



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2024

DESPERATION

by **Bob Bethea & Henry Núñez**

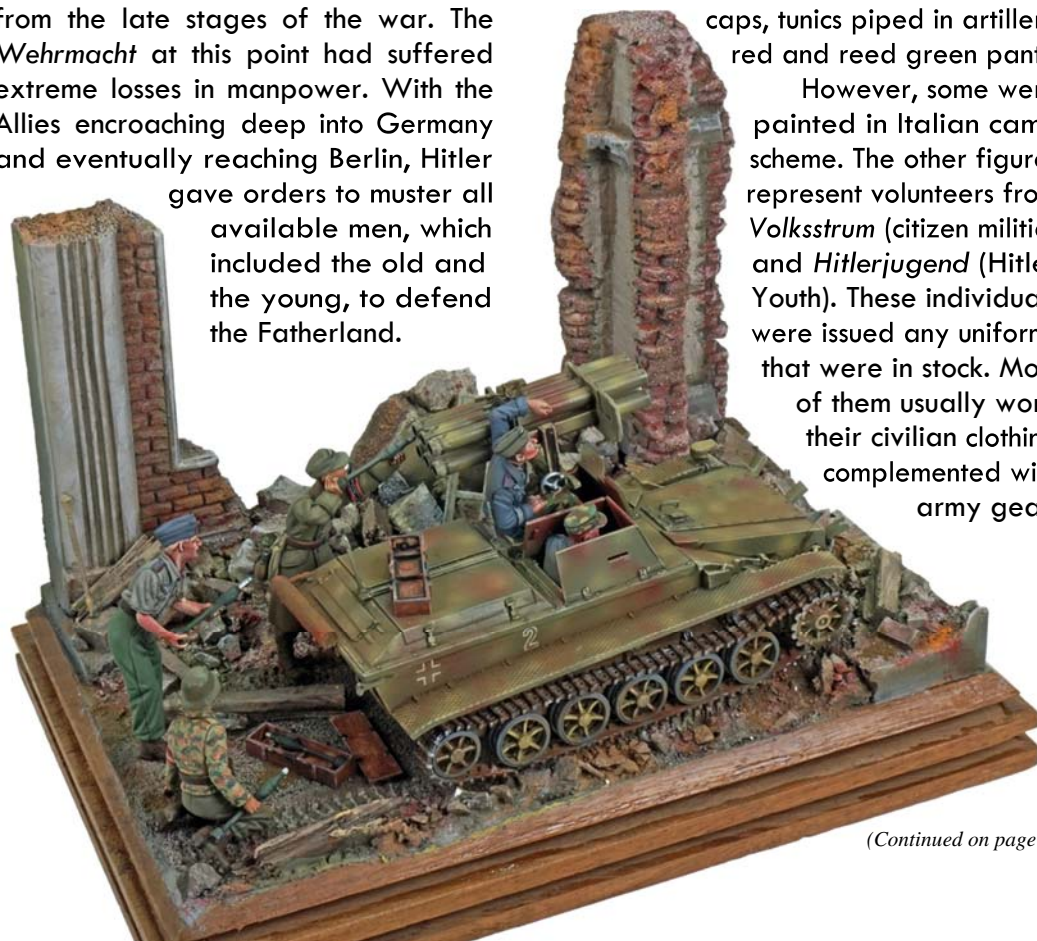
This diorama is based on a hypothetical situation that could have occurred in a besieged German city if WWII had continued into 1946. While Henry painted the figures, Bob built the vehicle, groundwork and the ruins.

By this point of the war, most of the fighting would have taken place entirely in Germany. The figures in the diorama depict the known uniforms from the late stages of the war. The Wehrmacht at this point had suffered extreme losses in manpower. With the Allies encroaching deep into Germany and eventually reaching Berlin, Hitler gave orders to muster all available men, which included the old and the young, to defend the Fatherland.

These men were assigned to any existing Wehrmacht units left in the field. They were given very little training and were issued inferior weaponry.

The figures used in the diorama are from the defunct figure company New World Miniatures. Bob altered some of the figures to fit the diorama with some receiving Hornet heads. Henry painted them all in acrylic paint mediums. The figures in the armored vehicle were painted in Luftwaffe colors, Field Blue caps, tunics piped in artillery red and reed green pants.

However, some were painted in Italian camo scheme. The other figures represent volunteers from Volksstrum (citizen militia) and Hitlerjugend (Hitler Youth). These individuals were issued any uniforms that were in stock. Most of them usually wore their civilian clothing complemented with army gear.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ July 3 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ August 7 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ September 4 - AABS Club Meeting
- ◆ Sept 14 - SuperCon 2024, Bob Duncan Community Center, Arlington



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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	* KIT-SWAP NITE *	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

Happy Summer! In New York a heat wave is three days in a row over 90°F! Not sure what NY would call the heat down here!

Our next meeting will be on **July 3rd** at the library, and it is time for the club's annual **Kit Auction**. In order to give more time to lighten our wallets, I am going to dispense with the business portion of the meeting and go right into Show and Tell and then the auction. Bring cash or check to pay for your winnings!

For the auction, please check the kit(s) you are bringing:

- Make sure it is NOT started (i.e. no glued or painted parts!)



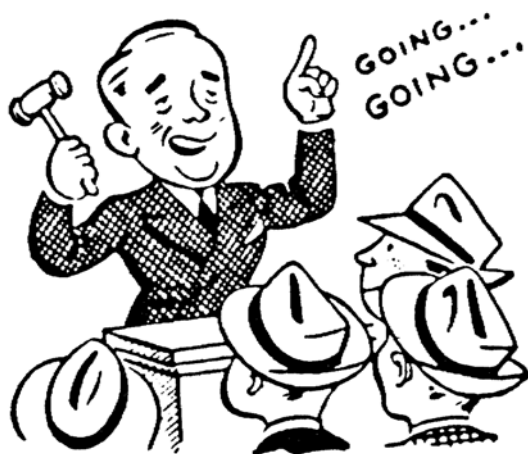
- Make sure all the parts are there, including instructions, decals, and PE (if provided in the kit)

On July 6th from 5pm to 9pm is The Texas Military Forces Museum's Hands on History Open House where you can climb in the vehicles.

The AABS name tags are here! They are \$9.75 each. I will have them at the meeting!

Have a great fourth and try to stay cool!

Chris Chany
President



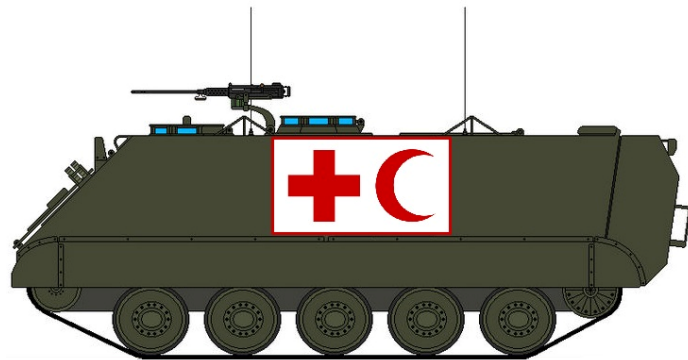
Annual Kit Auction

The annual kit auction will be held at our next (July) 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
- Your cash-filled wallet (or your checkbook).

Remember, your friends and fellow modelers will be bidding on these items. Be considerate and don't bring any "classic" kit made/tooled in the last century! Also, please make sure each kit has no missing parts and has not been started!



Next Quarterly Contest Theme:

Medevac Vehicle

The theme for our next quarterly contest in **September** is **Medevac Vehicle**. Any model of a vehicle with Red Cross/Red Crescent/Magen David Adom Magen (Hebrew: מגן דוד אדום)/Star of Life marking (all eras, all scales) is eligible to win the first-place prize of \$40 or the drawing of Border Model's new 1/35th StuG III Ausf.G Late Prod with full interior kit.



To enter in our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing (i.e. You need to pay your 2024 dues!). There is no limit to how many models you enter as long as long as none of them has placed in our previous quarterly contests.

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TABLETOP GAMES

PUZZLES

CHESS

RPGS

CCGS

(Continued from page 1)

The Hitler Youth figure is wearing a tunic painted in the final camouflage scheme, *Leibermuster*, with field grey trousers and the appropriate armband of the Hitler Youth.



The *Leibermuster* camouflage would have replaced all German camouflages for all of the German armed forces if the war had been prolonged. The *Volksstrum* soldier is wearing the wool overcoat in field grey with the appropriate armband of the *Volksstrum*.



1945 *Leibermuster* camouflage pattern
(Wikipedia; Author: Joan Rocaguinard
creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/deed.en)

The Borgward IV *PzJg Wanze* is a recent kit issued by Das Werk. Only a handful of photos of the *Wanze* exist, including one that was destroyed in front



A destroyed Borgward IV *PzJg Wanze* during the Battle of Berlin.

of the *Reichstag* in Berlin. It is such a cool vehicle we had to use it in this diorama. Basically, it is the Borgward IV remote demolition vehicle with a multi-barrel *Panzerschreck* anti-tank rocket launcher on top. What a potential for disaster, but it is something a desperate army could presumably put together.

The kit went together and was a lot of fun except for the minute track links which were like building a 1/72nd armor kit. Bob used extra rockets and boxes from Miniart's *Panzerschreck* set and wired the lights





and rocket launcher with fly tying wire from Cabela's. He also applied a fictional camouflage scheme with Tamiya colors based on the traditional German Dark Yellow, Brown and green.

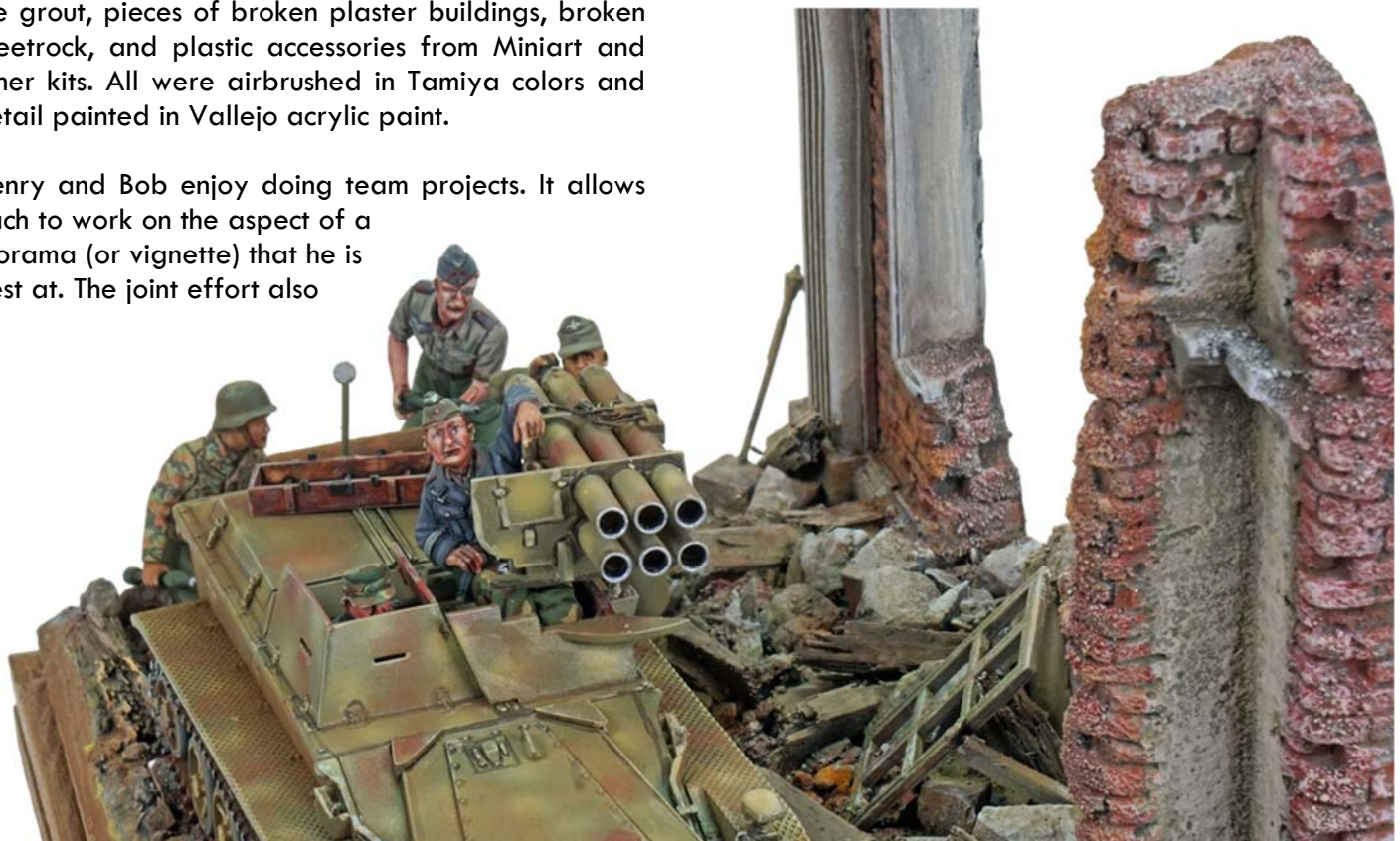
The base is an old trophy plaque relieved of its metal plate and replaced by sections of wall from old Verlinden buildings. The groundwork is sanded tile grout, pieces of broken plaster buildings, broken sheetrock, and plastic accessories from Miniart and other kits. All were airbrushed in Tamiya colors and detail painted in Vallejo acrylic paint.

Henry and Bob enjoy doing team projects. It allows each to work on the aspect of a diorama (or vignette) that he is best at. The joint effort also



avoids the awful boredom that sets in when the job gets too big to finish.

Bob & Henry





TOYS TRAINS AND OTHER OLD STUFF

VINTAGE COLLECTIBLES SPECIALISTS

Upcoming Online Auction Of Military Models

by Allan J. Romer

Toys, Trains, and Other Old Stuff announced the dates for another online-only auction of military models. The auction starts on June 28 and ends on July 13, 2024. A preview of some of the kits to be auctioned can be viewed at

<https://auctions.toystrainsandotheroldstuff.com/auctions/1-9638BG/online-only-military-models>

Realizing some members may not be interested, but a chance to find some old kits is always welcomed. If the preview is accurate, I can see myself bidding on a couple of items:

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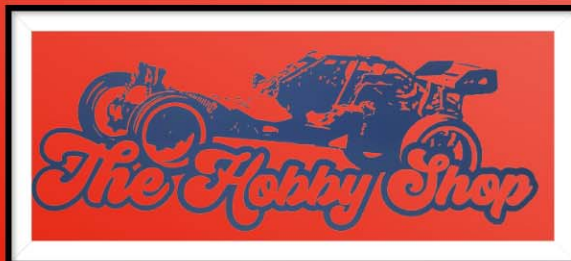
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Allan (a.k.a. OpaTejas)



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Opening Hours

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

Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am - 4:00pm

2024 Second Quarterly Contest Winner



Mike Bird
Raccoon S.A.F.S. Type R



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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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.

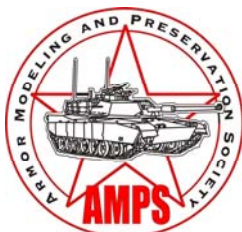
International Membership includes all benefits of a Regular membership except for printed issues of *Boresight*.

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

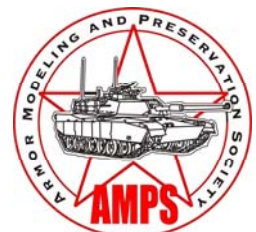
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New On The Block



Yet another old subject in new tooling by Tamiya! Nevertheless, this latest 1/35th KS600 (Zündapp) Motorcycle with Sidecar kit is most welcomed.



Amusing Hobby's new 1/35th Black Eagle is a Russian paper panzer based on the T-80U chassis. This MBT project was cancelled after the Armata Universal Combat Platform was chosen in 2001.



Japanese cuisine, anyone? FineMolds' new 1/35th IJA field kitchen set comes with a mobile hot water boiler, a kamado grill, three figures, and various supplies to make delicious onigiri with takuan!



Life Miniatures captures the face a young WWII-era Elizabeth beautifully with a bust of HRH in 1/10th. Also available are full-figure versions in 12nd, 16th, and 35th scales.

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