



# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2023



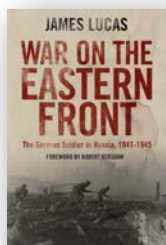
# Books That Inspire

by Martin Hebda

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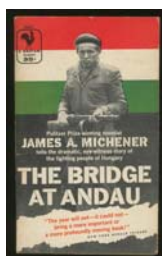
I am sure everyone has read a book that inspired you to build a certain model. Here is my list of some titles that did that for me. Because of them, I've started a list of model kits I want to build and add to my collection.



**War on the Eastern Front: The Experience of the Average German Soldier, from Their Perspective**

by James Lucas

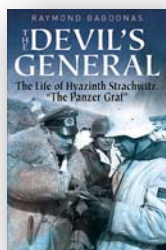
This is a great read. The sections on German SPs are very interesting. Model to build: StuG III.



**The Bridge at Andau**

by James A. Michener

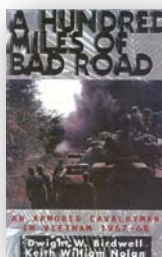
This book covers the 1956 Hungarian Uprising. Michener really knows how to write. Model(s) to build: T-34, T-54



**The Devil's General: The Life of Hyazith Strachwitz, "The Panzer Graf"**

By Raymond Bagdonas

This is an interesting book about a tank commander that I didn't know about. His experiences on the Russian Front show what would have been if the Germans had fuel and ammunition, and the weather was ideal. Model(s) to build: Panzer IV, Panther.



**A Hundred Miles of Bad Roads:**

**An Armored Cavalryman in Vietnam 1967-68**

by Dwight W Birdwell and Keith W. Molan

This is a well written story about the authors' tour as tankers during the Vietnam War. I found it very exciting

(Continued on page 7)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ June 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 17 - OKC MetroCon 2023, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ◆ July 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 2 to 5 - IPMS/USA National Convention, San Marcos Convention Center, San Marcos



### AABS Officers Feb 2023 – Jan 2025

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fisherjoe2014@gmail.com



## Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2023	Officer Election	Mike Maloney
February	* Cancelled *	Eric Choy
March*	2023 Winterblitz Pix	Kevin Hutchison
April	Bob Bethea	Bob Bethea
May	Martin Hebda	Greg Beckman
June*	Eric Choy	Martin Hebda
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Mike Bird
August	Mike Maloney	Rick Herrington
September*	AMPS Judging Review	Mike Maloney
October	Bill Menzie	Craig Bland
November	Glen Stevens	Kevin Hutchison
December*	Bill Zych	Chris Chany
January 2024	Chris Chany	Ted Paone

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. Mike Maloney's article for January is due on the last Wednesday of December).

\* Quarterly contest month



## From the Turret

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

*Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the  
Allied Expeditionary Force!*

*You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hope and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.*

*Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.*

**S**o began General Eisenhower's letter to Allied Expeditionary force. Seventy-nine years later, the armor, airplanes, and yes even the ships, still interest the model building community. How many of you have only built only one Sherman model?

I am writing this on Memorial Day evening, and I think each of us should reflect on the sacrifices the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force made, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, that freedom might live ("those who gave their lives that, that nation might live").

On a lighter note, I am a member of a railroad historical society, and at our annual meeting two weeks ago, I saw one of my buddies wearing a "Thomas the Tank" shirt. We also went to the Age of Steam (AOS) Roundhouse Museum in Sugarcreek, Ohio. Now, I know it is impressive for someone to have a personal collection of armored vehicles, but the founder of the museum has 22+ steam locomotives! Among them are two that have connections to the U.S. military.



"Thomas the Tank"  
(Source: C. Chany)

*(Continued on page 4)*



## Quarterly Contest This Month!

**B**ring in your latest finished model to enter our second quarterly contest of 2023! To enter in any of our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing. i.e. You need to pay your 2023 dues!!!

The prize for the first place winner is USD \$40. Everyone who participated in the contest (except for the cash prize winner) is eligible to win the drawing of a very nice recently released kit.

There is no limit to how many model you enter as long as your entry wasn't placed in our previous quarterly contests.



(Continued from page 3)

The first one is U.S. Army's **2-8-0 "Consolidation" No. 2630**. Upon America's entry into World War Two, the United States Army Transportation Corps (USATC) commissioned the development of a locomotive which could be built quickly and inexpensively in large numbers to be deployed on railways around the world. The result was the S-160 class, a 2-8-0 Consolidation locomotive limited in size and weight to ensure compatibility with Europe's lighter construction of rail lines.

A total of 2,120 S-160's, nicknamed "Yanks" by the British, were built by the combined efforts of the three major American locomotive builders. The engines saw service in North Africa, Asia, Great Britain, South America, and almost all of Europe.

In November of 1943, No. 2630 rolled out of Baldwin's assembly shop in Philadelphia. Unlike most of its sister engines which were sent off to war, No. 2630 remained stateside for use in railroad operation and maintenance training at the U.S. Army Transportation School at Ft. Eustis, Virginia.

Renumbered No. 612 in 1954, the engine remained on active duty for the Ft. Eustis Military Railroad for years. The Army kept operating steam locomotives to ensure no knowledge would be lost in the event that military operations began in a country that is still running them.



(Photo source: AOS Roundhouse Museum)



(Photo source: AOS Roundhouse Museum)

In 2019, the engine received a complete cosmetic restoration of backdating to its as-built appearance and renumbering back to 2630.

Next, we have U.S. Navy's **0-6-0T No. 4**. Supporting the Brooklyn Navy yard's operations required immense shipments of raw materials and equipment, mostly by rail. A fleet of switch engines, including 0-6-0T No. 4, was employed to move incoming and outgoing cars.

Built in March 1919 by Pittsburgh's H.K. Porter Company, No. 4 spent three years with the U.S. Navy before being sold to the neighboring Brooklyn East District Terminal (BEDT) Railroad. For the following three decades, the BEDT's diminutive steamers chuffed around the Brooklyn docks. In fact,



(Photo by C. Chany)

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the BEDT was 100% steam until Christmas Day, 1963 when the line finally retired its fleet of steam locomotives. Which meant I most likely saw it operating growing up in NYC.

For our meeting this month, the program will be a recap of 2023 AMPS International Convention at Camp Hill, PA by Eric.

Also, if you have signed up to participate in our Marines vehicle group entry for the IPMS Nationals, please bring in your model(s) to let us know the current status of your build(s).

Finally, we still have sponsorship opportunities for our upcoming show in September. The following

Bestofs awards are still available at \$50 each:

- Best Commonwealth
- Best Small Army
- Best Vignette

See you all at the meeting!

**Chris Chany**  
President

*Note: Descriptions of 2-8-0 No.2630 and 0-6-0T No.4 courtesy of Age of Steam Roundhouse Museum. For more info, please visit the museum website: <https://www.ageofsteamroundhouse.org>*

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# HETZER REGURGITATION

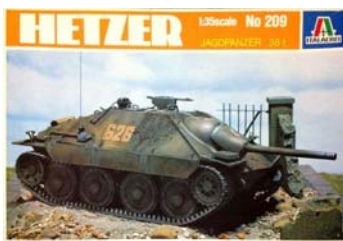
by Eric Choy

Each year when I attend AMPS International Convention, I always participate in the raffle drawing. Sometimes I get lucky and receive something good. Well, this year I didn't... I won an old Italeri 1/35<sup>th</sup> Hetzer kit! As I have built it at least two (or three!) times since I joined the hobby in the fifth grade, I was curious to find out more about the kit itself. Little did I realize I may be dealing with the most repopped kit in the history of plastic models!

According to **Scalemates** ([www.scalemates.com](http://www.scalemates.com)), the Internet scale modeling database, Italeri's Hetzer was first released in 1972 (boxart 1) under stock number 209. Italeri was still spelled "Italaerei" at the time! In the late 1970s (or early 1980), this kit was re-issued in a new boxing featuring a finish built by Francois Verlinden (boxart 2).



Boxart 1



Boxart 2

During the mid 1970s, Italeri decided to expand into the global hobby market. To make its products more accessible, the company partnered with first Revell then



Boxart 3



Boxart 4



Boxart 5

Testors here in the U.S. to sell its kits at a discount. Each time a different box (boxart 3, 4, 5) was used, but the contents inside were exactly the same.

In the Far East, Italeri teamed up with Tomy (boxart 6) in Japan at first. Later, even Tamiya was repackaging Hetzer #209 (boxart 7) until its own version of the Hetzer was released in 2007!



Boxart 6



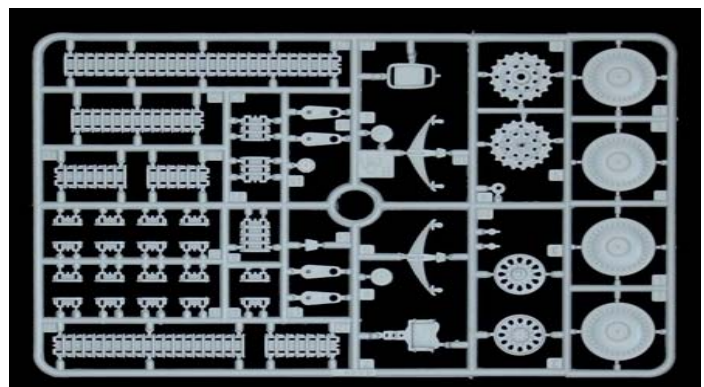
Boxart 7



Boxart 8

In 2016, Italeri re-issued the then 44-years-old Hetzer kit once again, but its stock number was renumbered to 6531 (boxart 8). The awful rubber band tracks were finally replaced

by link-and-length parts (see photo below) taken from Italeri's Marder III kit #6566.





Boxart 9

Oddly a year later in 2017 when the same Hetzer kit was offered in the “World of Tanks” series (boxart 9), the rubber band tracks reappeared!!!

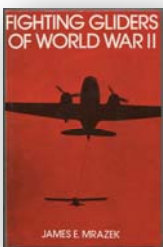
Currently (June 2023), all 1/35<sup>th</sup> Hetzer kits are labeled “Discontinued” on Italeri’s website. Is this the end of the line for the mold? Will we ever see yet another “regurgitated” release of this kit? Who knows? Stranger things have happened with Italian model kits before!

Eric

Note: Boxart photos courtesy of [www.scalemates.com](http://www.scalemates.com)

(Continued from page 1)

and hard to put down. Model to build: M48A3 Patton Tank

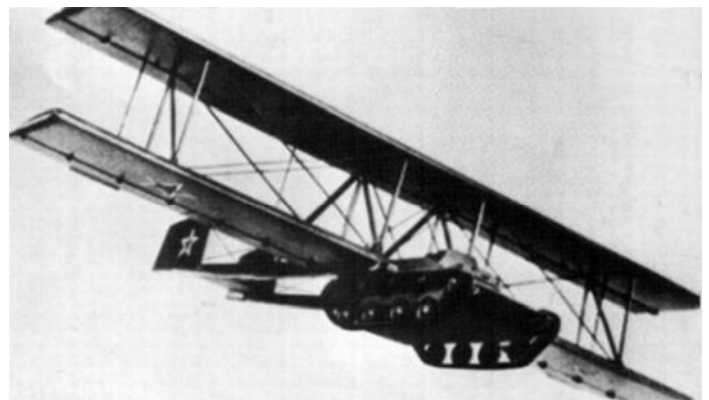


## Fighting Gliders of World War II

by James E. Mrazek

This book has inspired the oddest model of all, the Antonov A-40 Glider Tank, a T-60 light tank with biplane wings. In tests it only made one flight. Model to build: A-40 Glider.

It appears that I have my work cut out for me. Maybe you will read one of these books that inspires you to build your next model.



The only known photo of the Antonov A-40.  
(Source: Wikipedia via <http://www.hitechweb.szm.sk/delo.htm>)

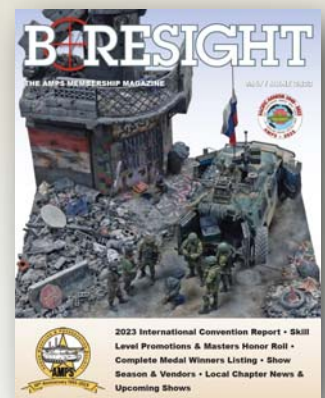
All the books mentioned can be purchased on Amazon.com.

Marty

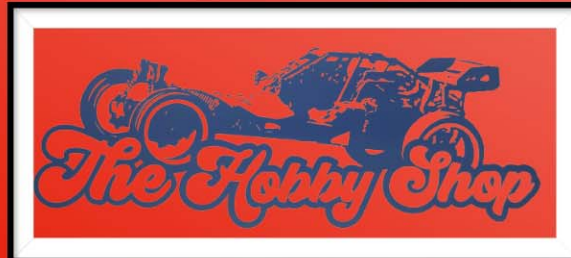
## AMPS Boresight (Volume 31, Issue 3)

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

- ♦ AMPS 2023 International Convention Report by Peter Espada
- ♦ Skill Level Promotions & AMPS Masters Honor Roll
- ♦ Bestofs and Special Award Photos by the Editor
- ♦ 2023 Medal Winners
- ♦ Show Season & Vendors by John Rauscher
- ♦ AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows







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**IPMS METRO OKLAHOMA CITY**

**In association with SOONER AMPS**

**Presents**

**OKCMetroCon 2023**

**Saturday, June 17th, 2023 9am-4pm**

**Council Road Baptist Church**

**Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building  
7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008**

**Theme:**

**"Call Of TheWild"**

Any subject associated with being Officially Named after an animal. Example:P-51 Mustang, Ford Mustang, Tiger Tank, Panther Tank, Ford Cougar etc.



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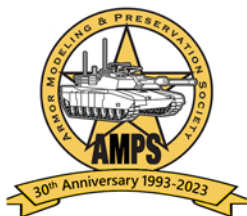
\*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.

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[www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)

# New On The Block



Takom has released not one but two M103s: the US Army's A1 and the USMC's A2 versions.



Alpine's latest is a set of WW2 Soviet tanker officers. Sold as a pair or as singles in 1/35th scale, each figure comes with two different head choices. Incidentally, the examples on the boxart are painted also by Calvin Tan!



Fantastic 1/35th late-WWII German Infantry set from Tamiya! To see how good these figures are, check out world-class figure painter Calvin Tan's website: <https://zyclyon.blogspot.com>



Just in time for the Ukraine's counter-offensive? Tamiya has re-released its 20 years old 1/35th Leo2A6 with new Ukrainian markings.

## 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. Subjects of our interest range 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](http://www.austinamps.org)