



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2016



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Third Cavalry Museum

by Ted Andreas, Jr.

Fort Hood, Texas is a great place to conduct research on American armored vehicles from the World War II era to the modern age. It is also a place where many foreign made examples of armor, especially Soviet,

may be found. In addition to numerous unit headquarters on post that have a wide variety of armored fighting vehicles on display, if one travels on East or West Range Roads, it is quite likely to encounter modern military vehicles up close and personal as their crew engage in training exercises.

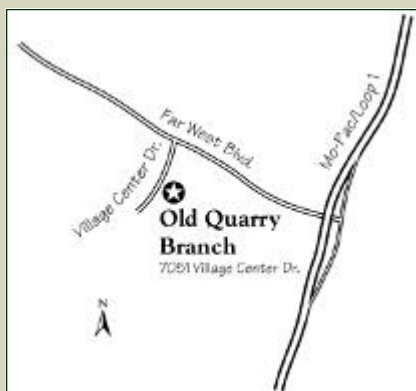
Additionally, Fort Hood has two military museums on post: the **First**

(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

September 7, 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

- ◆ **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
- ◆ **October 5 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **November 2 - AABS Club Meeting**



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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

Last month was a blur of activity for me. I even missed a club meeting for the first time in over two years. One of the events that kept me away for most of a week involved driving with my daughter to Maine. It was a great drive, but as an American Civil War buff I found it extremely difficult to simply pass by Shiloh, Franklin, Nashville, and Murfreesboro, then turn away from Chattanooga, driving through the Shenandoah Valley without a stop, and finally passing within a few miles of both Sharpsburg and Gettysburg. The next trip along that trail will involve more time and a lot of stopping.

All that history did get me wondering if the Civil War may have played a role in the history of armored warfare on land as well as it did on the water. A brief search found a couple of armored train references for both the Union and the Confederates. Both sides even seemed to employ sloped armor. One of these armored trains could be a really interesting project.



Speaking of history, we are very near the centennial of tanks in combat. During the Battle of the Somme, 49 British Mk.I tanks were ordered into action. The attack was a tactical success, although a strategic failure. But the future of land warfare was changed forever.

After missing last month, I'm looking forward to seeing you all and catching up on your progress with your modeling projects while I was away.

John Talley
President



The first official photo of a tank entering combat on September 15th, 1916.



September Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! Our quarterly contest cash prizes are **\$40**, **\$30**, and **\$20** for the first, second, and third place winners.

To enter you must be a member in good standing. Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to win. The “no sweep” rule is strictly enforced in these in-house contests.

If you like to participate but haven't paid your 2016 dues, please do so before our meeting or the show-and-tell session.



(Continued from page 1)

Cavalry and the Third Cavalry Museum. Both are well worth the visit, and a great deal of knowledge regarding our military history can be gained from both museums.

A few years ago I wrote an article on the First Cavalry Museum. It is my personal favorite for several reasons. This time I want to share my comments and some pictures pertaining to the Third Cavalry Museum with you all.

The lineage of the Third Cavalry goes back to the authorization by an Act of Congress just prior to the Mexican-American War in 1846 as a regiment of mounted infantrymen. Inside the museum there is a picture of Private Timothy Cunningham. He was an Irish immigrant who joined the regiment's A Troop and was part of General Winfield Scott's army in the expeditionary war with Mexico. He was stuck down by a cannon ball while attacking the Mexican garrison in Vera Cruz and had the dubious distinction of being the first soldier of the regiment to be killed in action. His story is now part of the exhibits in the museum.



A great deal of emphasis on the indoor exhibits concerns the Third Cavalry's service during various Indian Wars on the frontier including Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah.



Other parts of the museum prominently displays artifacts from the regiment's service in Iraq. The Third Cavalry Regiment, then known as the Third Armored Cavalry Regiment (3rd ACR), was deployed to the Persian Gulf region during Desert Shield/Desert Storm. It fought in that war as part of XVIII Airborne Corps.



Since 2003, the 3rd ACR has deployed to Iraq five times. My son-in-law served with them on their last deployment. While on that tour he had some near death experiences, but he survived to retire from the U.S. Army. He currently resides in Virginia "as far from the Regiment as possible" he would likely remark to this day. Some of his best friends in the 3rd ACR were not so fortunate. Nevertheless they did their duty to the best of their ability. And I am sure the displays in the museum can barely scratch the surface in telling their story of great sacrifice. Lest we forget.

While the First Cavalry Museum has always at the same location in Fort Hood since the early 1980's, the same cannot be said of the Third Cavalry Museum. From the 1980's until about 1991, the location was used as the museum for the Second Armored Division. For a very brief time it was the Fifth Infantry Division Museum. After that (and a second time for Second Armored Division), it became the Fourth Infantry Division Museum and finally the 3rd ACR Museum. That explains why traces of the transitions remain outside the museum buildings.

Over the years the changing "ownership" of the museum has resulted in different historical displays



inside the buildings, but the armor displays on the exterior grounds have remained the same, albeit pieces are continually being added. In contrast to the First Cavalry Museum, much of the equipment on display are in dire need of serious maintenance. Most likely the multiple changes in ownership, deployments, and funding cuts are reasons why for the poor upkeep.



One piece of armor that caught my attention on my recent visit was the M103 Heavy Tank. The unique position of one of its road wheels had me inspired, for a moment, to obtain a kit of this vehicle and duplicate it as near as possible. Yet in spite of the photographic proof, I reconsidered, knowing contest judges would disqualify my entry by



declaring "all the road wheels are not touching the tracks!"

While not unique to the Third Cavalry Regiment, there is a direct connection between Fort Hood and the history of tank destroyer (TD) units in the U.S. Army. Camp Hood, as it was called before 1950, was a primary testing and training center for TD battalions during World War II. The museum features many fine examples of TDs on display: M18 Hellcat, M10, Achilles (a British modified M10 with a 17pd anti-tank gun), M36, and a rare M36B1.





Because the M36 with the 90mm gun was such a vast improvement over the 3-inch (76.2mm) M10, demand for this Tiger killer was even greater than production. To help hasten the fielding of this potent weapon, M36 turrets/main guns were married up to an M4A3 chassis. The result was the M36B1. Among all US made tank destroyers, it was the only one equipped with a bow machine gun.

As stated earlier many of the vehicles on display could definitely use some TLC*. Here is an example of an early production M4A1 that is need of refurbishment. Still not the worst of the lot and certainly not too far gone...yet!



Since my younger days the Stuart series of tanks have been my favorite armored vehicle. I can still recall reading the *Haunted Tank* comic series on the ghost of Jeb Stuart coming to the aid of an American tank crew (manning a Stuart) during WWII. The Third Cavalry Museum has some Stuarts on display, but I doubt Jeb has stopped by lately...



After my initial visit to the museum, I was told an M551 Sheridan had been added to the armor collection. Recently I went back with my grandson, and sure enough the claim was true:



Besides American armor, the museum also has a great deal of captured foreign-made equipment on display. Most of the Soviet AFVs are war trophies brought back from Iraq.





The museum also has some artillery pieces in its possession. Of interest is this WWII German Pak40 anti-tank gun locked in recoil position.



In conclusion, the Third Cavalry Museum is well worth one's time to visit. I hope many of you will do so in the future.

Ted

*TLC = Tender Loving Care



Austin Scale Modeler's Society

presents



Saturday, September 24th 2016

Norris Conference Centers
2525 West Anderson Lane, Austin, TX

Show Theme:

Failures & Defeats

Any subject that is recognized as a failure or performed abysmally in its assigned role.

Event Schedule

6:00AM – 9:00AM	Vendor setup
9:00AM – 5:00PM	Doors open to public
9:00AM – 12:30PM	Model registration
10:00AM – 2:00PM	Make & Take
1:00PM – 4:00PM	Judging
4:30PM – 5:30PM	Awards ceremony

Fees

Contest Entry (includes admission):
Senior (≥18): \$10 for first model, \$3 each additional
Junior (≤17): \$5 for first model, \$1 each additional

General Admission:
\$5 per person. Children 12 and under FREE.

For latest info, please visit www.austinsms.org



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NEW ON THE BLOCK



Still very new and fresh from Tamiya is their 1/35th M10 Tank Destroyer. Two of our members, Ian Candler and Bob Bethea, have finished building theirs already!



Two new 1/35th SU-85s from Miniart, one with interior and the other without. That should satisfy anyone who is interested in replacing the Tamiya classic in his stash.



Never heard of a WWII Japanese 150 tons super tank? Neither did I, until I discovered this 1/72nd kit from Finemolds in Japan.

Lots of head-to-head releases lately. Here are Meng and Takom's 1/35th German Flakpanzer Gepard.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 24, Issue 4)

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

- ♦ **Panzerkampfwagen III Ausf.D** by Peter Petkov
The latest group effort by AMPS Bulgaria.
- ♦ **2016 Winner's List Corrections** by the editor
- ♦ **State Memorial Museum of Leningrad Siege Defense & Blockade** Photos and text by Steven Andreano
- ♦ **Little Tank for Little Venice** by Bob Bethea
Building Takom's new 1/35th AMX-13/90.
- ♦ **Making A Scene** by Ashley Abernathy
A simple but great way to show off your model.
- ♦ **First In Line** by Tom Gannon
A brief history of MP Models' first plastic conversion kits.
- ♦ **Local Chapter News**
What's going on in the AMPS community.





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."



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.

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.

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.

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We are on the web @ AustinArmorBuilders.com



Shop till we drop in Tokyo! Fellow member Randy Bumgardner spotted in the Friultracks aisle of Yellow Submarine while his son Ziggy and your editor compared the sizes of their shopping baskets!