



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2020

**MEETING
CANCELLED
AGAIN!!**

NO AABS MEETING IN JUNE!

Sorry, folks! No meeting again this month. The Austin Public Library is still closed. Word has it that the library will be reopened in June, but the meeting room is off limit to all groups until the month of August. So we probably have to find a place to gather next month before resuming our regularly scheduled meetings back at the Old Quarry Branch.

Meanwhile, what have you all been working on? I'm "dying" to find out. Send me (aabsco@gmail.com) photos of your work-in-progress or finished work. Don't be a stranger. Let everyone know you are still alive and kicking!

Eric Choy
AABS Editor



Escape Stories

by Dave Bourland

We all probably feel a little trapped due to COVID-19 these days. I thought it was a good idea to look over the escape story section of my bookshelf. I love these stories. I have always thought of them as a way to show the best in each of us. What can be done with very little resources, creativity, and a lot of time is amazing. I thought I would make a list and give you a short bit on each.

(Continued on page 6)

Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
TOON TANK CONTEST	5
T-54/55 GROUP BUILD	6
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	7
2020 AMPS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION	8
JOIN AMPS TODAY	9
NEW ON THE BLOCK	10
ABOUT US	10

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

To Be Announced

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

- ◆ ~~June 3 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~June 6 - Scalefest 2020, Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ **June 13 - SoonerCon 2020, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK**
- ◆ **July 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ◆ **July 29 to August 1 - IPMS/USA National Convention, Embassy Suites and San Marcos Convention Center, San Marcos, Tx**
- ◆ **August 5 - AABS Club Meeting**



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2020	Eric Choy	N/A
February	Chris Chany	Greg Beckman
March*	Martin Hebda	Russ Holm
April	N/A	Kevin Hutchison
May	N/A	Ian Candler
June*	N/A	David Bourland
July	David Bourland	Greg Beckman
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September*	Annual Auction	Chris Chany
October	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
November	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
December*	Keith Townsend	Eric Choy
January 2021	Aaron Smischney	Aaron Smischney

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. Greg Beckman's article for February 2020 is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! The COVID-19 situation is still a limiting factor on our meetings, and we do not have a public place open to meet at. With that being said, we must once again cancel our June meeting. The 'TOONS' armor contest will have to reschedule as well as our officer elections.

Let us not be discouraged but hope for the best. I have done a lot of modeling since March. I hope we have members working on, if not completed, their T-54/55 for the group collection.

Unless I am mistaken, we still plan on reassembling our Sherman collection for the IPMS/USA National Convention. We may have to figure out how to coordinate that action.

The show is still planned to be held as scheduled. Susan and I are on the planning committee under the chairmanship of Len Pilhofer. If anyone reading this is planning to attend the convention, please consider pre-registration. If the event is cancelled, fees will be refunded.

For planning purposes and pre-show expenses, the money generated before the show helps make the event the best possible. The numbers also help us plan on what is feasible and what may have to be cancelled.

Well, as I mentioned last month on the history of World War II, the fighting in Europe ended in May seventy-five years ago. In June, heavy fighting continued on Okinawa. This included land, on the seas, and in the air fighting. Heavy fighting was also

taking place on the Philippine islands, Bougainville, and Borneo against Japanese troops.



A well concealed Japanese artillery piece in a cave on Okinawa

On the 18th of June, Lt. General Simon Buckner was killed by a Japanese artillery shell. He would be replaced by General Joseph Stillwell as the commander of the U.S. 10th Army on Okinawa.



Damage control after a kamikaze attack off the coast of Okinawa

By the 22nd of June, the conquest of Okinawa was deemed as complete. However, “mop up” operations would continue as the month of June came to an end.



Children soldiers of Japan on Okinawa

While the campaign in the Philippines would continue, by the 27th of June, Luzon was liberated. However, small pockets of resistance remained on that island.



Aussies in Borneo with a Matilda

second would be won by Australian troops. Some of the fighting during the second Borneo campaign occurred in June.

We are getting close to the end of World War II as it happened seventy-five years ago. With that in mind I would like to mention that seventy years ago, in June, the Korean War started.

On the 25th of June, 1950, the North Korean Army, with a great stock of Soviet equipment, invaded South Korea. The early fighting would be almost entirely a one-sided affair favoring the communists. And in short order, UN forces would be bottled up in what became known as the Pusan Perimeter.



North Korean T-34/85 with crew

Well, that is a wrap on the history. In the meantime, keep building and painting! Thanks to all members of AABS for making this organization one of the very best! Hopefully, things will start returning to a more normal time.



Fighting on Bougainville

The campaign to take Bougainville was a long drawn out affair. The Allies initially wanted enough real estate on Bougainville to build airfields for operations against Rabaul. Like on Guadalcanal, the Japanese tried to push off US Marines, soldiers, and also, Australian forces. Several times the Japanese would land reinforcement on the island but to no avail. The Allies would slowly take over more and more territory, usually in small parcels at a time.

Fighting in Borneo included two campaigns: the first early in the war was won by the Japanese, and the

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President

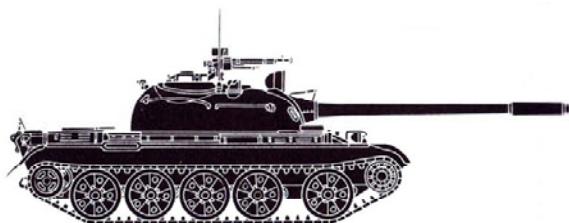


Vive l'amour! Love may be what Pepé Le Pew is into, but for us modelers, it's definitely the "amour" part that gets our attention!

The theme for our 2020 second quarterly contest is "Looney Toon-Tanks!" These whimsical egg-shaped models are fun, easy to build, and perfect for a weekend project! Should you want to make them more challenging, there are all kinds of not-too-serious conversions (e.g. Sherman Calliope, Bergtiger, T-34/85) that you can attempt.

Go build a Toon-Tank now. That's all, forks!

"Looney Toon-Tanks!" 2020 2nd Quarterly Contest



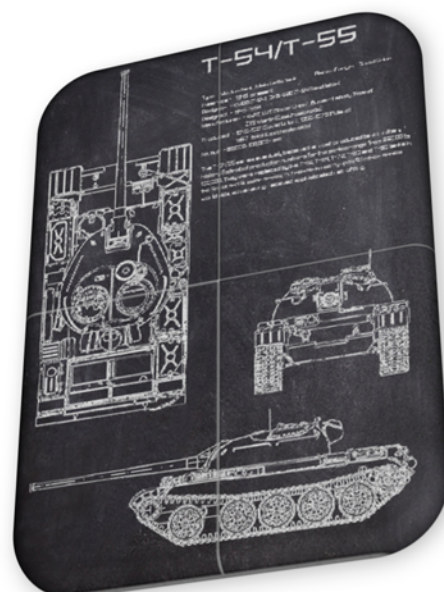
T-54/55 Group Build

Here's a trivial question for you all tank enthusiasts: what's the most produced tank of all time? No, it's not Sherman or T-34, and yes, the honor goes to the Soviet T-54/55! With so many paint schemes and upgrades open for modelers, it is a logical choice as the subject of a group project.

Here are the criteria of this T-54/55 group build:

- 1/35th scale only
- Must have gun (or guns) of caliber 57mm or larger (i.e. ZSU-57-2 and SU-122/54 are okay but NO armored recovery, APC, bridging, or firefighting variant, please).
- No operator restriction (Angola, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, DDR, Egypt, Finland, Iraq, Israel, North Korea, Poland, USSR/Russia, Vietnam, former Yugoslavia states, etc. are all welcomed).
- 4BO is optional! (i.e. feel free to paint your tank any color other than standard Russian Green as long as your color scheme is historically accurate)
- Please close all hatches and DO NOT glue your model to a base!

We are aiming for a group entry in this year's ASMS Capital Classic show in October 2020. So the rendezvous point for our T-54/55s is the **September club meeting**. That leaves us less than six months to build, paint, and weather our models. If you haven't started yet, you need to get a move on NOW. *Ura!*

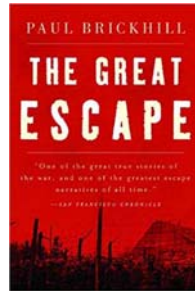


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The Great Escape

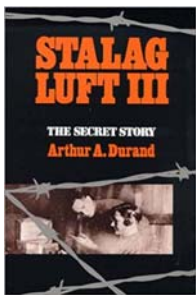
by Paul Brickhill

We have probably all seen the movie, and it is very good. The author was a participant. The book is even better. It covers details a movie cannot spend time on. The book describes the tunnel well enough that I even have thought of making a diorama from it. Details of the air systems, the timing of the escape, and the rations they brought with them are all fascinating. Trivia: one of the men in the tunnel did his RAF flight training in one of the overseas bases — in Terrell, Texas. He was near the front because he knew a foreign language. Sadly he was not lucky enough to make it home but not unlucky enough to be picked for execution either.



Stalag Luft III: The Secret Story

by Arthur A. Durand

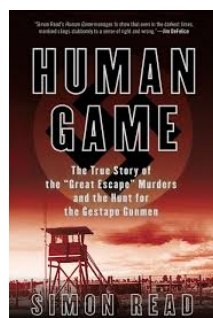


This is another book about the great Escape by a journalist. I liked this book, but it's been a while since I read it, and I don't remember much (long enough ago that it has a BOOKSTOP price tag on the back!).

Human Game: The True Story of the 'Great Escape' Murders and the Hunt for the Gestapo Gunmen

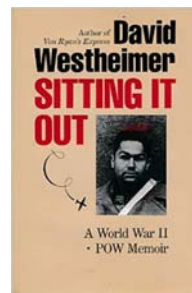
by Simon Read

Technically this is not a POW story. It is the story of the effort to track down the Nazis that performed the executions of the 50 escaped prisoners. The challenge was to find all the parts of the puzzle with others trying to hide them in a destroyed country occupied by multiple armies of the Allies.



Sitting It Out: A World War II POW Memoir

by David Westheimer



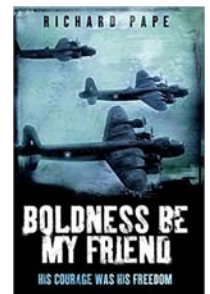
Westheimer was a POW who wrote this book on his experiences. He was a B-24 crew member shot down over Italy. More well known for the book he wrote that became the Frank Sinatra movie, "Von Ryan's Express," he was also a Houston native. This book is not about escaping but managing day to day. This book put me in the POW mindset more than any other. How impactful a letter from home was. The Red Cross packages from each country were a little different. Items inside would be traded accordingly. I think Canadian peanut butter was one of the most sought after items.

Westheimer also wrote an excellent book about the fictional invasion of Japan called *Death is Lighter than a Feather*.

Boldness Be My Friend

by Richard Pape

I read this book over 30 years ago, and I still think about it. Pape had a talent for being in a lot of places (some good and some bad). He was on one of the first British bombing raids of Berlin. He was on leave in London during a blitz. While being move around as a POW in Dresden, he was strafed by the Russians. Basically, he was attacked by every nation. He lost his fiancé in the blitz — he thought he would have played it safe if he had had someone to come home to.



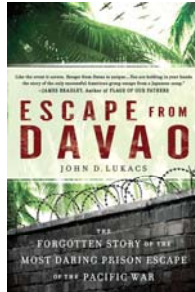
Most of the POW books I have read are set in Germany during WWII. These next two break out of that setting.

Escape From Davao: The Forgotten Story of the Most Daring Prison Break of the Pacific War

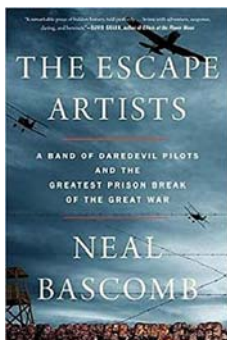
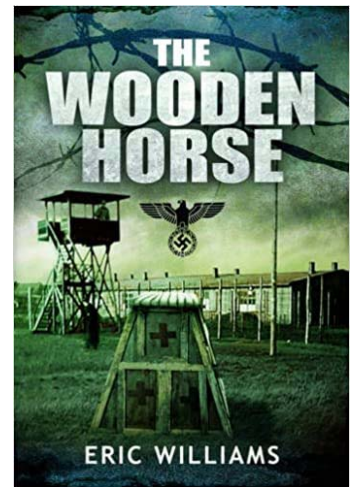
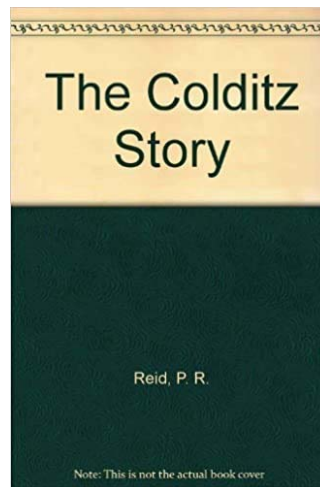
by John D. Lukacs

This is the story of the only mass escape from a Japanese POW camp by the Allies during WWII. Ten men escaped.

Lukacs starts with each member of the party, how they grew up and joined the forces, the Bataan Death March, prison camp, planning the escape, the aftermath, and the legacy. This book is different than most escape stories. I would guess about 40% of the book is about the escape itself. The rest describes the people, the early battles, the death march, the first camp they were in, and finally the legacy they had the desire to tell the story and the rest of the career of each of party members. One of the escapees was Richard Dyess, who has an USAF base in Texas named after him.



These last two are on my to read list but they are so well know I felt I had to list them.



The Escape Artists: A Band of Daredevil Pilots and the Greatest Prison Break of the Great War

by Neal Bascomb

This is the World War One version of *The Great Escape*. The author has also done several WWI and WWII books.

The Colditz Story

by P.R. Reid

Reid wrote this book based on his own experiences.

The Wooden Horse

by Eric Williams

This too was written by one of the Wooden Horse tunnelers.

Dave

AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 3)

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

- ◆ **Rough Day at the Office!** by Chuck Aleshire
- ◆ **Project RIPCORD (Part 1 of 3)** by AMPS Central South Carolina "Wildcats"
- ◆ **History of RIPCORD** by Ralph Nardone
- ◆ **Nash Quad** by John Kirkpatrick
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **Local Chapter News and Upcoming Shows**



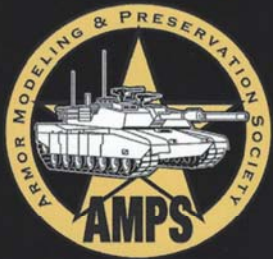
2020 AMPS International Convention

SEPTEMBER 24 - SEPTEMBER 26

At The Crown Plaza, Danbury, CT

SHOW THEME:

LAST BATTLES



HOSTED BY:



For more information contact: Peter Espada (Show Chair) at pespada@icloud.com

Get the latest Event, Registration, Schedule, and Theme information at:

amps-armor.org

JOIN AMPS TODAY

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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)
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*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.

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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



Amusing Hobby just released another British Cold War white elephant FV4005 in 1/35th scale.



Meng is into modern British armor as well: Their latest 1/35th FV510 Warrior TES(H) AIFV is currently in use in southern Afghanistan.



Alpine Miniatures' new 1/35th US 101st Airborne set #2 looks great...



...and so does Scale75's 1/35th Desert Rats set. The ancient ruin in the background is included in this 3-figure set.



Sooner or later an 1/35th M65 "Atomic Annie" will come along. Why am I not surprised it bears the logo of Trumpeter?

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 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:

www.austinamps.org