



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

September 2020

TANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

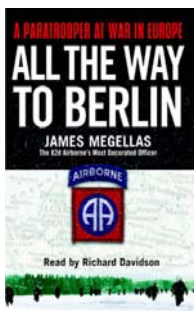
by Chris Chany

After spending the last few months catching up on my reading, I thought I might highlight some of the best books I've read that might be of interest to the club members:

All the Way to Berlin

by James Megellas

While this book by James Megellas (also known as "Maggie") is a history of his time with the 82nd Airborne, I enjoyed reading about the personal stories of his unit.



In late April 1945, Lt. Megellas's company was responsible for policing captured German towns and enforcing the dusk to dawn curfew. One night he and the company interpreter (a private



Maggie's Command

who spoke fluent German) were patrolling on a captured German motorcycle when they heard voices behind a house. They discovered two young German men who had been visiting some friends and didn't realize the time. Through the interpreter Megellas told them that they could be shot for violating curfew. He then said he would let them go, but after a count to three if he could still see them, they would be shot. Megellas and the private then pointed their Tommy Guns at the Germans and asked if they understood. They said "jawohls," and the interpreter started counting in German very slowly. By the second

(Continued on page 5)

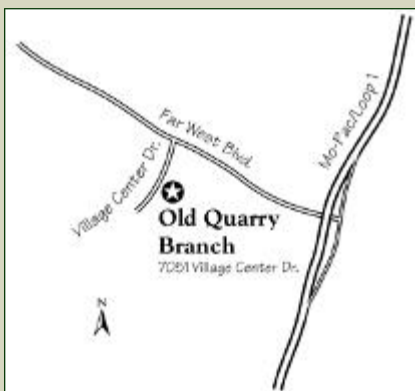
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

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

- ◆ ~~Sept 2 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~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 **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~Oct 3 - ASMS Capital Classic 2020~~, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX **CANCELLED**
- ◆ Oct 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Nov 4 - 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	N/A	Greg Beckman
August	N/A	Rick Herrington
September*	N/A	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! Greetings! I hope all our AABS members are doing well. It was brought to my attention that a well-known modeler from the Houston area recovered from COVID-19, but his wife passed away from it. Other than that, I have not heard of anyone in our community of modelers that has contracted the disease.

We certainly have a lot of things on hold until we meet again. The Toon Tank contest and officer elections are still waiting for our return. The annual auction is also not too far away.

Last month I wrote that VJ Day occurred on the 15th of August, 1945. On September 2nd, Imperial Japan signed the formal instrument of surrender aboard the *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. General Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender on behalf of all Allied Forces. He would again take center stage in history five years later.

On September 1st, 1950, the Great Naktong Offensive began. It would be the last major attempt by the North Koreans to breach the Pusan Perimeter, and it ended in failure.

In my on-line search, *Wikipedia* stated that the Battle of Yongsan also began as part of the Pusan Perimeter fighting. I believe the correct spelling should be Yangsan. Having served in Korea twice, I know of the village of Yangsan, which matches the map location given as Yongsan. On my first tour, we would drive into Yangsan every morning for a shuttle run from the Brooklyn Microwave site. There we dropped off South Korean techs, guards, and generator operators coming off a 24-hour shift and picked up the oncoming personnel. The route took us from the mountain top base down into the valley by way of a single-track road through several tiny farm villages and miles of rice patties on both sides of the road. Yangsan is part of Seoul which was way behind the North Korean lines on the 1st of September. At any rate, the battle ended in defeat for the communists.

As mentioned earlier, General MacArthur took his place in history again as he orchestrated *Operation Chromite*, the Inchon amphibious assault. In a huge gamble, the US Marines attacked the beaches and pushed into the city of Inchon on the 15th of September.



Instrument of surrender signing aboard USS Missouri.



General MacArthur observing the Inchon Battle.

Two days later, General Walker's Eighth Army broke out of the Pusan Perimeter and pushed back the North Korean forces. Communist survivors retreated back to the north up the eastern coast of South Korea before MacArthur's troops completely sealed off the route of their retreat.



Breakout from the Pusan Perimeter.

The Second Battle of Seoul began on the 22nd of September as the 1st Marine Regiment led by Colonel Chesty Puller breached the outer North Korean defensive line around Seoul. This unit was the vanguard of UN forces tasked with retaking Seoul.



A knocked-out T-34 between Inchon and Seoul.

With the arrival of reinforcement, the 1st Marine Regiment cleared Seoul of North Korean troops by the 26th of September. Unfortunately, by this time of the war over twelve hundred South Korean and American soldiers had been captured in earlier fighting. Many of these POWs were massacred by the communists before they could be liberated.



Street fighting in Seoul.

As mop-up operations were taking place in Seoul, General MacArthur received permission to pursue the retreating enemies into North Korea. UN forces were to press on to breach the 38th parallel which defined the border between the two Koreas. It was believed that the Red Chinese would not intervene in spite of their threats to do so.



North Korean prisoners rounded up in Seoul.

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

(Continued from page 1)



James "Maggie" Megellas, the 82nd Airborne's most decorated officer

count, the Germans were over the fence and away. Megellas fired a short burst in the air and remarked to his private, "I bet those krauts won't be breaking any more curfews for a while."

Megellas' nightly "bed checks" consisted of patrolling the town and if he found any lights on after a reasonable time,

he would leave his calling card, which was a burst from his Tommy Gun.

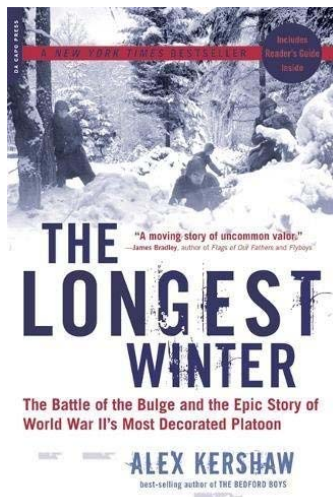
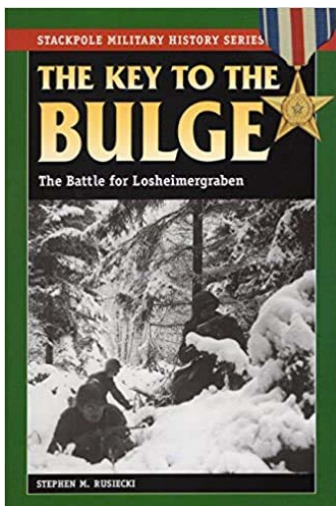
While the book chronicles the unit during WWII, it is more a personal account of the men in Maggie's command.

The Key to the Bulge: The Battle for Losheimergraben

by Stephen M. Rusiecki

The Longest Winter — The Battle of the Bulge and the Epic Story of World War II's Most Decorated Platoon

by Alex Kershaw



These two books chronicle the story of 18 men from the Intelligence and Reconnaissance (I&R) platoon of the 394th Infantry Regiment of the 99th Infantry Division at Losheimergraben, Belgium who were overrun during the Battle of the Bulge and captured.

Rusiecki's book chronicles in great detail the battle between the 394th Infantry and the assault by the German paratroopers that were to provide *Kampfgruppe Peiper* with an opening so that they could drive to the Muese. After holding out for two days, the I&R platoon surrendered to the overwhelming German forces while the rest of the regiment withdrew.

In *The Longest Winter*, Kershaw starts with the I&R platoon's training at Camp Maxey, Texas and follows them through the battle and through captivity at various *stalags* where they were plagued with starvation and hepatitis. The platoon leader, 1st Lt. Lyle J. Bouck, Jr., received both the Distinguished Service Cross and the Silver Star for his actions during the battle. When Bouck was asked why he and his men did not retreat immediately from the overwhelming numbers of Germans, he said the group's youth and inexperience meant that they would probably pay for the obstinacy with their lives. Older and wiser men, fathers, would have retreated.



Lyle Bouck Jr. at a bond rally

Three other I&R platoon members were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) while five were awarded the Silver Star Distinguished and nine were awarded the Bronze Star with Valor.

One of the DSC recipients, Sgt. William Slape, remained in the army, and in 1969 he walked into a bar near his base in Germany. The barman was the

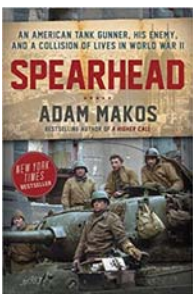
very same German paratrooper who had taken him prisoner during the war. Slape said, "I walked in the front door and that old bald-headed joker came flying over the counter. I didn't get out of that bar until two the next morning! We had a ball. The man cleared people out of the bar and brought his family to meet me who he had once pointed his gun at. I thought a lot of the guy. He was a damned fine man." Slape asked him why he was not shot at the time, and the German replied, "I had too much respect for you."



Monument to the 99th and the Germans at Losheimergraben

Spearhead

by Adam Makos



This is the story of a Sherman tank crew from the 3rd Armored Division that never lost a tank to enemy fire. Because of this, they were one of the first tank crews in Europe to receive an M26 tank. The Pershing crew included Clarence Smoyer, a gunner who was a natural-born shooter with a strong sense of responsibility towards his tank crew to make every shot count.

During the battle for Cologne, Smoyer's tank engaged a Panzer IV hidden behind a building. Unable to get a clear shot, he used his high explosive



Clarence Smoyer (top center) and the rest of the Pershing tank crew after the battle in Cologne. (Someone needs to make a 1/35 scale set of figures of these guys!)

rounds to collapse the building on the tank. The Pershing then goes on to engage a German Panther Tank in a battle that is recorded by a US Army movie photographer. See <https://anicursor.com/colpicwar2.html> for a frame by frame analysis of the battle.

Later in a railyard in Paderborn, Smoyer's Pershing was firing high explosive rounds at German machinegun nests when a Panther tank emerged from behind some rail cars. While both tank crews furiously started rotating their turrets to bring their guns to bear on each other, Smoyer realized he had a high explosive round loaded which would be useless against the Panther. He also realized that there was not enough time for the loader to reload an armor piecing round before the Panther would fire at them. Quickly lowering the 90mm gun, he fired the high explosive round at the ground in front of the Panther causing a huge mushroom cloud of dirt, debris, and smoke. This temporarily blinded the Panther and gave Smoyer's loader a chance to load an anti-tank round in the gun which they subsequently used to destroy the Panther.

In 2013 Smoyer returned to Cologne to meet one of the Germans that was in the Panzer IV that Smoyer dropped the building on.



And Now A Helpful Tip

I have a lot of wood and styrene scratchbuilding supplies and had been looking for an easy way to keep them organized. I had seen racks made up of PVC plumbing tubes but to me not only could that get expensive but the tubes themselves took up a lot of room and with enough of them it would get rather heavy.

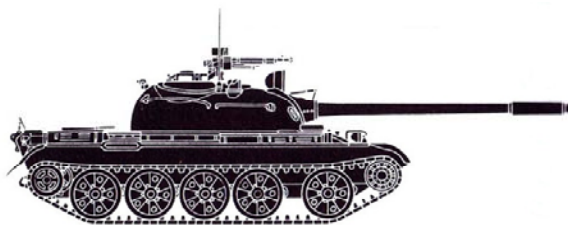


dowels and thin pieces of wood. I thought I can apply the same concept but with leftover paper towel tubes since model supplies are not that heavy. Using a boot shoebox for strength, I glued the tubes in like a bunch of missile silos.

I also attached the box top to the back of the box to make a slot to hold sheet styrene sheets.

Chris

In a woodworking magazine, I saw a scrap wood rack that had cardboard mailing tubes to hold



T-54/55 Group Build

Due to the cancellation of 2010 Capital Classic show, our T-54/55 Group Build is now lost without a cause! Any idea what to do with all of the T-54/55 models that we have built already? Since *Modelfiesta* did away with the club entry category, should we try our luck at next year's *Modelmania* instead? Or how about making it the theme of our first 2021 quarterly contest (March)? Better still, a club article for *AMPS Boresight*?

Send us your suggestion(s) via email (aabsco@gmail.com). The club wants to know your opinion on this. Don't let our finished models go to waste. Let's do something good and fun with them!



SPANISH CIVIL WAR LIGHT TANK

PANZER I AUSF. A BREDA

An Out-of-the-Box Review

by Bob Bethea

The Panzer I and the Spanish Civil War (1936-39) have always intrigued me, but I never thought I would see this odd vehicle in plastic, let alone 1/16th scale! Many thanks to our editor for obtaining this kit while he was vacationing in the Far East over the last Christmas holiday.

The Spanish Nationalists made this bizarre conversion to add anti-tank firepower to their “lend-lease” Panzer Is as they encountered Russian T-26s and BT-5s of the Republicans armed with 45mm cannons.

An Italian Breda 20mm anti-aircraft gun was installed in the turret that was raised for extra room. Only four vehicles were converted, and though relatively unsuccessful, they were used to the end of the war.

The Kit

This kit is a limited edition release from AMMO by Mig Jimenez to celebrate the centennial anniversary (1920-2020) of *Legión Española* (the Spanish equivalent of the French Foreign Legion). I was elated to see the turret was injection plastic and not a resin doorstop as feared with many limited edition kits. The sprues were marked “Takom,” so a standard Panzer I ausf. A was forthcoming from them.





Inside the box are several gray plastic sprues, one clear plastic sprue of headlight lenses, a small two-part photoetched fret for the muffler covers, a soft metallic cable, and an extensive decal sheet. The star of the show is the instruction booklet showing extensive research that went into this kit. It is obvious by the plethora of photos and historical notes that were validated on-line at Tanks Encyclopedia (www.tanks-encyclopedia.com). Each of the four specific vehicles are illustrated in full-color five-view profiles describing the color and markings schemes in perfect detail.

The Build

The build starts conventionally with the one-piece lower hull and running gear. There are no part number errors in the instructions or excess flash. Seams are minimal. As no interior is provided, but it simplifies the build and makes the kit more affordable.

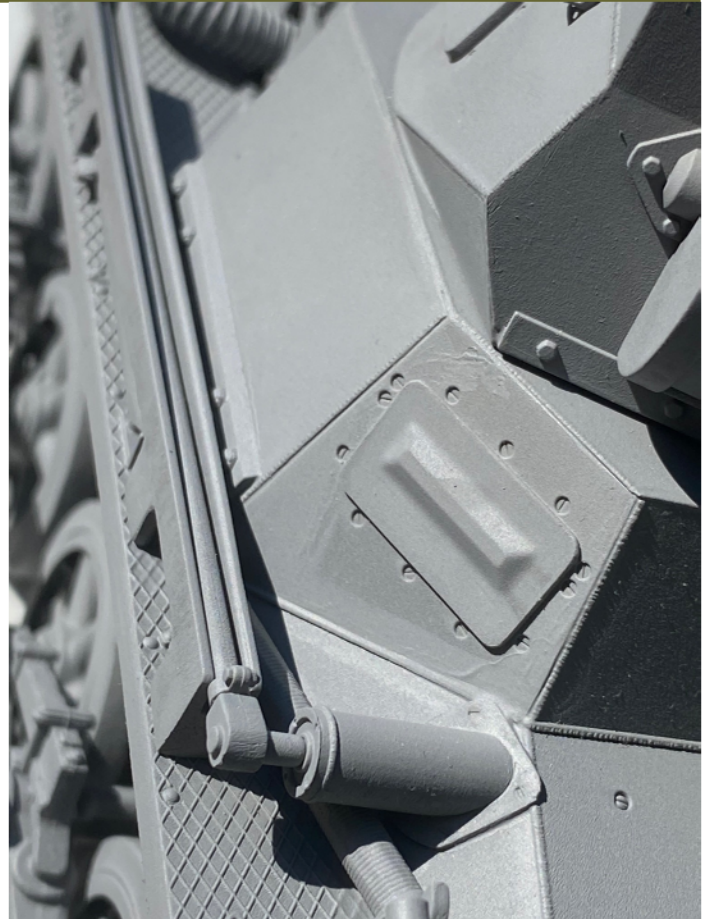
You can make the wheels and bogies movable with a LOT of care in gluing, but for strength I glued mine on a flat surface.

The individual track links are beautifully cast with minimal sprue attachment. They are easy to clean up, and the fit is perfect. The finished links are workable, held together with substantial plastic pins which are easy to install and do not break. What a relief!

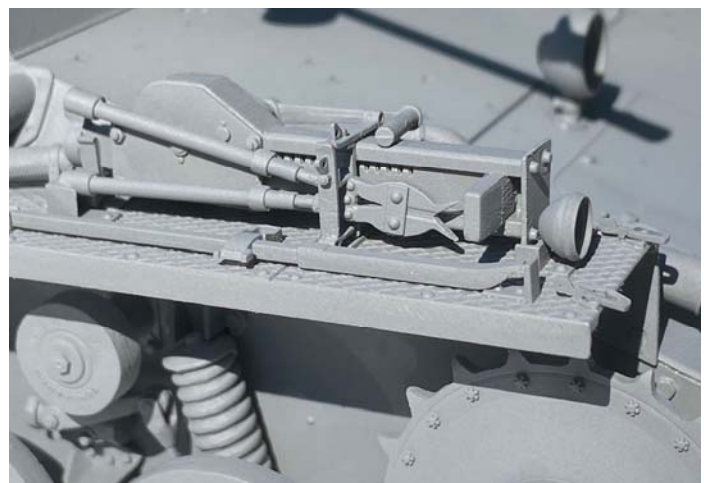


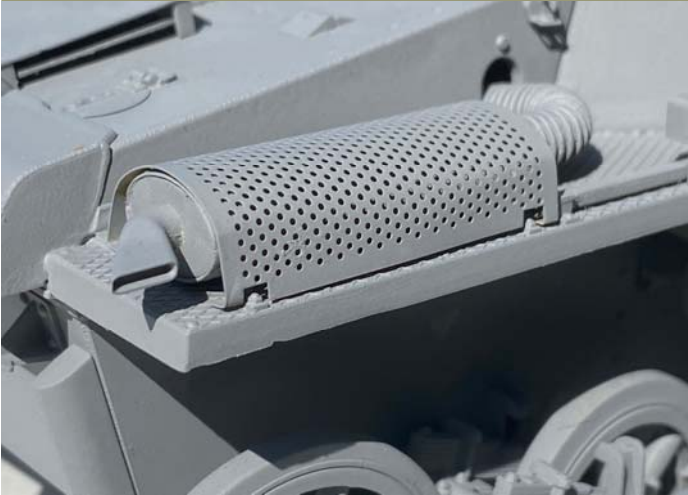
By the way, the Panzer I ausf. A had four road wheels per side, but the kit provides five. It appears a Panzer I ausf. B is forthcoming also!

The fenders are cast as one complete connected part for foolproof installation. Tools and mufflers are



added to it before attaching to the lower hull. The front headlights even include their cords for realism, and standard German tool clamps are cast on. Aftermarket PE can enhance their appearance but is not necessary, in my opinion.





The upper hull starts with a structural piece to which the top, side plates, and side doors are added. The fit here is okay but not quite as precise as Tamiya kits. As such, you must install all plates at the same time to be able to do minor adjustments.

of "351" of the *3a Compañia* (third company) in December 1938 is my favorite. It has the Spanish Legion crest and Russian style numerals, so I chose to reproduce that one.

The German pre-war scheme of *Olivgrun* (Olive Green), brown, and *Sandgelb* (Sand Yellow) was on the vehicles delivered from Germany. With the conversion the Spanish copied it onto the turrets and colors can vary from the hulls. I used Tamiya Dark Yellow (XF-60) with Buff (XF-57) for the *Sandgelb*, Field Gray (XF-65) for the *Olivgrun*, and NATO Brown (XF-68) with Buff for the brown.



The turret is a one-piece shell with simple additions. It has no interior or even a gun breach, so leaving the hatch open is not recommended without a figure to hide the cavity.

Painting, Decaling, and Weathering

Of the four markings provided in the kit, the scheme

Sandgelb and brown were airbrushed and then covered with Blu Tack where appropriate. Olivegrun was then airbrushed over the balance of the model, and the Blu Tack removed for sharp edges.

To blend the colors, I experimented a wash of Tamiya Dark Earth (XF-52) diluted with alcohol over the entire model. What a mistake! It was fine on most of the tank, but the acrylic paint was lifted down to the primer on the front glacis plates! I ended up respraying the original colors to fix it.

Two coats of Future Floor Wax were airbrushed on as a gloss base for the decals and weathering. Here I ran into my only complaint of the kit: although items on the decal sheet are numbered, there are no corresponding numbers on the instructions. Fortunately, with minimal decals to apply, it was not hard to figure out what went where as the painting guides are large and very readable. The decals reacted well with Solvaset.

After applying an artist oil pin-wash to enhance shadows around the details, I accentuated the light showing on sharp edges with a mixture of Winsor and Newton's Light Ochre and Titanium White. AMMO

Matte Varnish was then used to flatten the entire model.

The tracks were primed black, airbrushed with Tamiya Brown and highlighted with Scale75 Heavy Metal by drybrushing. Dust was emulated by a light overspray of the lower hull with Tamiya Buff.

Conclusion

The result is a big model in reality but a tiny one in scale. Now all we need is a good Spanish Civil War figure in 1/16th scale to go with it.

Highly recommended.

Bob

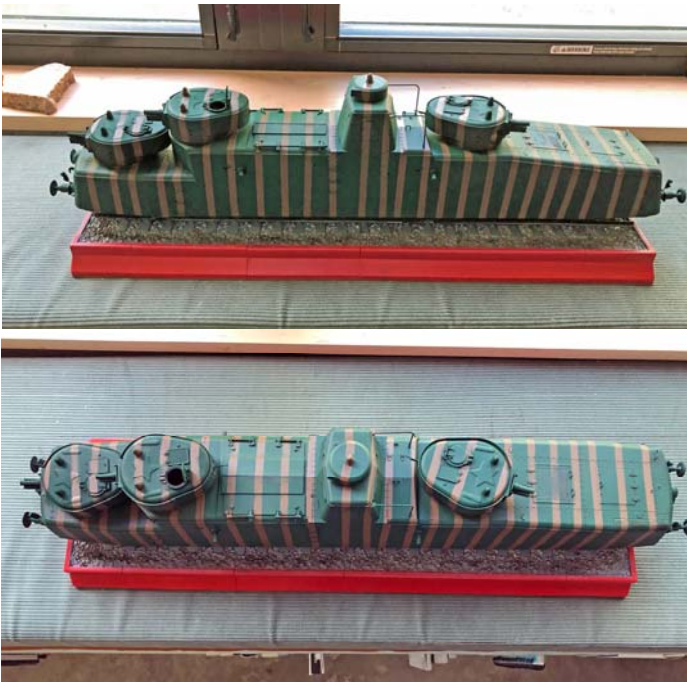
Photo credits: Aaron Smischney, Eric Choy



Members Show & Tell

Dave Bourland:

Soviet MBV-2 Armored Train (Hobby Boss)



Ted Andreas, Jr:

SdKfz.165 Hummel (Tamiya+Friulmodel Tracks)



Greg Beckman:

1. *Ukrainian 2S1 Gvozdika Diorama (Trumpeter)*



2. Ukrainian 2S3 Akatsiya Diorama (Trumpeter)



3. Ukrainian T-64Bv (Trumpeter)



4. KV-1S (Trumpeter)



Bob Bethea:

1. 1/72nd Diorama "Crossing Into Germany" (Tanks: DML, Jeep: Academy, figures: Scale75)



2. Czech T-55AM2B (Takom; work in progress)



3. WWI Model T Ambulance (ICM; work in progress)



Sabot Away!

4. *Tiger I Toon Tank (Meng)*



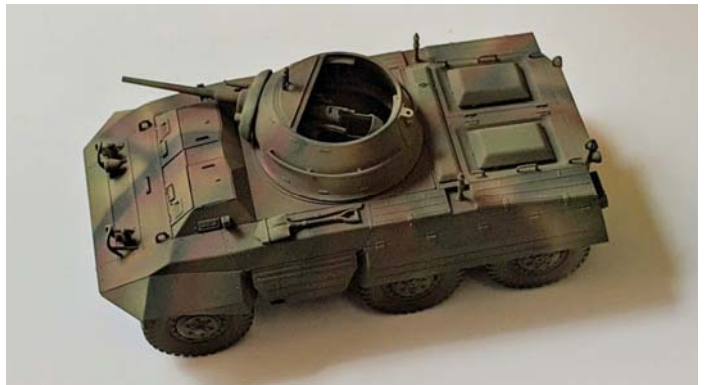
7. *Left: 90mm USMC Rifleman, Vietnam (Pegaso)*
Right: 90mm IJA Sgt. Major (Andrea)



5. *Two WWI Lanchester Armored Cars (Copper State Models + Modelcellar figures)*



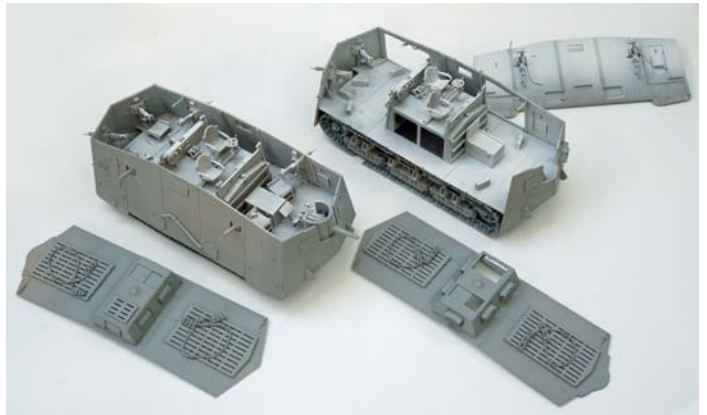
8. *M8 Armored Car, Katanga, 1960s (Tamiya)*



6. *T-34/76 Mod. 1940 (DML)*



9. *Two WWI A7Vs (Meng; work in progress)*



10. **USMC M26 Persing, Korea** (Dragon; work in progress)



11. **IJA Type 5 "Chi-Ri"** (Fine Mold; work in progress)



12. **1/72nd Lend-Lease M3 Lee (Soviet)** (Mirage; work in progress)



13. **1/72nd M3 Halftrack** (Academy + Best Value Stowage; work in progress)



14. **German Staff Car** (ICM; work in progress)



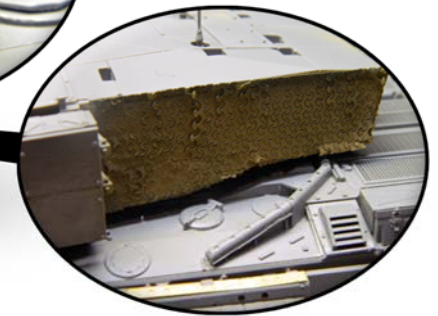
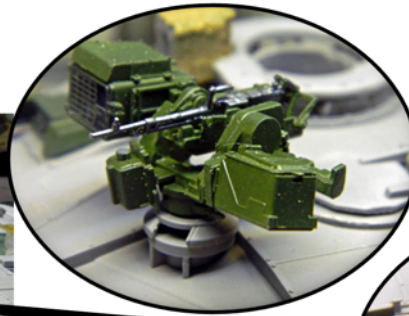
Mike Maloney:

SdKfz.166 Sturmpanzer "Brummbär" (Dragon; work in progress)



Rick Herrington:

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



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!

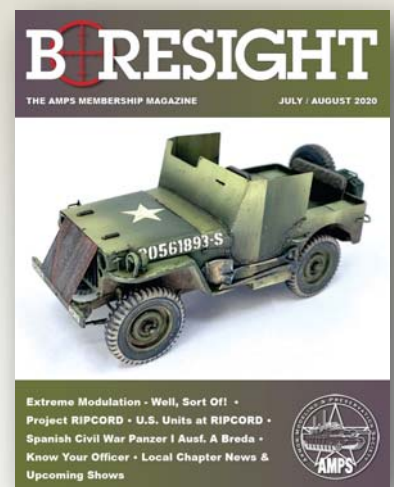
The theme for our 2020 second quarterly contest is "**Looney Toon-Tanks!**" These whimsical egg-shaped models are fun, easy to build, and perfect for a weekend project! Should you want to make them more challenging, there are all kinds of not-too-serious conversions (e.g. Sherman Calliope, Bergtiger,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

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

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

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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)
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.



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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



Hobby Boss latest offering in 1/35th is a Beutepanzer on Renault R35 chassis.



Based on the T-80 chassis with a new 152mm rifled gun, Object 292 was cancelled when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Trumpeter now has a kit of it out in 1/35th scale.



A new 1/35th two-figure set from Rado Miniatures features an MG42 team from 12th SS-Panzer Division running for cover at the Battle of Normandy, 1944.

Border Model's new T-34/76 in 1/35th scale is a 2-in-1 offering of T-34E with space armor (ala German style!) and #112 Factory "Krasnoe Sormovo."

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