parts with some receiving resin aftermarket heads with expressions from Hornet, and tons of equipment and detritus from the parts box of Tamiya, Trumpeter, Dragon and other companies.

All the figures were painted in Vallejo and Andrea Acrylics by Henry. The artillery piece and the groundwork were airbrushed in Tamiya Acrylics by Bob with lots of weathering in acrylics, oil paints, and pastels.

The Germans

Henry researched the various uniforms on the German figures differentiating the colors appropriately for the various units depicted. By this stage in the war there was hardly any uniformity in the German Armed forces.

The NCO (1) leading the group is a weathered faced veteran who retained his early war uniform with modifications made to the tunic. He retains the dark green collar and shoulder boards, though they were later replaced with field gray for economic reasons. His insignia is the old style white/aluminum thread. However, he does wear the canvas gaiters and short boots that replaced the jackboots.



By this stage of the war, men were being pulled out of many different units to form ad hoc formations to stop the invading Russians. Therefore, they included a Luftwaffe antiaircraft artillery soldier (2). His tunic is painted in field blue, his trousers in field gray with field blue canvas gaiters. His insignia is in artillery red.

The soldier next to him (3) is dressed in the late M44



uniform cut much like the British battledress to conserve scarce resources. His insignia is mouse grey, the new late war standard. Field gray, the color adopted for German army uniforms in 1907, was being replaced by other cheaper colors such as olive brown. This uniform was never produced in great numbers, and it was only issued to a few units. The soldier still retains his peaked M43 cap in field gray.

The next two soldiers (4 & 5) were painted in various shades of field gray. Color photos show very little effort was made for quality color control in late war Germany.

The last German (5) is shown wearing trousers made with Wehrmacht splinter camouflage.



The Russians

The Soviet army retained their tunics from the First World War with many changes throughout the war years. The collar rank insignia began to replace the shoulder boards, which later came back into fashion. The tunics came in different cuts and may shades of olive green, brown and khaki.

The NCO (6) is wearing a tunic with shoulder boards with appropriate rank and two chest pockets in a



shade of light olive green. He is armed with the PPSH 41 submachine gun with a curved 35 round magazine. He sports the typical high black leather boots and has a tent section or greatcoat rolled up over his shoulder. The prize he is holding is a Nazi Hitler Youth knife confiscated from a German prisoner.

The officer (7) standing atop the pile of debris is dressed in a dark olive drab tunic, with a brown leather belt, light olive trousers and black boots. He wears the Defense of Stalingrad medal on his chest and his shoulder boards show his rank. His prize is a German Knights Cross medal taken from a very valiant fallen German.

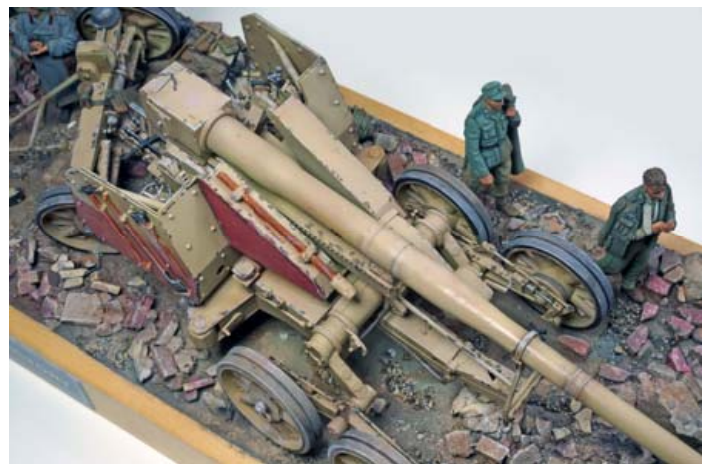
The other Russian Officer (8) is wearing the steel gray long greatcoat with the branch collar tabs, shoulder boards showing his rank and piped in the infantry color of raspberry. He wears a brown leather pistol belt, holster, and map case. His M39 helmet is in olive green. The prize he is holding is the highly sought after German P08 Luger pistol.



The last Russian (9) is a typical private guarding

and herding the German prisoners. He wears the typical Infantryman's uniform with an olive green tunic with rank on his shoulder boards, light khaki trousers and other ranks side cap.

The private also has the standard black boots and brown leather belts with M37 ammo pouches. He carries the M30 canvas assault pack in Khaki along with an entrenching tool and canvas haversack in olive green. His weapon is a *Moisen-Nagant* M91 rifle with bayonet attached.



Artillery Piece

The PaK44 (*Rhein*) was a huge 128mm anti-tank weapon fielded by the Germans very late in the war in very limited numbers as a reaction to the well armored Russian JS-2 tanks. They could knock out anything they hit, but only in ambush as they only had a small shield to protect their crew. It was chosen as something typical of the late war in Berlin...too little too late. Its bulk was also very imposing, and it



allowed the diorama to work around it well.

The gun is a Trumpeter kit and was built out of the box with the including photo-etched spaced armor on the shields. It was painted in Tamiya acrylics, and the wheels adjusted to mate perfectly with the groundwork.

Groundwork

The groundwork attempts to mimic the destruction encountered by the invading Russians when they reached the city of Berlin. The detritus includes broken plaster, balsa boards, wires, assorted weapons, and accoutrements from various plastic manufacturers. The belts were made from paper and sheet lead.

The bent and damaged Tamiya lamp post adds a vertical dimension to the otherwise horizontal piece. The same was done with the various heights of the Russian officers standing on the rubble.



Afterthoughts

We hope the overall result is more than the sum of the parts, and the story is identifiable and appropriate. Henry and I really enjoy working together, and the combination of talents gets the most out of our partnership. The division of labor also allows for a better chance for big projects to finally





make it to fruition. We both recommend partnering up as you can always learn from each other. And in so doing become better friends.

Bob & Henry

References

1. *The Soviet Soldier of World War Two* by Philippe Rio
2. *Feldbluse, the German Soldier's Field Tunic 1933-45* by Laurent Huart and Jen-Philippe Borg
3. *Guns of the Reich, Firearms of the German Forces, 1939-1945* by George Markham
4. *German Soldiers of World War Two* by Jean de la Garde

Catch That Tiger

by

Noel Botham & Bruce Montague

John Blake Publishing
[ISBN 781857826609]

Book Review by
Eric Choy



Every armor aficionado knows and loves Bovington's Tiger 131. For years we have been told it was captured by the British 48th Royal Tank Regiment in a tank engagement in North Africa. This claim is now being disputed by **Noel Botham** and **Bruce Montague** in their new book *Catch That Tiger*.

Based on newly discovered diaries of **Douglas Lidderdale**, a major in the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) Corps who was in charge of the recovery of Tiger 131 in Tunisia, Botham and Montague argue that the capture was no accident but a daring mission set in motion by prime minister **Winston Churchill**. Desperate to discover the technology behind the deadly tank, Churchill ordered Lidderdale to go to Africa to fetch

a "live" Tiger back to England for study. Riding with his crew in a Churchill tank, Lidderdale stalked Tiger tanks for two months, and after several unsuccessful attempts, he finally bagged 131 while nearly being gunned down by its fleeing panzer crewmen.

The rest of the book describes how Lidderdale and his men managed to hide the Tiger tank from the inquisitive eyes of the British Army brasses and repelled attacks from *Luftwaffe Jabos*, *Kriegsmarine* U-boats, and even Nazi assassins who would do anything to prevent 131 from falling into the enemy's hands.

While I enjoy the book and might consider some truth to Churchill's involvement, some of the action "sequences" in the book, in my opinion, seem overly dramatized and too good to be true: scaring off the attack of a U-Boat by firing the Tiger's 88mm gun on a transport ship, seduction of female *Abwehr* agent, MI-6 double agent in "shoot-me-white" linen suit... Blimey! Hollywood need not look elsewhere for the script of the next blockbuster hit!

Incidentally, the experts at The Tank Museum, the current home for Tiger 131, reject the book as inaccurate and question the creditability of its source. But don't let that stop you from having a go with it. As long as you take everything in the book with a grain of salt, it makes a good read by the pool during the upcoming dog days of summer.

Eric



2016 Tulsa Figure Show Armor Entries

Don't let the name of the show fool you. Yes, there are armor entries in a figure show too. As a matter of fact, some of the best armor modelers in the southwest region of the US travel hundreds of miles to participate in this annual event in Tulsa, Oklahoma. More than just a model contest, it's party with a open bar as well.

This year the show was held once again at the Wyndham Hotel on June 3rd and 4th. While AABS members Bob Bethea and Aaron Smischney were there both days, your editor only managed to make a quick stop on the last day of the show. Here are some of the armor entries that caught the attention of his camera:

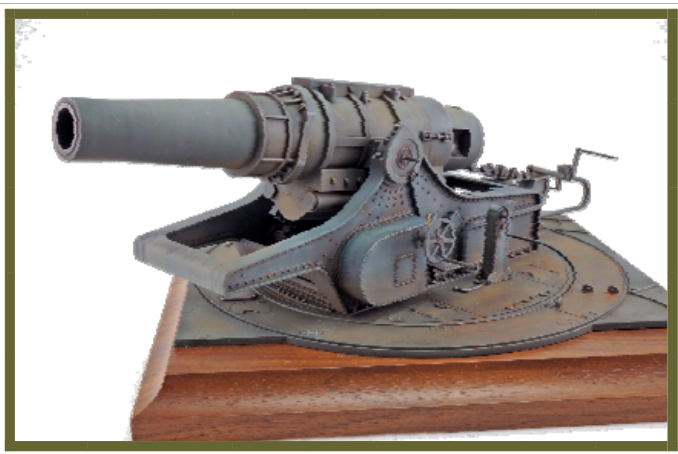




2016 Second Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Greg Beckman
1/35th FlaK43 30mm Zwilling



2nd Place:
Russ Holm
*1/35th Skoda
M1917 Siege
Howitzer*



3rd Place:
Ian Candler
1/35th Aerosan



JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

COUNTRY: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

1 Year US (\$30) 2 Year US (\$55) 3 Year US (\$80)

**IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR
MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM BELOW TO:**



AMPS
MEMBERSHIP DEPT.
P.O. BOX 543
ELKTON, MD 21922



**Membership Rates for a One-Year Period:
\$30.00 USA, \$35.00 Canada/Mexico, \$40.00 Rest of the World**

All payments must be made in U.S. funds.

***Amps* accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal.**

To join using PayPal, just visit the *amps* website and click on "join *amps*."

If paying by check or money order, send dues and completed form to the address on the form.

www.amps-armor.org



NEW ON THE BLOCK



Rumor has it the new 1/35th M1A2 TUSK from Academy is just as good as the more expensive Rye Field Model kit.



Trumpeter is wasting no time regurgitating AFVs that shared the same 8x8 TEL (MAZ-543) used by the Scud missile. The latest release is the A-222 "Bereg," a mobile 130mm coastal artillery battery in 1/35th scale.



Meng is doing figures now? Their new 1/35th WWI crew & orderly is designed to go with their FT-17 kit. Stay tuned for Bob's upcoming review of this little gem.



Good things come to those who waited. Starship fans will probably prefer this AFV Club's 1/35th M60A2 over DML's that was released earlier this year.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 24, Issue 3)

The latest issue of *Boresight* is out. Here is a quick look inside:

- ♦ **AMPS 2016 International Convention After Action Report** by Tim Darrah
- ♦ **Judge's Certification, Skill Level Promotions, and AMPS Masters Honor Roll** by Mike Petty
- ♦ **2016 Winner's List** Photos by editor & John Robinson
- ♦ **IS-4M: "Screaming Mimi," Soviet Style** by Cookie Sewell Part III: Finishing & Assessment.
- ♦ **Third Time's The Charm** by Danny Egan
The pursuit of a perfect 1/35th STZ T-34 model over three decades.

BORESIGHT
THE AMPS MEMBERSHIP MAGAZINE MAY | JUNE 2016

AMPS 2016 International Convention After Action Report & Winner's List • IS-4M
"Screaming Mimi," Soviet Style Part III •
Third Time's the Charm



About Us

The Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) started in 1999 when Don Jones, a member of the local IPMS chapter, decided "what a good idea to get out two nights a month, and on at least one night talk tanks."



At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques and tricks. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town field trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest scale armor modeling show in Texas that attracts some of the best armor modelers in the Lone Star as well as neighboring states.

AABS is the only scale model club in Central Texas devoted solely to armor modeling. We don't build planes because they are just plain! Our passion is armored fighting vehicles and military figures. Subject of our interest ranges from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent Gulf War Conflicts.

Since inception AABS is a local chapter of Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS), a national organization dedicated to the promotion of scale modeling and armored vehicle preservation.

To find out more about AABS, please visit our website or pick up a club flyer at your local hobby shop.

19990424

We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com

Here's our veep Ted Andreas, Jr. latest work:
1/35th Tamiya German Staff Car Steyr
1500A/01. He built it straight out of the box.

