



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2024

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Image Source: Imperial War Museum

Conversion Review: Accurate Armour 1/35th Snatch Land Rover

by Mike Bird

If you attended my talk about *Scalemates.com* at our most recent AABS meeting, you may have noticed that my accent isn't quite as Texan as some of y'all. That's because I grew up in Northern Ireland (where the second person plural is "yousuns" rather than "y'all")!

What does this have to do with armor (or should that be "armour")? I was born in the mid-80s, which means I grew up during the tail-end of the

conflict euphemistically known as "The Troubles," the conflict between republican paramilitaries, such as the IRA, and the British security forces, such as the Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (i.e. the police), as well as loyalist paramilitaries like the UVF. This meant that seeing armored vehicles on the streets was a common sight.

Growing up in a small, quiet town, I rarely saw the larger vehicles like the Alvis Saracen. I was born too late to things like Centurion AVRE or armored cars (Saladin and Ferret) which all saw use in the preceding decades. However, because I lived close to the border, British Army patrols and road

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ June 12 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ June 15 - 2024 OkieDokieCon (formerly OKC MetroCon), Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany OK
- ◆ July 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 7 - AABS Club Meeting



AABS Officers Feb 2023 – Jan 2025

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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2024	Chris Chany	Ted Paone
February	Bill Zych	Eric Choy
March†	Bob Bethea	Kevin Hutchison
April	Mike Reeves	Stuart Wetterschneider
May	Mike Bird	Greg Beckman
June‡	Eric Choy	Mike Bird
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Bob Bethea
August	Rick Herrington	Rick Herrington
September†	Martin Hebda	Martin Hebda
October	Craig Bland	Craig Bland
November	Mike Maloney	Bill Menzie
December‡	Chris Chany	Chris Chany
January 2025	* OFFICER ELECTIONS *	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. Ted Paone's article for January 2024 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2023).

† Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

June 5th 2024: what would have been the 80th anniversary of D-Day had the weather cooperated. Assuming good weather on the 5th, do you think that history would have changed by the invasion happening one day earlier? Whether it was on the 5th or the 6th, let us all take a moment to remember the “Greatest Generation,” most of whom are now gone, who embarked on that “Great Crusade.”

That was going to be the beginning of my “From the Turret” message when the meeting was on the first Wednesday of the month like always. But due to library scheduling conflict, our meeting is on **June 12th** instead.

Eighty years ago on June 12th, naval aircraft were softening up Saipan for the upcoming invasion. On June 11th, the Soviets launched an offensive against German and Finnish forces on the Karelian Isthmus, and the British Eighth Army captured Avezzano, 50 miles east of Rome. On the 13th, the US Army captured Carentan after the Battle of Bloody Gulch.



Allied tanks near Carenton, France.



Normandy beach scene: enough military vehicle to make any armor modeler happy!



Meanwhile, the transportation crews are enjoying the cross-channel cruise.

Remember we are meeting on 12th! Eric has photos from the AMPS 2024 Int'l Convention for the program.

See you there.

Chris Chany
President

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TABLETOP GAMES PUZZLES CHESS RPGS CCGS

AMPS Boresight (Volume 32, Issue 3)

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

- ◆ **AMPS 2024 South Bend Recap** by Chuck Aleshire and John Charvat
- ◆ **Skill Level Promotions & AMPS Masters Honor Roll**
- ◆ **2024 Complete Medal Winners Listing**
- ◆ **AMPS Local Chapter News & Upcoming Shows**



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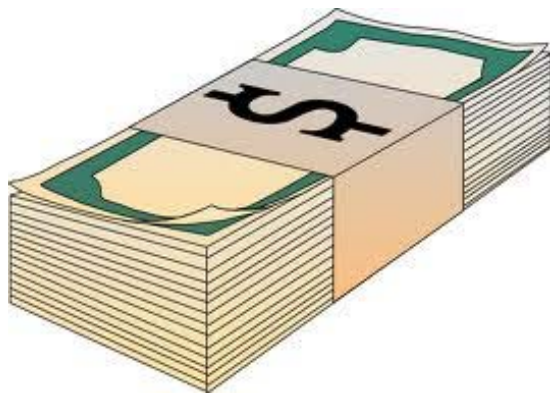
checkpoints aimed at disrupting weapon smuggling were relatively common, as was their patrol vehicle, the “Snatch” Land Rover.

The Snatch was based on the Land Rover Defender 110 chassis, with lightweight composite armor rear body shell, front bulkhead, and doors all manufactured with pressure formed fiberglass and resin which could withstand small arms fire and, to some extent, explosives. The vehicle has a six-person capacity, and the focus on lightweight materials resulted in a weight under 3,500kg, meaning it could be driven with an ordinary car license.

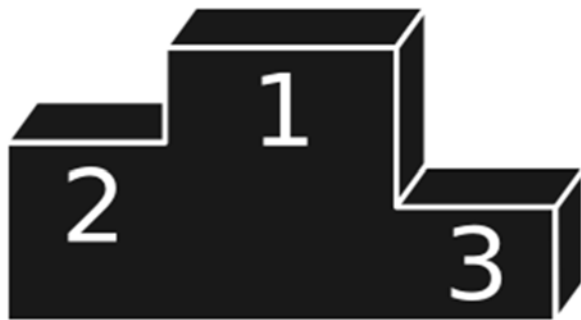
Over 1,000 were procured from 1991, and they first hit the streets in 1992, allowing soldiers to be deployed quickly to where they were needed in times of unrest. They were an iconic image of conflict in Northern Ireland over the next decade until the decrease in hostilities that followed the Good Friday Agreement, signed in 1998. They were required less over the following years, until the British Army’s deployment in Northern Ireland officially ended in 2007.

The Snatch was also deployed operationally to Yugoslavia in the 1990s, and most controversially, to

(Continued on page 6)



OR



Quarterly Contest This Month!

Bring in your finished model to enter our second quarterly contest of 2024! To enter in any of our in-house contests, you must be a member in good standing (i.e. You need to pay your 2024 dues!).

The prize for the first place winner is \$40. Everyone who participated in the contest (except for the cash prize winner) is eligible to win the drawing of Border Models’ VERY limited edition of its 1/35th **German 88mm FlaK36**.

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

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The Newsletter of The Austin Armor Builders

June 2024

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Iraq and Afghanistan in the 2000s when it began to become public knowledge that the vehicle was vulnerable to roadside bombs, leading troops to name it the “Mobile Coffin.” At least 37 British servicemen and women lost their lives while travelling in the vehicle, with the government justifying its use as a tradeoff between protection and mobility.

town is the Accurate Armour update set which requires the chassis from either the Hobby Boss Land Rover 110 kit or Accurate Armour’s own “Land Rover ‘One Ten’ Chassis set.” The set includes full upper body with interior, V8 engine, replacement axles, and a full set of road tires with a front mounted spare. Decals for notable “Confidential Telephone Freephone” tip line markings are also included.

The set is available directly from Accurate Armour and currently retails for £53.50 (around USD \$68) including shipping to the USA.

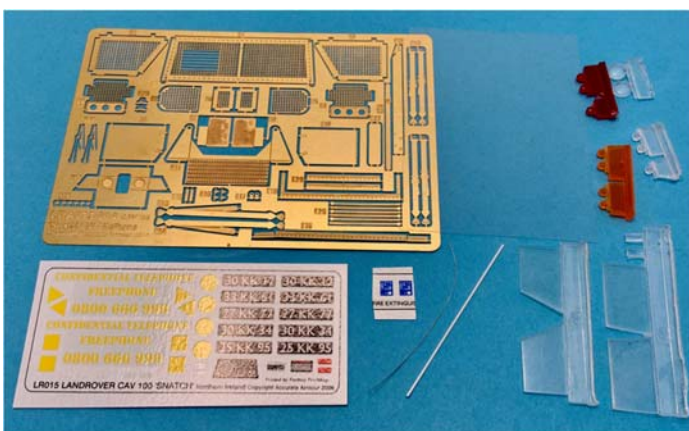
Mike



The inside of the Snatch Land Rover (Wikipedia)

In 2010, the Ocelot was announced as Snatch’s replacement and entered service in 2012. However, as of 2023 the UK Government was seeking an extension to the Snatch’s 2024 “Out of Service Date.”

If you want to build a 1/35th model kit of “The Troubles”-era Snatch Land Rover, the only game in





Update From AABS North East Field Office

by Kevin Hutchison

Greetings from beautiful Bull Shoals AK, or as I like to think of it, the north east field office of the Austin Armor Builders Society!

I just wanted to give you an update on the first show I attended in the area. On May 18th in Springfield Missouri, MOSSCON 2024 was held. The MOSS in MOSSCON stands for Missouri Ozarks Scale

Specialists, the hosting IPMS club. I heard about the club and show when I visited **Branson Hobby Center**, the closest hobby shop to Bull Shoals. Since I'm new here and have not really connected with the modeling community yet, I thought I would take advantage of the show and see what is going on "locally." (Branson Hobby Center is two hours from my house and MOSSCON was three but, as they say in Texas, "you play the cards you're dealt." I can tell you that the drive to both was worth it.)



Branson Hobby Center is a very nice hobby shop on the outskirts of Branson, MO and has a great selection of kits, paints, tools, and accessories. It also has a large train related area with lots of great diorama supplies. My wife Terri was nice enough to drive me the two hours to Branson in late April.

When we got there, we realized that the shop was on the second floor up a very long, steep flight of stairs, OUCH. As I sat in my wheelchair looking up



those stairs, I felt completely defeated. Thankfully, Robert, the owner, had planned ahead, and there was a chair lift available. All was right with the world again! I can't say enough good things about this shop and its staff. They were very helpful and welcoming. I guess Robert is my new Rudy now!

On to the show. After the close call at Branson Hobby Center, I contacted the MOSSCON folks about accessibility and was pleasantly surprised to learn that the show was being held at the ARC of the Ozarks facility, specifically designed to serve its special needs clientele. So access was a breeze!



When we arrived, we were greeted by members of MOSS. With my carts in tow, they were extremely helpful unloading all my paint racks and taking them to my table. This was a great surprise and something every show should offer. Again, just like the hobby shop, everyone was very welcoming, and I truly felt like they were happy to have us at the show.

After I got by booth arranged, I set out my dioramas and took a look at all the entries. In all there were 315 models on the tables from 62 modelers. Those modelers were from five different states (AR, IL, KS, MO, and OK). Accompanied by 18 vendors, it was a nice size show. The models on display were exactly what you would expect, a wide range of subjects but all good quality work. Since each entrant was limited to ten entries, I think people put much more effort into quality over quantity. I also noticed that unlike

most shows I attended, everything went off like clockwork, on time to the minute.



The judging seemed to move at a good pace, and the awards ceremony started exactly on time and moved right along. All in all, it was a great first experience for me in my new home. How did I do, you may ask. I was shocked to learn I won first place in dioramas! I have made AABS proud, if I dare say so!



So, it looks like MOSS will soon have a new member. The two-hour drive to Ozark Missouri to attend meetings doesn't sound very fun, but I really did enjoy meeting and talking with the club members. The big part of this hobby, for me, is the friends you make, not just the kits you finish. And if I needed more motivation to make the trip every month, they meet at a pizza place! Where do I sign up?

That's it from the Arkansas field office. If anyone wants an update on the (seemingly) never ending saga of my new leg, drop me an email for an update at fishhead32002@yahoo.com.

Kevin



IPMS METRO OKLAHOMA CITY
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OkieDokieCon 2024

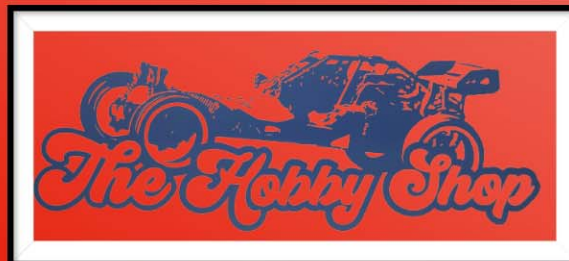
Saturday, June 15th, 2024 9am-4pm

Council Road Baptist Church

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

Theme: **"The Baby Boomers"**

Any subject associated with anything from the years 1946-1964



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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.

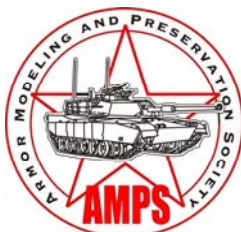
International Membership includes all benefits of a Regular membership except for printed issues of *Boresight*.

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

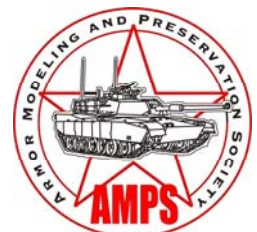
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New On The Block



Tamiya's latest 1/35th release is a brand new tooling Leopard 2A7V.



Another 1/16th armor kit on its way from Andy's Hobby HQ (Takom)... an M8 Greyhound US Light Armored Car.



Clear Prop Models, an Ukraine based company specialized in aircraft models, has just released its first armor kit: 1/72nd WWII Soviet truck ZIS-5V.

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.ampscentex.org