



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

November 2018



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Commemorating

By Dane Sherry

Texans and Oklahomans together trudged their way through thick forest and knee deep snow. There was a break in the trees and open ground laid ahead. Traveling should get easier. Suddenly, with a thunderous roar like a billion jacket zippers being torn open, men started dropping into sprawled and grotesque shapes. The snow turned blood red,

and multiple Maxim gun emplacements spewed out 1oz lead bullets from .577/450 Martini-Henry cartridges fired at 550 rounds per minute. Then came the howls and earth shattering booms as the German 77mm guns started a barrage.

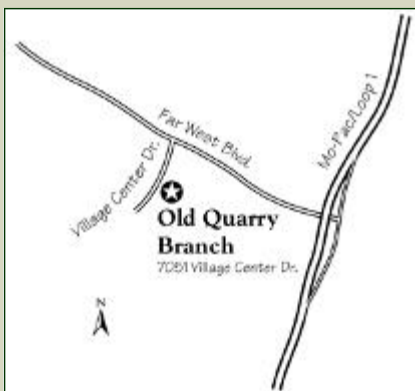
The dead and dying men were "T-Patchers," members of the 36th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army and part of the Texas Army National Guard. They proudly wore the Arrowhead patch

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

November 7, 2018

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

- ◆ November 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ ❄️ December 1 - **AABS Christmas Party** ???
- ◆ December 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ January 2 - AABS Club Meeting



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2018	Greg Beckman	Chris Chany
February	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
March*	Eric Choy	Bob Bethea
April	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
May	Aaron Smischney	Greg Beckman
June*	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Joe Fisher
July	Alex Gashev	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Ted Paone	Ted Paone
October	Kit Auction	Dave Bourland
November	Eric Choy	Dane Sherry
December*	Bob Bethea	Russ Holm
January 2019	Mike Lamm	Greg Beckman

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. Chris Chany's article for January 2018 was due on the last Wednesday of December).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! This year has almost gotten away from us, and the holiday season will soon be here. I have done my shopping for our Christmas party, which is a topic for our November meeting.

November marks the end of World War One plus one hundred years. The War to “end all wars” did not quite live up to the hype even though the carnage was appalling. The armistice was signed on the 11th which ended the fighting, although the war would not officially be over for several more months. It was a war that included the use and development of submarine warfare, highly effective machine guns, airplanes, and of course... ARMOR!

In World War Two seventy-five years ago, the Russians reclaimed Kiev from German occupation. After the Battle of Kursk earlier in the year, the Russians were almost constantly on the offensive. By the end of 1944, German hopes of victory on the eastern front were kaput.



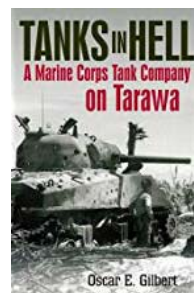
Russian Armor at Kiev

Across the globe, also in November 1943, American Marines hit the beaches on Tarawa. Alongside the grunts, 2nd Tank Battalion's Charlie Company landed with its full complement of M4A2 Sherman tanks (minus the recovery vehicle).



Battle Reenactment

Oscar Gilbert's book *Tanks in Hell* tells the story of this Marine tank unit from training to the fighting on Tarawa. Only two tanks came through the battle unscathed: *Colorado* and *China Gal*. Most of the other tanks were later repaired, but the decision by the brass not to load the recovery tank made the job of getting the tanks back in action much more difficult.



I have read *Tanks in Hell* and have built my version of *Colorado*. I recommend both the book and Dragon's 1/35th M4A2 Sherman kit.

It has markings for almost all of the Charlie Company tanks that fought on Tarawa.

I hope to see you at the November meeting, and again at our upcoming Christmas party. In the meantime, keep building and painting.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Veep Talks



Sherman Tank Group Build

Here is the latest list of members participating in our Sherman group build:

Ted Andreas, Jr.	USMC M4A2 Iwo Jima
Bob Bethea	M4A3E2 Jumbo
Andrew Bodin	M4A3
Greg Beckman	M4A3E2 Jumbo
Chris Chany	USMC M4A4 POA Korea
Eric Choy	Chilean M60
Ian Candler	British Mk.III North Africa
Rick Herrington	M4A1
Mike Lamm	M4A3E8
Mike Maloney	M4A1 Centipede Tracks
Ted Paone	M4 with Bulldozer
Keith Townsend	M51 Super Sherman

If anyone wishes to join us, please don't hesitate to contact Ted, Eric, or myself. The more the merrier! Thank you all!

Ian

(Continued from page 1)

whose shape represented Oklahoma and a large T represented Texas. This was October 1918 in the Forest of Argonne, France.

Again, the tat-tat-tat of the Maxim gun echoed, and the boom of a 3inch gun sounded. Then an explosion and yellow gas started drifting across the field into the German entrenchments. *Gitgasangriff!* (poison gas attack) Men begin to fall. But after 45 minutes of



intense battle, the soldiers got back up and brushed off the dirt and mud to the applause of an audience.

On October 7th, 2018, the centennial of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the Texas Military Forces Museum (TMFM) housed at Camp Mabry in Austin Texas presented the second day of "Over There: 1918," a reenactment to commemorate the role and sacrifices of the 36th Infantry Division during WWI.

The event started with the presentation of colors and the Pledge of Allegiance. The director of the museum gave a short recount of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. From September 26, 1918 until November 11, 1918, it was the largest deployment of GIs (1.2 million) in the U.S. military history. The 47-day battle cost the lives of 28,000 Germans, 26,277 Americans, and an unknown number of French.

This decisive battle led to the Armistice and the end of WWI. Almost as many soldiers died of the Spanish Flu as from combat.

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The reenactment started with American soldiers approaching the German trenches and gun emplacements. The Maxim gunner (Darryl Weiman) immediately opened up on the assaulting force. The Maxim '08/15 is an original piece that belongs to the TMFM and was actually used in combat. It was rebuilt by Weiman and adapted to fire blank cartridges. Its cyclic rate is slightly impeded by the use of blanks, and they did cause a few jams that required a pry bar and hammer to resolve.



The German artillery crew consisted of Richard Gruepznr and AABS member Mike Maloney. Since there are very few, if any, German 77mm guns still in existence, an U.S. 3 inch Field Gun Model of 1902 substituted. The gun number 532 was produced by the Rock Island Arsenal in 1915.



The U.S. soldiers returned artillery fire with a restored 75mm field gun. The gun and the accompanying limber were expertly restored, and they look like fresh off the showroom floor. The gun is





extremely effective in traversing muddy rough ground common on the battlefield. It is a handsome piece of living military history.

As a former civilian EMT and former USAF medic, one of the highlights to me was a 1918 Ford Model T ambulance. The accommodation inside is extremely sparse and cramped. In my opinion it is only slightly better than being hauled off the field of battle in a donkey cart!

Interestingly while the vehicle (chassis, motor, and cab) was built by Ford Motor Company in America, the ambulance body was constructed and installed by the French! This was because Henry Ford was a devout peace activist. I suppose he was still a devout capitalism though.



owned by the Museum of the American GI located in College Station, Texas.

The American troops were also driving a 1917 Quad Nash 4X4. This innovative utility truck was one of the first successful four-wheel drive vehicles. It was





Eventually, the American soldiers of the reenactment overran the German positions killing many and capturing others. The event ended by the playing of "Taps" to honor those who served and died in the service of our country.



There were over fifty reenactors from Texas and several other states that participated. They all supplied their own uniforms and equipment and paid for their travel and expenses. The cost to TMFM was approximately \$10,000 per event, and it was fully funded through donations.

Dane

JOIN *AMPS* TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
Regular Canada/Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$95)
Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)
Family Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$ 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)

*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.



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

AMPS
MEMBERSHIP DEPT.



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:

www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



MiniArt's 1/35th "Sharotank" is a what-if of WWII Kugelpanzer in Soviet service.



Interested in modeling a Flakpanzer in 1/35th this coming holiday season? How about Takom's new 2in1 Flakpanzer kit?



Fujimi's newly tooled 1/72nd Type 87 SPAAG is here. Nicknamed "Guntank" (as in the Gundam universe!), it's the Japanese version of the Gepard.



Yet another 1/35th Sturmgeschütz in the market! This early StuG IV comes from the Korean Peninsular under the Academy label.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 26, Issue 5)

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

- ◆ Ford 1914 Model T Field Ambulance by Bart Cusmano
- ◆ FineMold IJA Type 41 75mm Mountain Gun by Steve Andreano
- ◆ Wire With A Twist by Kevin Hutchison
- ◆ US Army M23 Ammunition Trailer by John Kirkpatrick
- ◆ Book Review: AK Learning Vol.3 Tracks & Wheels by Editor
- ◆ Local Chapters News
- ◆ Know Your Officer



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 first 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.

19990424

We are on the web @ austinamps.org

Your editor spotted this oldie 1/40th M1 120mm AA gun in the Classic Kit category at ArmorCon this year. Some of us may remember the original "Tillie the Toiler" release by Adams in 1958, but the one at the show was a 1974 repop by Life-Like Hobby.

Surprisingly no manufacturer has attempted to release a proper 1/35th kit of this gun over the years. How about it, DML (or Trumpeter)?

