



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

August 2020



Source: UK MOD & Wikipedia

PAINTING MODERN BRITISH MULTI TERRAIN PATTERN (MTP)

by Rick Herrington

I like to include a figure with my model. Whether it's an M1 or a Leopard, it helps to show the scale and add a little humanity to the build. Adding a figure gives the untrained eye a measure of just how big these steel beasts are.

Modeling modern figures can be challenging as most modern armies have their tank crews clad in camouflaged uniforms. My latest in progress build is Rye Field Model's British Challenger 2 in 1/35th scale. Modern British figures are few and far between. Fortunately MiniArt has come to the rescue with its British AFV Crew kit (#37059). When its release was announced, I ordered it and was soon faced with the challenge of painting the British Multi Terrain Pattern (MTP) of the crew's uniforms. So I enlisted the aid of my figure painting gurus, Henry Nuñez and Bob Bethea, in coming up with a plan to dress up the



Inside this issue:

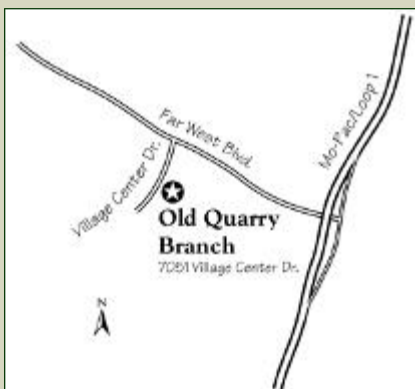
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

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

- ◆ ~~August 5 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~Sept 2 - AABS Club Meeting~~
- ◆ ~~Sept 12 - SuperCon 2020, Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington, TX~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~Sept 24 to 26 - AMPS 2020 International Convention, Danbury Crown Plaza, Danbury, CT~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~Sept 27 - Modelmania 2020, Stafford Center, Stafford, TX~~
- ◆ ~~Oct 1 - AABS Club Meeting~~
- ◆ ~~Oct 3 - ASMS Capital Classic 2020, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX~~



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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	N/A	Greg Beckman
August	N/A	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! As I write this, it is my hope that the worst of this pandemic is over. However, we may not get venues open for us to meet until after Labor Day (assuming the number of COVID-19 cases is decreasing, of course). We have quite a few things that are on hold such as officer elections and the toon tank contest. On a positive note, we should have several demos that could be rescheduled to help fill out the calendar for next year.

At any rate, seventy-five years ago, VJ Day effectively ended World War II. That occurred on the 15th of August 1945. However, the formal surrender of Japan on board *USS Missouri* would not take place until September. As the announcement of Japan's Emperor would accept the Allies' terms of unconditional surrender, celebrations erupted worldwide. The world by this time had entered the nuclear age. Before the surrender of Japan, the United States had used atomic bombs to destroy most of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Seventy years ago, the Korean War was entering its third month of fighting. On the 2nd of August, a North Korean assault was repelled during the Battle of Notch. On the 4th of August, the U.S. 8th Army, under the command of General Walton Walker, established the Pusan Perimeter. This defensive line would stretch for 140 miles (230km) to protect the



North Korean T-34 tanks destroyed near Waegwan.

southeast portion of the Korean Peninsula. Although the fighting would be desperate to keep the entire country from being overrun by the communists of North Korea, the American forces were starting to rack up victories. North Korean assaults would be repulsed at several points along the line.

Interesting enough, as the North Korean offensive actions were being checked, the Red Chinese were already debating on intervening in the war. What was helping the 8th Army defensive stance was that supplies were getting through, and the supply lines were now quite short. Also, heavy weapons were arriving through the port of Pusan along with reinforcements.



US Soldiers heading to the front line.

Another huge benefit for the 8th Army was that Air Force and Naval support was now being effectively coordinated. After several battles collectively known as the Pusan Perimeter Battle, a pattern was developing. North Korean tanks and infantry would assault the perimeter at various points. They would be repulsed with heavy losses, and as they pulled back to disengage, they would be bombed and strafed by the US Air Force to inflict even more casualties.



A Chaffee tank near Masan.

The month of August in 1950 would also mark other changes in the Korean War. The effort against communist aggression would start to become a United Nations action as other countries started to commit forces to the peninsula.

As a final note, one event that would seem almost insignificant at the time occurred on the 3rd of August, 1950. On that day, thirty-five US soldiers arrived in Saigon as the American Military Assistance Advisory Group. They were deployed to assist the French effort in Vietnam by helping to train Vietnamese forces loyal to France. The communist backed Vietnamese were already racking up victories over the French by this time.

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.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President

AMPS 2020 International Convention is CANCELLED!

Friends,

It is with great sadness that we inform you **AMPS 2020 International Convention is CANCELLED**. Out of an abundance of caution and concern for the safety and welfare of our convention participants (members, vendors, volunteers and attendees alike), the AMPS E-Board has unanimously decided that we must cancel our annual event.

With this said, we need to explain a bit of what has gone into this decision. **AMPS Central Pennsylvania**

and the Show Committee has been busy planning and adjusting these plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, our initial plan was to hold our convention in early May 2020 at Camp Hill, PA. The Governor of Pennsylvania's response to COVID-19 forced us to postpone our event to late September 2020 and move it to Danbury, CT. We were very fortunate that **Northeast Military Modelers Association** offered the Society their time slot and hotel where they normally hold ArmorCon. However, the recent decision by the Governor of Connecticut to continue in Phase Two reopening for an indefinite time severely limits the number of people who can attend indoor meetings and gatherings. The Governor of Connecticut also placed quarantine restrictions on people arriving from states on the travel advisory list. This quarantine impacts the ability of potential convention attendees and vendors to participate in the event. Additionally,



there are travel restrictions in-place which preclude many of our international visitors from attending the convention without undergoing quarantine.

Currently, the Danbury Crown Plaza is uncertain when it will be able to reopen for business. The hotel has agreed to cancel our convention with no penalty to AMPS. Additionally, the hotel will cancel all individual reservations with no cancellation penalty if you booked a reservation using code AMP. You are responsible for canceling your reservations if you booked outside the AMP group.

We've published a convention refund policy on the AMPS website home page. **Chris Graeter**, our Vendor Coordinator, will be reaching out to each vendor and **Glen Martin**, our Sponsorship Coordinator, will be in contact with the show sponsors concerning refunds or carryovers to AMPS 2021. **Chuck Rothman**, our Web Master, will be reaching out to those who pre-registered for the show concerning refund or carry over to AMPS 2021.

The AMPS E-Board decided to continue the AMPS 2020 show theme ("Last Battles") to AMPS 2021. We'll have two themes in 2021 with two separate trophies. This will allow those who built entries for the 2020 show theme an opportunity to compete for that award next year.

Since many of you will not have an opportunity to shop our vendors this year, we encourage you to consider spending some of your "show money" with them either in-person or through their on-line shops. The following is a list of the AMPS 2020 vendors:

- UMM-USA
- S & J Hobbies
- MiG Productions
- Wanamaker Hobbies
- Boomers' Books & Empire Models
- Microworld Games LLC
- The Scenic Factory
- HQ72 Resin Productions
- Tiger Werke Resin

- Custom Dioramics
- AK Interactive USA
- Hobbyworld USA
- DavidDoyleBooks.com
- For the Historian
- Airfix
- Challenger N Scale Hobbies
- Alpine Miniatures
- Armand Bayardi Model Maker
- Hobby Fan
- JLG Designs, LLC
- Frank Rincon
- Red Beach One H&S
- Last Cavalry
- Unique Tools
- MCW Finishes
- Fire House Hobbies
- Doug's Closet

The show team from AMPS Central Pennsylvania worked for over two years to put on a high-quality convention for 2020. They are to be congratulated for their hard work and navigating through this very tough time. Likewise, we owe the Northeast Military Modelers Association a debt of gratitude for offering to cover down when it looked like we could not hold our show in Camp Hill, PA due to COVID-19.

We thank you for your patience and support during these trying times, and hope that you recognize we have made the best possible decision for AMPS under the circumstances.

John Charvat
AMPS President

Peter Espada
Show Chair, AMPS Central
Pennsylvania

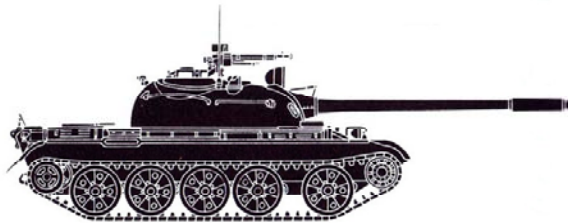


Vive l'amour! Love may be what Pepé Le Pew is into, but for us modelers, it's definitely the "amour" part that gets our attention!

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



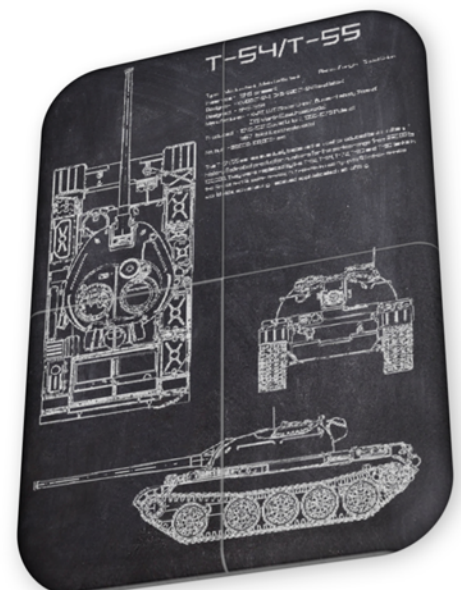
T-54/55 Group Build

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!*



(Continued from page 1)

crew. Henry did an analysis of the interweb photo I e-mailed him, and he came up with the colors that I needed.



I'll share the list of colors with you. The colors are Vallejo with the exception of one Panzer Aces color.

Base Layer: Olive Drab Green

- V-924 Russian Uniform 85%
- V-887 Brown Violet 10%
- V- 881 Yellow Green 5%

Brown

- V-826 Camo Medium Brown 85%
- V-872 Chocolate Brown 15%

Green

- V-968 Flat Green 90%
- V-850 Medium Green 10%

Black Brown

- V-822 Black Camo Brown 100%

Off White Specs

- Panzer Aces-345 Splinter Camo Base
or
- V- 820 Off White 95%
- V-989 Sky Grey 5%

To get the real effect of cloth you can use a flattener in your paints to get the real effect (e.g. Reaper 09215 Anti-Shine Additive or Tamiya Base Layer).

I swapped the kit head out with a Hornet head. The following steps and photos show how I painted the tank commander using Henry's color scheme.

I started off with the base layer of Olive Drab Green. Be sure to refer to your reference photos as you paint the pattern. I added Vallejo 70.845 Sunny Skin Tone to the base color for highlights (1).





Here's a photo of the highlighted figure with the second color (Brown) added (2).

Next up is the second green. Then I used a thinned acrylic black wash over the uniform at this point. This darkened the creases of the figure (3).

The black brown was applied next (4).

Last to be added were the white spots (5).

The last step in blending the colors together is spraying the figure with a coat of your favorite flat. I used Alclad's Kote Flat because I like its flat effect.

It's great to have two world class painters as resources that are so willing to share their knowledge. Thanks Bob and Henry for guiding me through the painting process.

Rick



Members Show & Tell

Ted Andreas, Jr.:

1. Egyptian T-55 1973 Yom Kippur War (Takom)



2. US M3 Stuart (Tamiya)



Bob Bethea:

1. Soviet Matilda (Tamiya)



2. Egyptian T-34/122 (Rye Field Model)



Eric Choy:

1. 44M TAS Rohamloveg (Hobby Boss; work in progress)



2. 1/48th Churchill Mk.VII Crocodile (Tamiya; work in progress)



Rick Herrington:

1. *Challenger 2 TAS (Rye Field Model; work in progress)*



2. *Modern British AFV Crew (MiniArt)*



Greg Beckman:

- T-54-1 (MiniArt)*



Martin Hebda:

1. *British M3 Grant (Takom)*



2. *Iraqi T-55 Enigma (Tamiya)*



3. *Two 1/35th figures (work in progress)*



Kevin Hutchison:

1. Sd.Kfz.234 Puma Armor Car (Italeri)



2. Opel Blitz (Italeri), Fuel Drums & Cans (Tamiya)



3. 88mm FlaK36 (Tamiya)



4. RSO/3 & 75mm PaK40 (Revell; work in progress)



AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 4)

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

- ◆ **AMPS 2020 International Convention is Cancelled!** by John Charvat & Peter Espada
- ◆ **Extreme Modulation - Well, Sort Of!** by Anders Heintz
- ◆ **Project RIPCORD (Part 2 of 3)** by AMPS Central South Carolina "Wildcats"
- ◆ **US Units at RIPCORD** by Ralph Nardone
- ◆ **Panzer I Ausf.A Breda** by Bob Bethea
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **Local Chapter News and Upcoming Shows**



JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

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MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
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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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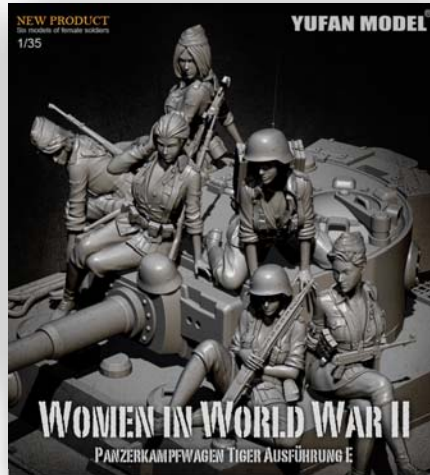
All payments must be made in U.S. funds. **AMPS** accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal. To join using PayPal, just visit the **AMPS** website:

www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



Another interesting paper panzer from Trumpeter in 1/35th scale.



Hey, please don't shoot the messenger... your editor is just reporting what's out there! Yufan Model is responsible for this 1/35th six-figure "Women in World War II" set.



This new 1/35th bundle from ICM includes three different armor cars based on Ford Model-T used by ANZAC in the Middle East during WWI.

More re-scaling of kits from Takom: this 1/72nd release comes with not one but two German mine-clearing vehicles.

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