



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

November 2021



Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
ANNUAL KIT AUCTION	3
TANK IN FOCUS: SOVIET MEDIUM TANK T-34	4
MEMBERS SHOW & TELL	8
BORESIGHT PREVIEW	8
JOIN AMPS TODAY	9
NEW ON THE BLOCK	10
ABOUT US	10

THREE CENTURIONS

By Ted Andreas, Jr.

Over the past couple of years I have managed to build three AFV Club 1/35th Centurions. During that time, I had hoped that Tamiya or even Takom would come out with a new version, but that has not happened yet. My intent is not to write about a step-by-step build and painting of any one of these models, but to point out just a few things I found from the experience gained.



glue, but I guess I missed it (photo 2)!

I. Unus

The first one that I completed was the IDF 1973 Centurion (photo 1). One of the mistakes I made was trying to glue the rubber portion of the road wheels to the "metal" part of the road wheels with Tamiya liquid cement. The instructions did point out to use "instant"

At first, all seemed well, but when I transported the model to a show, most of the rubber separated. I used super glue to restore them and now realize that one should use super glue or similar type of glue for this

(Continued on page 6)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Nov 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Dec 4 - **AABS Xmas Party** and Club Meeting
- ◆ ¿Jan 5 - AABS Club Meeting?
- ◆ **January 8, 2022 - ModelFiesta 40**, New Braunfels Civic Center, New Braunfels, TX
- ◆ **January 22 - Winterblitz**, Museum of the American G.I., College Station, TX



AABS Officers Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

Ted Andreas, Jr., President
tedandreas1@yahoo.com

Chris Chany, Vice-President
christopherchany@gmail.com

Eric Choy, Treasurer
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Ted Paone, Secretary
(512) 635-9516, theopaone@att.net

Eric Choy, Newsletter Editor
(512) 554-9595, aabsco@gmail.com

Joe Fisher, Webmaster
(512) 350-6936,
fisherjoe2014@gmail.com



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! We will meet in November this month and in December for our annual Christmas Party. Eric will provide the details in our newsletter.

As I am writing this, it has cooled off a lot in Central Texas. By the time this goes to print in our monthly newsletter, it may still be quite warm. But it seems we are almost out of a hot Texas summer.

Our next quarterly contest will be the White Elephant model kits. Hopefully we have some

members who are farther along with theirs than I am. Once again, I have managed to get sidetracked with other projects and may be hard pressed to produce for this year.

I was saddened to hear that General Colin Powell has died recently of Covid. He was a major player in the 1990 First Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm). My service during that conflict was considerably more modest and at a far lower echelon. The only figure that was more prominent than Powell at the time was General Schwarzkopf.



On a more positive note, let me encourage those who are able to keep modeling and painting! More shows and contests are coming up!

Ted Andreas, Jr.
President



Annual Kit Auction

The annual kit auction will be held at our upcoming (November) meeting. This auction is our club's only fund raising activity. All monies collected go straight into the treasury for our biennial show and other club activities.

To participate in this auction, please bring:

- A few unwanted kits in your collection that have NO MISSING PARTS and NOT STARTED.
- Your cash-filled wallet (or your checkbook). You can also pay with your debit/credit card now!

Remember, your friends and fellow modelers will be bidding on these items. Be considerate and bring something nice!



Soviet Medium Tank T-34

Many would argue that the Soviet T-34 was the best medium tank of World War II. It was certainly the most produced during the war and would serve around the world for a number of years afterwards.



Early T-34 tanks in 1941.

The T-34 was produced by the USSR from 1940-45. The basic tank armed with the 76.2mm gun was produced until 1944 when a more lethal 85mm gun was used. This latter version, T-34/85, made it a potent weapon against late war German armor. Over 35,000 T-34 tanks were manufactured, and almost another 49,000 T-34/85 tanks were built. By far it was the most produced tank of WWII. It also had the dubious distinction of being the most destroyed tank; well over 44,000 were lost during the war!



A brewed-up T-34.

Even though the Germans enjoyed many early successes in Russia after their 1941 invasion, the T-34 and KV-1 tanks of the Soviets proved to be a nasty surprise. Generals Kleist and Guderian both attested that the T-34 was vastly superior to German armor being used in 1941. This of course resulted in fast paced efforts to develop such tanks as the Tiger and Panther. In the meantime, the *Wehrmacht* made great use of captured T-34 tanks.



A Soviet T-34 in German service.

The T-34 soldiered on from 1941 to 1945 and was still a mainstay of the Red Army as they breached the defenses of Berlin to end the war in Europe.



An operational T-34 in modern times.

Production in the USSR stopped in 1945, but Poland and Czechoslovakia continued to built T-34 tanks until 1958.

Like the American Sherman tank, the T-34 saw action in the Korean War and in the Arab-Israeli Wars.



A destroyed North Korean T-34.



A Red Chinese T-34 tank in Korea.



A museum piece in Poland.



A T-34-85 on display in Egypt.



A war memorial in Kursk, Russia.

In conclusion, the T-34 and T-34/85 was a major player in WWII and in the early part of the Cold War when things heated up.

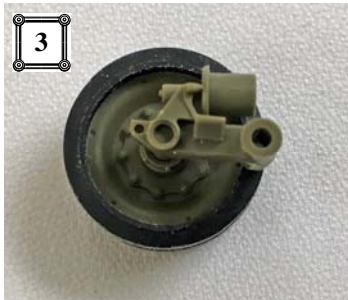
Ted

(Continued from page 1)

portion of the build. It also helps to read the instructions carefully!

AFV Club uses poly caps for the Centurions very much the same as Tamiya uses on many of their kits. However, the poly caps do not work quite as well.

My second recommendation is to work the road wheels onto the suspension arms before completely assembling the suspension systems (six total). If the wheels must be removed before completing the assembly, at least they will now go back in place easier. My experience was that doing it according to instructions put a lot of stress on the plastic pegs and the assembled system because the poly caps do not allow a smooth attachment without first stretching out the cap (photo 3).



A third issue has to do with the poly cap R3 for the idler wheel. It is too long! Each kit that I built does give you two R3 poly caps, but you only need one! I cut the R3 in half with an Xacto knife to make two poly caps. The shorter caps now allowed for the two halves of the idler wheel to go together properly.

Except for the issues already pointed out, the rest of the build went well. As I mentioned, this Centurion was completed in IDF 1970s colors to depict the type that saw action in the Yom Kippur War.



II. Duo

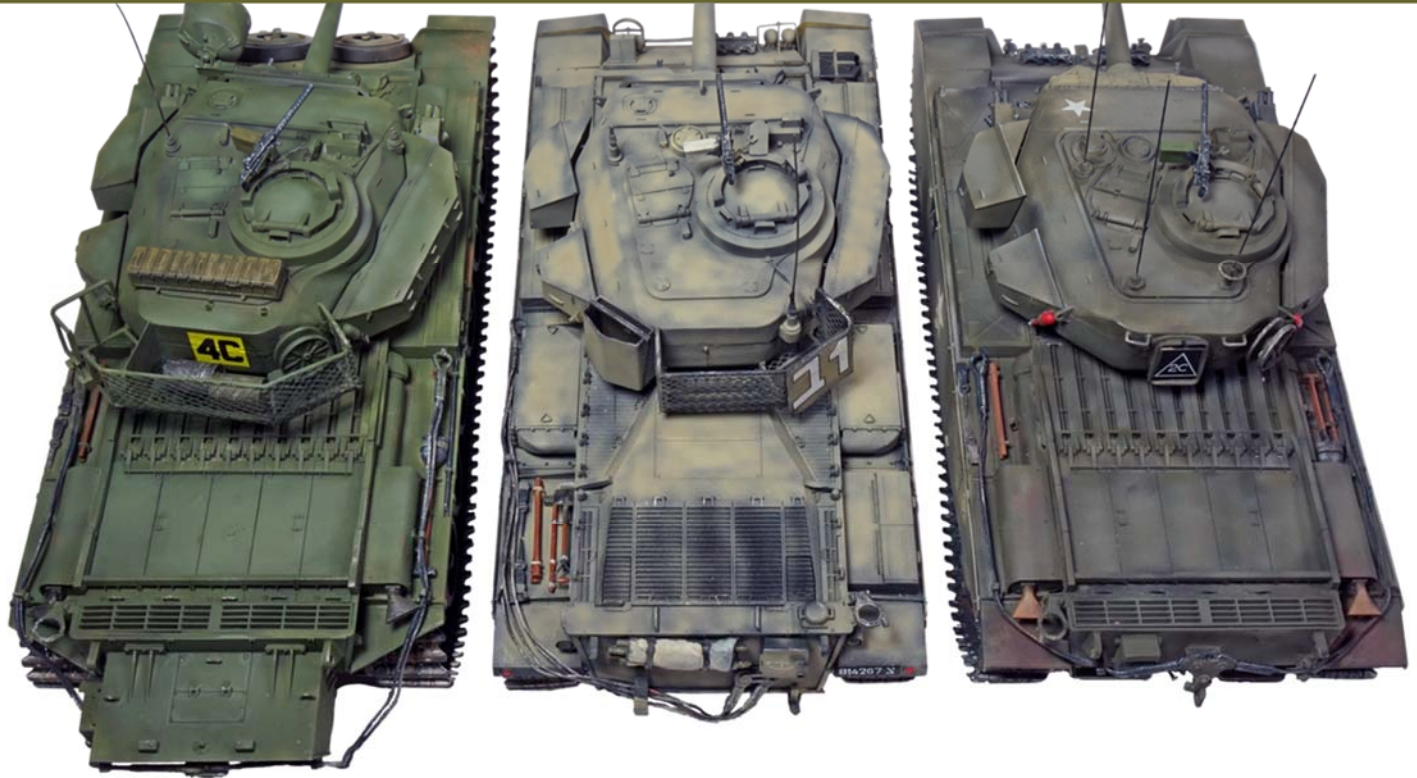
The second Centurion completed was the British Army version used in the Korean War (photo 4). Having used what I learned from the IDF version build, I had fewer issues this time. One difference between these versions is the rear deck. While the IDF deck fit well with the rear armor plate, the Korean War version did not! I ended up with a gap that needed filling with putty and sanded it down once dried. At this point, I assumed that maybe I had not aligned my parts as well as should be done.



III. Tribus

The third and last (currently anyway) was the Vietnam War Australian Centurion (photo 5). I used extra care when fitting the parts to the upper hull as this version has the same rear deck as the Korean War version, and I still ended up with a gap! This time I used an Evergreen plastic strip to fill the gap (photo 6). To my surprise, this worked better than the





putty method. It was even easier to file down for a smooth finish than was the putty.

The rubber band tracks that come with the kit are not bad at all. Nevertheless, all three of my Centurions

have aftermarket Friulmodel tracks. These tracks add a little heft to the models and particularly on the Australian version as the more realistic sag can be viewed in absence of the side skirts.



Conclusio

The Centurion series from AFV Club are good kits. Before I started on these builds, I had been advised by two modelers who had built the 1967 IDF version that the kit had some issues. Eventually, I ventured forth with what I had available, and I learned a few things along the way.

Sometimes modeling does involve problem-solving skills.

Ted

Members Show & Tell

Eric Choy:

1/72nd Object 279 (Takom; work in progress)



Greg Beckman:

1. Ukrainian Zil-131 Kshm (ICM)



2. Soviet IT-1 Drakon/Dragon (Trumpeter)



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



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.



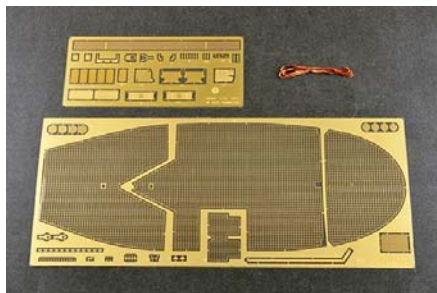
All payments must be made in U.S. funds. **AMPS** accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal. To join using PayPal, just visit the **AMPS** website:

www.amps-armor.org

NEW ON THE BLOCK



The latest Trumpeter 1/35th kit based on the AT-T prime mover chassis is the Soviet-era P-40 1S12 (NATO designation: "Long Track") S-band Acquisition Radar. The frame of the radar is done with injection plastic but it has a ginormous photoetched (PE) screen (see photo on the right). PE haters might want to sit this one out!



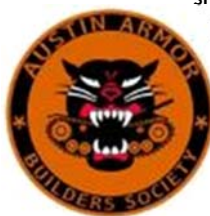
Takom fulfills its promise of another 1/16th Wiesel A1 AWC with the Rheinmetall 20mm autocannon.



If you need an D7 bulldozer in 1/72nd scale, Orange Hobby now has one for you. First manufactured in 1938, Caterpillar's D7 served in all war fronts from WWII to the most recent Middle East conflicts. It is a true workhorse of all armies.

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