



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

October 2021



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The Idaho Military Museum

By
Joe Fisher

In August of 2018, my wife and I went up to Idaho for the wedding of her niece. We rented a car and took a few days to do some “exploring.” One of our stops in Boise was at the **Idaho Military Museum**. It’s relatively smaller than most museums that I have visited, but it has some maybe not-so-common items.

Started in 1995, the museum is young. The mission statement on its website (<https://museum.mil.idaho.gov>) states:

Covering a broad spectrum of military history, via photos and artifacts, you will see Gowen Field as it was during World War II as well as Idahoans in the Philippine Insurrection through Operation Iraqi Freedom/Enduring Freedom.*

*Gowen Field was named after Idahoan First Lt. Paul Gowen (1909-38) who was killed while piloting a B-10 bomber in a training exercise. Gowen Field was built as a WPA project in 1938, and at the time it had the longest runway in the US at 8,800 ft. During WWII, it was a training base for B-17 and B-24 bomber crews. More than six thousand men were stationed there during the war.

Today Gowen Field is known as Boise Airport. It is the busiest airport in the state and headquarter to the Idaho Air National Guard. The United States Forest Service also uses Boise Airport as a base for aerial firefighting air tankers during the wildfire season (Wikipedia).

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ ~~Oct 6~~ - ~~AABS Club Meeting~~ **CANCELLED**
- ◆ Nov 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Dec 4 - **AABS Xmas Party** and Club Meeting



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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	N/A	Chris Chany
August	N/A	Mike Maloney
September*	N/A	Kevin Hutchison
October	N/A	Joe Fisher
November	Kit Auction	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 hope all is well with club members and their families! The 2021 AABS show is now behind us, and it was a good one with some very fine entries! Congratulations to all who received an award of any type.

I was a little disappointed that Susan and I were not able to attend the awards ceremony. Susan had some severe chest pains, so we went to the local hospital just in case. The ER staff did two EKGs, a chest x-ray, and blood work. She came through without any abnormal readings. There was no trace of a post heart attack enzyme in the blood.

However, her sodium, potassium and magnesium levels were low. We later found out that the body can react to low magnesium levels in such a way as to mimic a heart attack. Needless to say, Susan is very fortunate and is now taking supplements to keep her magnesium levels up.

At any rate, we both hope everyone in the club who were able to attend the show had a good time. Once again, the hard work and preparation efforts by Eric Choy and others paid off.

At our last gathering in September, we had decided **NOT to meet in October**, but Eric has made reservations for us in November and a meeting/Christmas party in December at his neighborhood community center. That is a nice facility and quite reasonable in cost.

For those who are able, please continue to build and paint. The hobby must live and not die!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Infantry Tank Mk.II Matilda (A12)

Trivia question: what was the one British designed tank that served in combat from the beginning to the end of World War Two? Answer: the featured tank for this month.

The Matilda tank first saw action in British Expeditionary Force's failed effort to stop Germany's invasion of France. During the counterattack at Arras on the 21st of May 1940, the British broke through the forward positions of the German 7th Panzer Division. With Matildas in the lead, the Brits began disrupting the rear area of the 7th Panzer. It was only when the Germans concentrated artillery fire that the British were checked. Interestingly enough it was against the

Matildas that the Germans discovered that their air defense 88mm gun could also be used as a capable and highly effective anti-tank weapon. History records that General Erwin Rommel, at the time the commander of the 7th PD, personally organized a



A Matilda photographed in 2019.

defensive line using the 88 mm gun in an unintended role.

Just under 3,000 Matilda tanks were manufactured. It was designated as an infantry tank, and it featured the thickest armor of any of its contemporary tanks in 1940. However, it was slow and expensive to manufacture. Additionally, those that survived the fighting in France (1940) had to be abandoned as the British evacuated from Dunkirk.

Newly manufactured Matildas were sent to North Africa. In this theater the British enjoyed an overwhelming victory over Italian forces. The Matilda easily outclassed Italian armor. Unfortunately, Hitler would not allow his Italian allies to be easily ousted from North Africa, and the German assistance came in the form of a Rommel led Afrika Korps.



A Matilda in North Africa.

During several defeats by the British at the hands of General (later Field Marshall) Rommel and the Deutsch Afrika Korps, numerous Matildas were captured. Most would be reused by the Germans against their former owners. In spite of its shortcomings, the Germans apparently highly regarded the Matilda due to its thick armor.

Before the Allies' final victory in North Africa, the Matilda was slated to be replaced by the Valentine tank, which was faster and less expensive to produce. The Valentine as a tank would not be used past the North African fighting. And even though the



A 'German' Matilda recaptured.

Matilda did not return to France after D-Day, the Australians acquired over 400 of them for use against the Japanese in the Pacific Theatre.



An Aussie Matilda.

The Australians were using Matildas during the second phase of their Bougainville campaign which did not end until August 1945. Thus, the Matilda served in combat from the beginning to the end of World War Two. That made it the only British built tank to accomplish that feat.

The Matilda would serve in the Australian Army until the mid-1950s before being retired for good.

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No photography is allowed inside the museum, so what follows are shots of the hardware on display outside. All very neat and seemingly well-restored. I'll just say that a stop there for an hour or so is definitely worth the time.



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I had intended for this set of pix to be used for an "emergency" meeting program, i.e. a little entertainment when our designated program didn't materialize. But ole' COVID previously quashed that, and they ended up in this article for our newsletter.

Joe

Members Show & Tell

Stuart Wetterschneider:

Austin Armored Car in Ukrainian Service (*Miniart*)



Greg Beckman:

1. Russian Armored Vehicle Typhoon-K (*Zvezda*)



2. Russian BMD-4M (*Trumpeter*; work in progress)





Rick Herrington:

1. JGSDF Light Armored Vehicle (*Tamiya 1/48*)



2. Russian GAZ-233014 "Tiger" (*Suyata 1/48*)



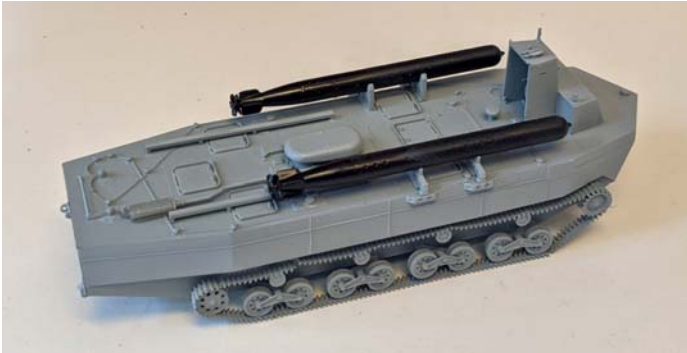
Dane Sherry:

"Rocket Run" diorama



Bob Bethea:

1. **IJN Type 4 Ka-Tsu Amphibious Landing Craft**
(Riich Models 1/72; work in progress)



2. **T17E2 Staghound AA Armored Car** (Bronco; work in progress)



3. **ZSU-57-2 (Takom; work in progress)**



4. **Domino Delivery SF3D** (Nitto 1/20 Gustav; work in progress)



AMPS Boresight (Volume 29, Issue 5)

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

- ♦ **Kit Rescue: Italeri Hetzer** by Brandon Jacob
- ♦ **A Visit to the U.S. Army Transportation Museum** by Steven Bruce
- ♦ **Three Centurions** by Ted Andreas, Jr.
- ♦ **2021 Super Regional After-Action Report** by John Charvat
- ♦ **2022 AMPS International Convention Update**
- ♦ **Know Your Officer**
- ♦ **Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



2021 Third Quarterly Contest Winners



1st Place:
Greg Beckman

Soviet KV-1 Diorama



2nd Place:
Ted Andreas, Jr.

*Australian Centurion
in Vietnam*



3rd Place:
Eric Choy

*Hungarian 44M
Tas Rohamlöveg*



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.



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www.amps-armor.org

New On The Block



Meng's 1/35th Chieftain Mk.10 is out! How does it compare to Takom's?



Border Models has been busy lately. Its latest release is the Panzer IV based 3.7cm FlaK Mobilwagen in 1/35th scale.



Gecko continues its line of modern vehicles with an US Army Light Type III Skid Steer Loader (M400W) in 1/35th scale. In civilian term, it's the Case 420 Series III. This kit includes some extensive PE parts. A 3D printed radiator is already out for this kit. One has to wonder what is wrong with the kit part!).

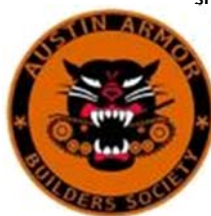


A big set of 1/35th German soldiers from Evolution Miniatures. There are 15(!) figures inside the box depicting the retaking of the city of Kharkov from the Red Army in 1943.

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