



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2021

Fighting Cars

A Short History on WWI Armored Car Usage

by Bob Bethea

The current issue of *AMPS Boresight* is dedicated to the Armored Cars of the First World War (1914-1918). Our newsletter editor, Eric Choy (also editor of *Boresight*), asked for my participation in building one of the models as well as this short introduction to the subject matter.

Armored cars have always taken a second seat to the vaunted tanks and rightly so. Tanks are so cool we started AMPS to enjoy recreating them. However, the same concepts that stimulated the development of tanks generated makeshift early equivalents, armored cars.



Minerva armored car near Antwerp, Belgium in 1914 (Wikipedia).

Very few armored cars in WWI were dedicated factory builds. Instead, they

were ad hoc armoring of existing automotive or truck chassis with the addition of a machine gun. *Wikipedia* lists over 64 different “fighting cars” from almost every country that participated in the war.

The usage of armored car in WWI varied. The first one was by Belgium who used their Minervas to successfully cover retreats from the invading Germans. Later in the war, the Italians did the same covering their own retreat from the Germans and Austrians.

Another prominent use was by the British Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) who utilized officers’ personal cars to recover downed pilots from behind enemy lines. They took the next obvious step and added machine guns and armor to improve their chances of success. With speed and existing roads, they didn’t need the slow tanks to complete their missions. As their recovery missions waned, the cars were sent to the Middle East, especially Palestine, to successfully assist in the fight against the unarmored Turkish Army.



Rolls-Royce 1914 Admiralty Turreted Pattern armored car used by RNAS (Imperial War Museum).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **June 5 - AABS Club Meeting & Modeling Day**
- ◆ **June 12 - OKC MetroCon 2021**, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ◆ **July 7 - ¿AABS Club Meeting?**
- ◆ **July 31 - Lone Star Military Miniatures Society Modeling Day**, Shady Hollow Community Center, Austin
- ◆ **August 4 - ¿AABS Club Meeting?**
- ◆ **August 12 to 14 - AMPS Super Regional**, AMPS/MVPA Joint Show, South Bend Century Center, South Bend, IN



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2021	N/A	Aaron Smischney
February	N/A	Eric Choy
March*	N/A	Greg Beckman
April	N/A	Ian Candler
May	N/A	Ted Paone
June*	Kevin Hutchison	Bob Bethea
July	TBA	Chris Chany
August	TBA	Mike Maloney
September*	TBA	Kevin Hutchison
October	TBA	Joe Fisher
November	TBA	Ted Andreas, Jr.
December*	TBA	Dane Sherry
January 2022	TBA	Rick Herrington

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. Eric Choy's article for February is due on the last Wednesday of January).

* Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Greetings! I would like to remind everyone that this month, Kevin Hutchison and his wife Terri will host our meeting in Smithville at their residence and place of business. Please attend if possible...you will enjoy it.

Our collection of T-54/T-55 tanks did very well at the Houston show last month, and we won first place in the Group Project category. Congratulations to... us! The display that Eric and Kevin had put together was impressive, and although that is not supposed to be judged, I am sure it gave us a slight edge.

In case you have not heard, Squadron is going to reopen under new ownership. I wish them well and hope it works out. I received an e-mail from the new owner and assume former customers that had an address on file got the same message.

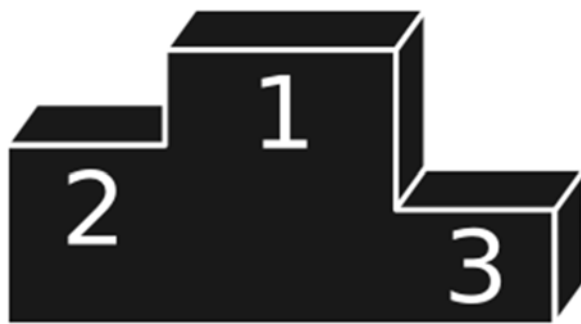
Eric will probably mention it in this newsletter, but to double up, this month we will have the quarterly contest. So that should be another incentive to make the meeting in Smithville on Saturday June 5th.

This month for my featured tank, I am going to stick with the "light weights." Originally, I had planned on going to Fort Hood to take some new photos of examples at the museums of the 1st Cavalry Division and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. However, because of busy schedule, rainy weather and time running out, I will stick to what I can find on the net.

One comment on this tank, it is probably about the first one I could identify on sight. As a youngster I liked to read comic books, and one of my favorites was, GI Combat/The haunted tank.

Well, I hope I'll see more of you guys at the next meeting. In the meantime, keep building and painting. Thanks for making AABS one of the best modeling clubs in the nation.

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



June Is Quarterly Contest Month!

Bring in your finished model this month to win U.S. Treasury issued greenbacks! Our quarterly contest cash prizes are **\$40**, **\$30**, and **\$20** for the first, second, and third place winners.

To enter you must be a member in good standing (i.e. you need to pay your dues). Any model that has not placed in previous quarterly contests is eligible to participate.

Note: the "no sweep" rule is strictly enforced (i.e. no single contestant is allowed to win ALL THREE cash prizes in any of our in-house contest.



M3 Stuart

The name Stuart was given to the M3 light tank in honor of Confederate Cavalry General Jeb Stuart. The U.S. built over 10,000 Stuarts of the M3/M3A1 versions. It was used by many members of the Commonwealth, the Soviets as well as the U.S. Army and Marine Corps. Captured examples were also used by the Germans and the Japanese.

In his book *Brazen Chariots*, Major Robert Crisp talks about the Brits liked this tank because it had a powerful engine and could make sharp turns without throwing a track. They nicknamed the tank, "Honey," as a term of endearment.



A newly acquired Stuart.

During *Operation Crusader*, about 170 Stuarts were used quite effectively to disrupt German supply convoys and rear area operations. Early in the American involvement in North Africa, Stuart tanks raided a German airfield and did considerable damage to parked aircraft.



British Honey in North Africa.

On the other side of the globe, the Stuart tank was the first tank used by Americans to engage an enemy tank in combat. That occurred during the failed effort to stop the Japanese from conquering the Philippines. After the surrender of U.S. forces, the Japanese Army made use of the captured Stuarts that survived the fighting.

In the Pacific the Stuart also saw service with the Australians in New Guinea and by U.S.M.C. in the early part of the island hopping campaign. It was effective against most Japanese armor right up until the end of the war even though by 1945 it had been pulled from frontline service even in the Pacific.



Dislodging Japanese forces in Buna.

However, the Stuart was no match for German armor in the European battlefield. It was reckoned to be obsolete and was replaced by the M5 series which served mainly in reconnaissance roles not intended on engaging any of the heavy German tanks.



A captured Stuart in German hands.

Although the frontline operational life of the Stuart was short, it did have some moments of glory at a critical stage in the fighting against Axis forces. Many Stuarts have been preserved in numerous museums around the world. Restored versions that are in running condition often participate with reenactment groups in living history demonstrations.



A museum piece in British "Desert Rats" markings.



A restored Stuart in U.S. Army markings.

AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 3)

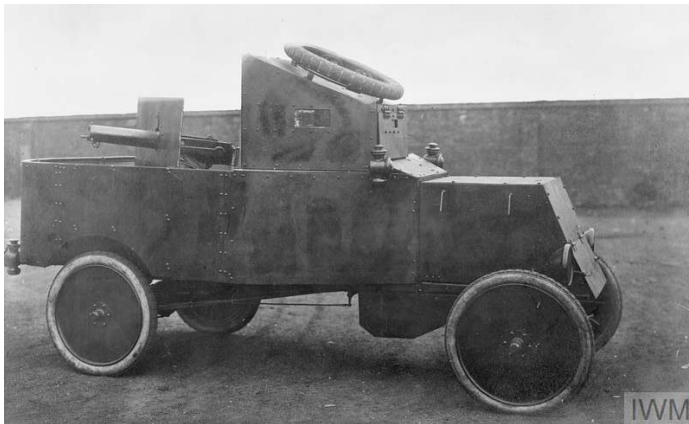
The latest issue of *Boresight* is out. Here is a quick look inside:

- ♦ **Fighting Cars** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Rolls-Royce Armored Car** by Roy Francis Perez
- ♦ **Romfell Panzerwagen** by Greg Beckman
- ♦ **An Armored Bathtub** by Bob Bethea
- ♦ **Tin Lizzie Up-Armored** by The MOFF Squad
- ♦ **Austin Model 1918** by Eric Choy
- ♦ **WWI Armored Cars Resources** by Editor
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



(Continued from page 1)

The Eastern front, with its long distances, saw a proliferation of armored cars on both sides. The adversaries did not have the technology nor infrastructure to generate many, if any, tanks. They could, however, cheaply and effectively up-armor existing chassis, and they did so in abundance.



Ford Model T Admiralty Pattern on the Russian Front (Imperial War Museum).

Ultimately, the limited resources of the warring powers had to choose between tracked (tank) and wheeled (armored car) vehicle. The tank, though extremely slow and expensive, could easily cross barbed wire while under gunfire to attack enemy trenches and break the stalemate on the Western Front. The armored car, though fast and cheaper, could not. Its off-road abilities were extremely

limited, and the hardened road network in Europe was still very limited at the time. Therefore, there was no mass production of the useful but not essential armored cars.



Romfell Panzerwagen, an Austro-Hungarian armored rarity of the Great War. Only two were built.

This slow development of the cars and tactics often left the use to the discretion of individual vehicle commanders and few armies had larger units than the squadron. Also, as in any war, each country captured armored cars of its enemies and converted them to their own use.

Bob



Still haven't sent us your AABS dues (**\$12**)? We have ways to make your arrears disappear! It'll hurt less if you pay now...

We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal (payaabs@gmail.com). For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

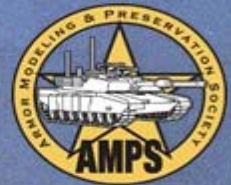
Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive
Austin TX 78729

Please **DO NOT** send cash by mail. Be sure your check or money order is made payable to **Austin Armor Builders Society** (or **AABS**).

AMPS Super Regional



Hosted by:
Military Vehicle Preservation Association
Midwest Region, Armor Modeling & Preservation Society
Century Convention Center, South Bend, IN
August 12-14, 2021



Show Theme: OPERATION DESERT STORM

Registration Fees (includes entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

- **AMPS Members: \$30.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Non-AMPS Members: \$50.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **Junior Member/Non Member: \$20.00** USD for 1 to 5 model entries (5 MAX).
- **SHOW SPECIAL! Renewing/New AMPS Members: \$55.00** USD for one year Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **Renewing/New Junior AMPS Members: \$35.00** USD for a new one year AMPS Membership & Show Registration with 1 to 5 models entries (5 MAX).
- **ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO FIVE TOTAL MODELS/DIOS/VIGNETTES/FIGURES PER ENTRANT, NO EXCEPTIONS** (See AMPS webpage for eligible subjects:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteMain/AMPSJudgingSystem.aspx>)

Walk-in Entry Fees (entry to all AMPS & MVPA activities, less tours):

	Daily	Show (12-14 Aug)
• Adult (17 and higher):	\$10	\$25
• Husband & Wife:	\$15	\$30
• Family (children under 16):	\$20	\$35

For additional show & lodging information see the AMPS Webpage:
<https://www.amps-armor.org/SiteShows/ShowMain.aspx?sid=10107>

Last month I received a surprised phone call from our old friend **Terry Lowman**. For those who don't know (or remember) Terry, he is a founding member and an



active AABS officer before relocating to Arizona 12+ years ago.



Terry called to tell us he is doing well and has recently opened his own hobby/memorabilia store "Bison 76" in the town of Payson where he currently resides. He wishes to continue

supporting AABS and our upcoming show, so he renewed his membership, sent us \$100 to sponsor two BestOfs awards, and donated several model kits for the door prize table. We are extremely grateful and can't say thank you enough for his generosity!

If you happen to be in the Tonto National Forest area of Arizona, please don't hesitate to stop by his shop and say hello!

Editor



Bison 76
Hobbies, History, Art
& more
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Members Show & Tell

Greg Beckman:

Ukrainian T-64BM Bulat (*Trumpeter*)





IPMS METRO OKLAHOMA CITY
In association with **SOONER AMPS**
Presents

OKCMetroCon 2021

Saturday, June 12th, 2021 9am-4pm
Council Road Baptist Church
Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building
7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008

Theme: **Operation "Desert Storm"**
30 Years Later

2021 AMPS CENTEX ARMOR EXPO

AN AMPS REGIONAL SHOW

September 18th, 2021
**Georgetown Community
Center**

For more info, visit:
www.austinamps.org

or contact show coordinator **Eric Choy**
(email: aabsco@gmail.com)

Show Theme: Operation Barbarossa 1941



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
ATTN: MEMBERSHIP DEPT.
P.O. BOX 227, FAIRHAVEN, MA 02719
U.S.A.



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



Two new releases, one big and one small, from Takom: 1/16th Pz.IB Abwurfvorrichtung Demolition charge carrier (top) and 1/72nd Leopard 2A7 + tank transport vehicle SLT56 combo (bottom).



Meng's new 1/35th Namer (Hebrew word for Leopard) is IDF's Merkava IV based armored personnel carrier.



There is a new 1/35th rabbit in town, and its name is Kettenkraftrad! Hard to believe the old version from Tamiya is almost fifty years old (first released in 1973!).



Yes, Squadron Mail Order is back! New owner Chris Decker made the announcement in late May that the relaunch will happen in early June with over 15,000 products available.

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. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor modeling show 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.

For more info, please visit www.austinamps.org