



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2020

PFC MELVIN L. BROWN 1ST CAVALRY KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL PARK

by Ted Andreas, Jr.

Inside Fort Hood not far from the 1st Cavalry Museum and on the portion of the field where the 1st Cavalry Division's headquarters building is located stands the 1st Cavalry Division's Korean War Memorial Park. More specifically, this memorial site is on the corner of Battalion Avenue and 72nd Street. It has been designated in honor of PFC Melvin L. Brown who was killed in the Korean War. His valor earned him the distinction of being the first of several 1st Cavalry troopers to win the Medal of Honor during his service in the Korean War.

PFC Melvin Brown was born and raised in Mahaffrey, Pennsylvania. In 1948, he dropped out of high school at the age of 17 and enlisted in the Army



following the lead of an older brother (Brown had nine siblings). For eighteen months he was stationed in Japan until he was deployed to Korea in the early part of the Korean War.

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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

- ◆ ~~Oct 3 - ASMS Capital Classic 2020, Travis County Expo Center, Austin, TX~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ ~~Oct 7 - AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ Nov 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Dec 2 - 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	N/A	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! Well, it would seem that we are getting some indications of a seasonal change. I hope along with any changes, this COVID-19 virus is on the way out. This year has been memorable so far but for all the wrong reasons. It would be great if we could get back to a pre-2020 normal again.

As we all know, we have many club items on hold until we meet again. Hopefully, that will be sooner as opposed to be later.

Seventy years ago, the French military was feeling the might of the Viet Minh forces led by Vo Nguyen-Gap. On the 1st of October, 1950, the Viet Minh launched a campaign against French fortifications along the Vietnam border with China. By the 17th of October, all of those positions were overwhelmed, and the French suffered a series of defeats along with heavy casualties.



Vo Nguyen-Gap

Meanwhile on the Korean Peninsular, UN forces had advanced into North Korea. On the 14th of October, Red Chinese forces had also entered North Korea by crossing the Yalu River. Their presence would soon be a huge problem for General MacArthur and the forces under his command. Three days later two battles initiated. The Battle of Sariwon was fought

primarily by Australian Troops as part of the British Commonwealth Brigade. The Aussies took the town of Sariwon and inflicted heavy casualties on North Korean defenders.



Battle of Sariwon, North Korea.

Also on the same day, UN forces, primarily the US 1st Cavalry Division would attack the North Korean capitol of Pyongyang. The city fell on the 21st as North Korean forces withdrew to prevent being encircled.

On the 21st of October, the Australian Army again defeated the North Koreans in the Battle of Yongju, also known as the Apple Orchard battle. In this struggle, the North Koreans suffered heavy casualties while the Australians losses were very light.



3rd Battalion of the Australian Royal Army Regiment.



British Commonwealth Brigade in North Korea.

The month of October ended with the Battle of Chonju (29-30 Oct, 1950). The Australians again prevailed against North Korean forces, inflicting heavy casualties while suffering relatively light losses. However, hours after the battle ended, the Australian commander of the 3rd Battalion RAR, was wounded by artillery fire. He would die two days later.

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

On the 25th of October, Red Chinese soldiers engaged UN forces in their first major battle of the Korean War. It would be known as the Battle of Onjong, and it ended as a victory for the communists.

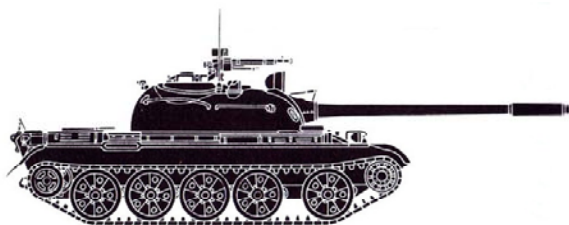


Vive l'amour! Love may be what Pepé Le Pew is into, but for us modelers, it's definitely the "amour" part that gets our attention!

The theme for our 2020 second quarterly contest is "Loony 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!

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



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? 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!

(Continued from page 1)

In Korea, Brown was assigned to Company D, 8th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division. He participated in the defense that were part of the Battle of Pusan perimeter. His unit attacked North Korean positions near Kasan on September 4, 1950. When the communists counter-attacked, Brown maintained his position even after his weapon ran out of ammunition. He threw grenades at the enemy until he was killed.



PFC Melvin L. Brown

In addition to honoring PFC Brown, other 1st Cavalry Medal of Honor recipients from the Korean War are also recognized on the park's marker. They include:

- Cpl. Gordon M. Craig, 16th Recon Co.
- PFC Robert H, Young, B Co. 8th Cav.
- 1Lt. Samuel S. Coursen, C Co. 5th Cav.
- 1Lt. Robert M. McGovern, A Co. 5th Cav.
- 1Lt. Lloyd L. Burke, G co. 5th Cav.
- 1Lt. James L. Stone, F Co. 8th Cav.
- PFC Tibor Rubin, I Co. 8th Cav.



'Easy 8' Sherman.



Front detail of the Easy 8 Sherman.

In the memorial park, there are three Korean war-era tanks (M4A3E8 Sherman, M24 Chaffee, and M26 Pershing) along with an 105mm howitzer piece.



While the Pershing tank is symbolic of the last stages of WWII and the Korean War, the Korean terrain proved too rugged for the drive train of this tank. The M4A3E8 fared better, and it was the mainstay until the arrival of the M46.

The Chaffee saw considerable action during the Korean War, but it was no match in a head-to-head fight against Soviet-made T-34/85 tank. The Chaffee would later be replaced by the M41 Walker Bulldog. However, as part of the Korean War Memorial Park, it well represents the effort of the American military in the Korean War.



M24 Chaffee.



M101A2 105mm Howitzer.

As in about every war for centuries, the use of artillery in the Korean War was critical. Since tanks were limited by the rugged Korean terrain, infantry often had to hold on to mountainous positions against determined assaults by the communists. Artillery support

quite often made the difference between success or failure of both defensive and offensive operations.

I highly recommend taking a few minutes to visit Fort Hood's PFC Melvin L. Brown 1st Cav Korean War Memorial Park.

Ted



This citation for PFC Melvin L. Brown's Medal of Honor was taken from Wikipedia article (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melvin_L._Brown) retrieved from US Army Center of Military History:

Pfc. Brown, Company D distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against the enemy.



While his platoon was securing Hill 755 (the Walled City), the enemy, using heavy automatic weapons and small arms, counterattacked. Taking a position on a 50-foot (15 m)-high wall he delivered heavy rifle fire on the enemy. His ammunition was soon expended

and although wounded, he remained at his post and threw his few grenades into the attackers causing many casualties. When his supply of grenades was exhausted his comrades from nearby foxholes tossed others to him and he left his position braving a hail of fire, to retrieve and throw them at the enemy. The attackers continued to assault his position and Pfc. Brown, weaponless, drew his entrenching tool, from his pack and calmly waited until they 1 by 1 peered over the wall, delivering each a crushing blow upon the head. Knocking 10 or 12 enemy from the wall, his daring action so inspired his platoon that they repelled the attack and held their position.

Pfc. Brown's extraordinary heroism, gallantry, and intrepidity reflect the highest credit upon himself and was in keeping with the honored traditions of the military service. Reportedly missing in action and officially killed in action, September 5, 1950.



Evolution of My Toon Tank

By Dane Sherry

I built my Tiger Toon Tank using advises from fellow members Bob Bethea and Mike Maloney.

The model was painted with a combination of



Testors Model Master enamels and Vallejo Air acrylics. The pinwash was done with Tamiya Panel Line Accent Color, followed by an "Oil Dot Filter" weathering with Master's Touch Oil Colour paints.

To achieve a muddy finish, I used some Vallejo Weathering Effects Thick Mud.

Dane



Members Show & Tell

Greg Beckman:

1. T-34E (Border Models)



2. Passenger Bus GAZ-03-30 (MiniArt)



3. Typhoon VDV (Meng)





Marty Hebda:
T-72M1 (Tamiya)



2. *1/48th Star Wars TX-225 GAVs "Occupier" (Fantasy Flight Games; work in progress)*



3. *1/48th M2 Cletrac High Speed Tractor (Victory Models; work in progress)*



Eric Choy:

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

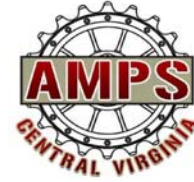
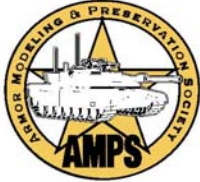


AMPS Boresight (Volume 28, Issue 5)

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

- ◆ **Project RIPCORD (Part 3 of 3)** by AMPS Central South Carolina "Wildcats"
- ◆ **The Five of Hearts** by Brian Eberle
- ◆ **Western Canadian Regional AMPS Model Show** by Anthony Swards
- ◆ **Book Review: Panzerwrecks - Forgotten Archives 3** by Michael Reeves
- ◆ **Military Modeling with Plaster** by Richard Senges





Join us in Virginia for the 26th AMPS convention! Scale modelers are invited to bring their creative work for display and plug into the friendly and instructional atmosphere.

The convention theme is Move It! Build a subject that hauls, moves, or transports supplies, vehicles or people and you could receive a theme special award.

AMPS-2021

29 APR ▶ 1 MAY

Many of the best armor modeling product vendors will be with us to help you find great deals on new and old kits, tools, books and accessories.

Seminars from inspiring hobbyists and historians will teach you new techniques.

Come early and visit the many museums and military collections in the region.

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Visit the AMPS website for all the details: AMPS-Armor.org

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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



Two new 1/35th releases from Gecko Models: WWII-era Bedford MWD 15-cwt 4x2 truck (above) and modern UK 6-wheeled All-Terrain-Mobility-Platform (ATMP) with Rescue Stretcher (below).

Don't be deceived by the scale of these two 1/72nd kits. The finished model of Takom's IJN Yamato turret (left) is 20" in length! Even bigger (and 3" longer) is ModelCollect's P.1000 Ratte Scharnhorst (right). Talk about naval-on-steroid!



Remember the old Airfix double-decker bus kit from the 1960s? MiniArt now has an updated version of the B-Type Omnibus in 1/35th. Military lorry and London civilian versions will follow shortly.

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