



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

January 2024



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National WWI Museum & Memorial

By **Ted Panoe**

Many of us know or knew people who fought in WWII. They were our fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, or grandparents. Few of us have known WWI veterans as they were very old when we were young. WWII is better known to most Americans today as there is more material available including in museums throughout the world. WWI was almost taught as an afterthought during my world history classes in high school.

Located in Kansas City (KC), MO, the **National WWI Museum and Memorial**

does much to alleviate that lack. Other “Great War” museums may focus on a single subject or battle, such as Catigny Park outside Chicago, the IWM in London, or battlefield museums and memorials in Europe. The WWI Museum covers the whole conflict, including Africa, the South Atlantic, and the Pacific.

Building a Memorial

Shortly after WWI ended, the Liberty Memorial Association (LMA) and the public raised \$2.5 million dollars in ten (10!) days to build a lasting monument to the veterans of the war. The site was dedicated in 1921 with the five supreme Allied commanders gathered for the first time in history. The design was in the classical Egyptian Revival style including a center column flanked

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Jan 3, 2024 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Jan 20 - Winterblitz 2024, The Museum of the American GI, College Station
- ◆ Feb 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Feb 10 - Modelfiesta 2024, New Braunfels Civic Center, New Braunfels
- ◆ March 6 - AABS Club Meeting



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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

| Month | Program Presentation | Newsletter Article |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| January 2024 | Chris Chany | Ted Paone |
| February | TBA | TBA |
| March* | TBA | TBA |
| April | TBA | TBA |
| May | TBA | TBA |
| June* | TBA | TBA |
| July | * KIT AUCTION * | TBA |
| August | TBA | TBA |
| September* | TBA | TBA |
| October | TBA | TBA |
| November | TBA | TBA |
| December* | TBA | TBA |
| January 2025 | Officer Election | TBA |

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. Ted Paone's article for January 2024 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2023).



Times Square 1966



Central Park 1971

From the Turret



Growing up in New York City, I never went to Times Square to watch the ball drop. That was for the tourists and suburbanites. We went to Bethesda Fountain in Central Park; less crowded, a band in the fountain, and fireworks.

- ◆ One hundred and sixty since the battles of the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Spotsylvania.

I hope everyone had a great holiday! As we kick off the 2024 AABS meeting schedule this Wednesday, I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

I was asked at the end of the meeting last December if we could have a demo on drybrushing. Since I'm giving the demo this month, I will include some drybrushing hints. As requested, I'm also going to give a more detailed version of the "It's not Rocket Science but it is Forensic Science" talk that I gave before COVID. I realize that was now over four years ago, so hopefully you guys will not get bored hearing me expound for the whole meeting.

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Well, it is 2024!

- ◆ Twenty-four years after every single computer was supposed to give up the ghost at the beginning of the Millennium.
- ◆ Sixty years since the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution.
- ◆ Eighty years since Anzio, D-Day, the Battle of the Bulge, "Nuts", the invasions of the Marianas, and "Don't call me Dugout Doug" saying "I have returned!" to the Philippines.
- ◆ One hundred and ten years since the battles of Mons, first Marne, and first Ypres.



It is club dues time again. Due to the library's "no money exchange hands" policy, please send your dues (\$15) by PayPal to payaabs@gmail.com. Be sure to use the "Send Money to Friends/Family option" to avoid PayPal surcharge (or send \$16 if you can't find that option.)

For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive, Austin TX 78729

Please make your payment payable to "AABS." DO NOT send cash by mail!

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We will also be asking for volunteers for programs and newsletter articles. If you volunteer, you won't get voluntold. Bring whatever you're building to show off, and if you got something awesome for the

holidays, even if you haven't started it yet, schlepp that along too. See you guys on Wednesday!

Chris Chany
President

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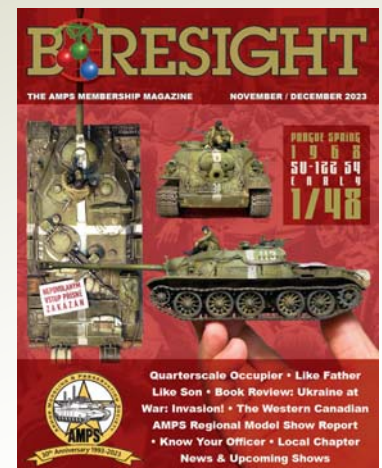
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TABLETOP GAMES PUZZLES CHESS RPGS CCGS

AMPS Boresight (Volume 31, Issue 6)

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

- ◆ **Quarterscale Occupier** by Stan Spooner
- ◆ **Like Father, Like Son** by Fernando Sanchez
- ◆ **The Western Canadian AMPS Regional Model Show Report** by Anthony Swards
- ◆ **Book Review: Ukraine at War: Vol. 1– Invasion!** by Greg Beckman
- ◆ **Know Your Officer**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**





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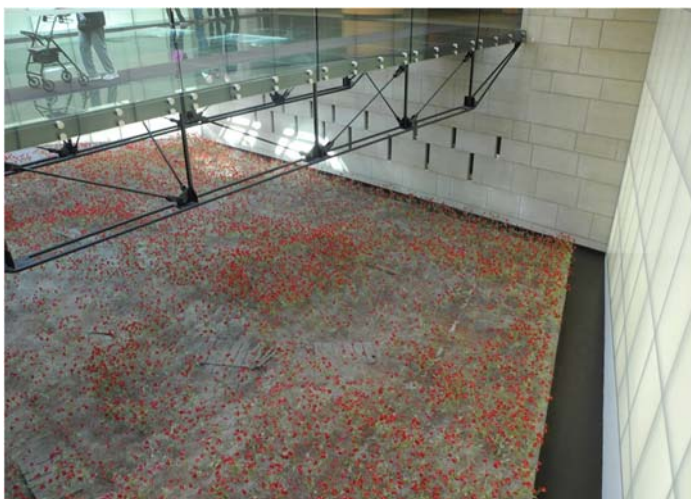
by two memorial buildings and two shrouded Sphinx statues. It was completed in 1926 and dedicated by US President Calvin Coolidge.

Although the memorial anchored the downtown, maintenance had been neglected, and the physical structure deteriorated to cause its closure in 1994. In 1998, the Kansas Citians voted to support the restoration of the memorial while expanding the site with a museum to showcase the giant collection of WWI related objects the LMA had been collecting since 1920.

Visiting the Museum

Patti had some work to do in KC, so I accompanied her as I do when her work takes her some place interesting. She is going to Minneapolis in January while I am staying home. While she works, I get to run around town for a few days. Then we spend the weekend exploring together. The WWI museum was on my bucket list.

Before entering the exhibit area, you have to walk over a glass bridge filled with poppies below which represent the dead of the war. If you have problems with walking on glass, there are rugs you can walk on to enter the museum.



The first stop is a theatre where the 15 minute film discusses the causes of the war. There was a tangled web of alliances, Russian and Serb, French and

Russia, Germany and Austria, Britain, France, and Belgium, and Britain and Japan, where one misstep would cause the dominos to fall. The Germans (Prussians) got to the third world colonizing game late and felt they deserved more access to the resources that the colonies provided. There was a naval arms race between Britain and Germany. Both Russia and Germany saw increased militarism as the military establishments pushed for greater influence on public policy.

The action that lit the fuse was the assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophia by Gavrillo Princep of the Black Hand Serbian nationalists. Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia mobilized to help Serbia, and Germany reacted by declaring war on Russia. Germany also declared war on France and invaded Belgium, bringing Britain and its colonies into the fray. Japan honored its treaty and saw the opportunity to grab the German colonies in Asia.



The exhibits follow the timeline which is displayed on the walls in each room. Early French and German uniforms and equipment are shown complete with swords. There are constructed life-size dioramas of life in the trenches. There continues more uniforms of the all belligerents as well as weapons, packs and equipment, and communications. There are uniforms from the various theaters. The weapon collection is extensive. Russ would love this place as it has a

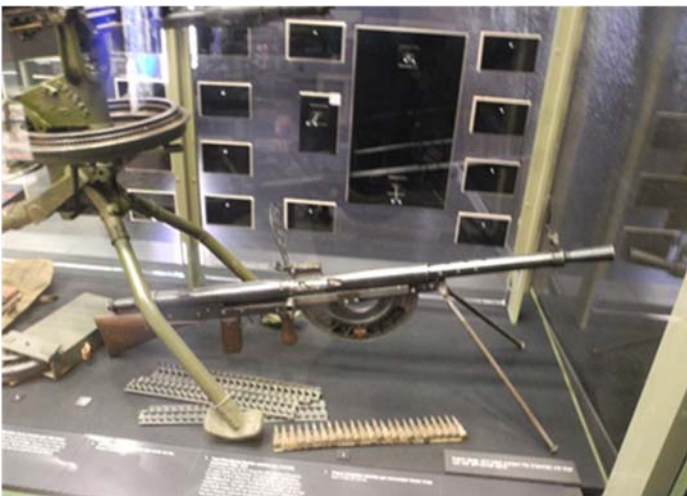
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collection of cannons, howitzers, and mortars on display. Curiosities abound including a wire cutter attachment to a rifle, barbed wire stakes (screw in so you didn't make noise when putting them in at night), and sniper rifles and shields.





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The next room includes nurses' uniforms and a host of pictures from that era.



Moving on from the start of the war into the next room, there is a torpedo and models of submarines discussing the blockade and submarine warfare. The next room looks at the war in the air, Zeppelin raids, fighter and bomber evolution, and displays of more uniforms.

The corridor to the US participation gallery doubles as a theatre which explains the reasons the US joined the Entente Powers and declared war on the Central Powers in April 1917. This is displayed over a life-sized diorama of doughboys in the field. An American Field Service greets you as you enter the gallery. It is filled with artifacts donated to the museum including a large number of women's uniforms, nurses, phone operators, naval personnel, and YMCA and Red Cross workers. More combat and dress uniforms are displayed in the next room.

The cannon parade continues with weapons used by and against the US troops. There is finally a tank: a disabled Renault FT-17. Artifacts include Pershing's flag and the uniform of a Medal of Honor winner



and trench art. There is a section on the Medical Corp including surgical kit and a horse drawn ambulance. The timeline continues on the wall till November 11, 1918 when the fighting finally stopped with the signing of the armistice agreement.



The aftermath of the war is treated next. The US, Britian, and France sent troops to Russia to fight in the Russian Revolution and minor fights continued in the Balkans and elsewhere. The costs of war was much greater than just those killed on the battlefield. The final room in this part of the museum discusses the consequences of the war including the disastrous Treaty of Versailles and the impact of the war on all the participants. The world was truly transformed.



A very interesting part of the museum is the Bergman Family Gallery and Open Storage Center in the basement. This is a display of thousands of artifacts in the collection but not in the museum proper.



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Swords, weapons, headgear of all sorts, toys, trench art, gasmasks, even the basket of an observation balloon are on display.



The restaurant in the museum is quite good as you will run up an appetite in the museum.

The roof level provides access to two buildings and the Liberty Memorial Tower as well as the two shrouded sphinx. An ancient, creaky elevator takes you almost to the top with about 45 stairs to finish. The outer platform provides a spectacular view of the KC skyline. On the tower are the four Guardian Spirits statues representing Honor, Courage, Patriotism, and Sacrifice. At night, a Flame of Inspiration is emitted from the top of the tower.



One of the buildings, which was the original (very small) museum, was open containing exhibits of things used to boost the moral of the troops of all the belligerents. A portion of the original mural “Pantheon de la Guerre”, exhibited in Paris and at the Chicago World’s Fair before coming to KC, is on the front wall depicting French troops. The companion mural of the rest of the Entente is in the other building which was closed.

The two Assyrian Sphinx guard the entrance to the memorial. “Memory” faces east towards the battlefields of France, shielding its eyes from the horrors of war. “Future” faces west, shielding its eyes from the future unknown.



The museum maintains a comprehensive website (www.theworldwar.org) where I found much of this information. You can also take a virtual tour of the museum on the website. More information was provided by a paper by Dr. Jennifer McCormick, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Indiana Department of Education. <https://www.in.gov/doe/files/guide.pdf>

After spending the most of a whole day in the museum, I finally left with tired legs and an appreciation of the museum and the docents who were all very helpful. If you are any where around Kansas City, plan on spending a whole day immersed in WWI in this 5-stars museum!

By the way, the BBQ in KC isn't too bad either.

Ted

2023 Wrap-Up

Our 2023 Christmas party was another huge success. Attended by 28 members and their families and friends, we had a blast with good food and great company.

Congratulations to **Bill Zych** for winning the **2023 Member of the Year Award**. Bill spent countless hours volunteering at the AMPS table during IPMS-USA Nats at San Marcos in August. Before and during our

AMPS Centex Show in September, he judged more model entries than anyone else! He truly was our Man of All Seasons last year.

Our 2023 **Most Prolific Modeler Award** went to **Bob Bethea**. Our previous winner, Greg Beckman, had to bow out this year due to the no "three-peat" rule for this award. Watch out! Greg will be back with a vengeance in 2024!

Finally, Bob also won the last **Quarterly Contest** of 2023. His name will once again go on our **White Elephant/Rod Bell Memorial Trophy!**



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Opening Hours

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

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Winterblitz 2024



WINTERBLITZ 2024 The Battle of the Bulge 80th Anniversary

Saturday

January 20, 2024

The Museum of the American GI

19124 Hwy 6

College Station, Texas 77845

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

www.winter-blitz.com

JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

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| MEMBERSHIP TYPES | 1 Year | 2 Year | 3 Year |
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| Regular+All Printed Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> (\$55) | <input type="checkbox"/> (\$105) | <input type="checkbox"/> (\$155) |
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Regular and Junior Memberships include a subscription to two printed issues *Boresight* magazine per year and all six online issues of *Boresight* magazine per year. Regular+All Printed Issues Membership includes a subscription to six printed issues of *Boresight* magazine per year as well as access to the same issues online. This is only available to members within the United States.

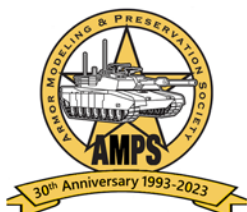
International Membership includes all benefits of a Regular membership except for printed issues of *Boresight*.

Family membership does not receive an individual printed copy of *Boresight*, but can enjoy the online version of *Boresight*.

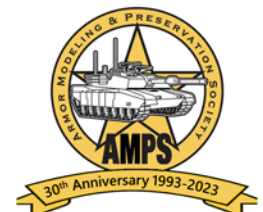
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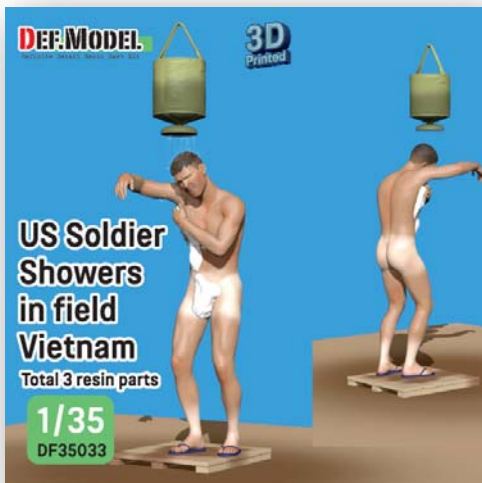
New On The Block



Magic Factory's new 1/35th M2A4 IFV is out. They also released a special edition M2A2 ODS-SA with Ukrainian markings.



Spähpanzer Ru251 was a failed German light tank project based on the Kanonenjagdpanzer intended to replace Bundeswehr's M41 Walker Bulldog. It looks like a scaled-down version of a Leopard II! Amusing Hobby has just released a new 1/35th kit of it.



Def.Model never disappoints when it comes to unique subject ideas. Thanks to 3D printing technology, the new 1/35th "US Soldier Showers in field Vietnam" only has three resin parts.

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.ampscntex.org