



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

December 2025

WAR SOUVENIRS

by **Chris Chany**

My father, Sgt. Kalman J. Chany, served in the HQ Battery, 374th Field Artillery, 397th Combat Team, 100th Infantry Division (The Century Division) "Sons of Bitche" in WWII. During his grand tour of Europe, he acquired many souvenirs.

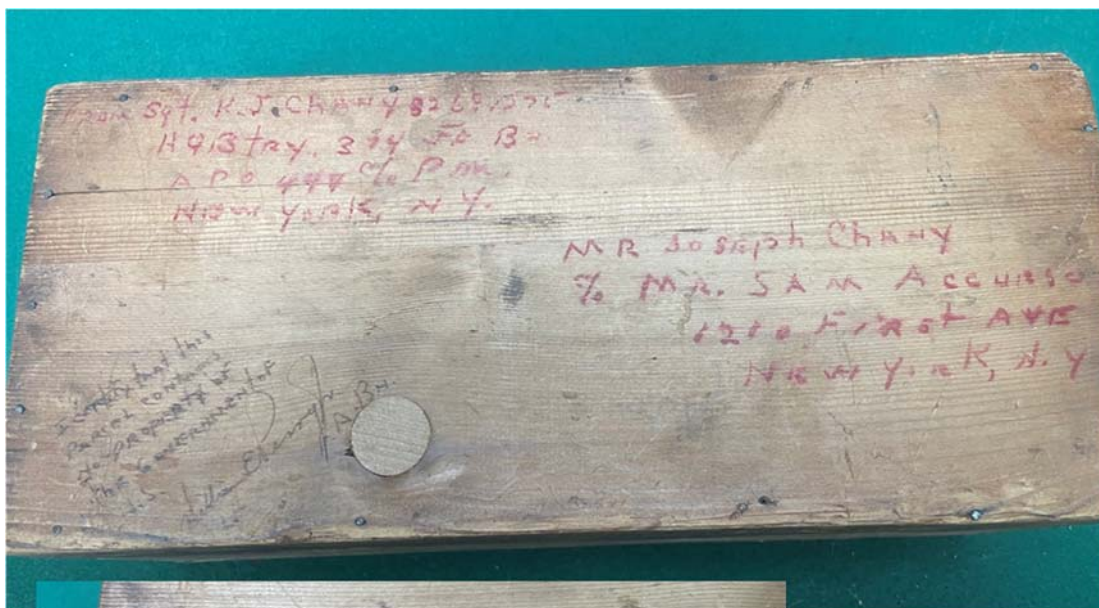
When he passed, my mom gave some of them to my brother and I. The rest went to VMI, *alma mater* of the 100th CO Lt. General "Pinky" Burress.

The first is not so much a souvenir as to how some of the souvenirs got back to the U.S. (photo below).

(Continued on page 4)

Inside this issue:

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	2
UPCOMING PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND NEWSLETTER ARTICLES	2
FROM THE TURRET	3
AMPS BORESIGHT PREVIEW	3
WINTERBLITZ 2026	6
GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS PAST	7
JOIN AMPS TODAY	9
NEW ON THE BLOCK	10
ABOUT US	10



Notice the handwritten declaration by my dad certifying what he sent contained no U.S. government property!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ Dec 5 - AABS Meeting and **XMAS PARTY**
- ◆ January 3, 2026 - **Modelfiesta 44**, New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center, New Braunfels
- ◆ Jan 7 - AABS Meeting
- ◆ Jan 24 - **WinterBlitz 2026**, Museum of the American GI, College Station
- ◆ Feb 4 - AABS Meeting



AABS Officers Feb 2025 – Jan 2027

Chris Chany, President
christopherchany@gmail.com

Mike Bird, Vice-President
mike@bartonbird.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	* OFFICER ELECTIONS *	Ted Paone
February	Ted Paone	Eric Choy
March‡	Bob Bethea	Kevin Hutchison
April	Ron Askew	Bill Zych
May	Mike Reeves	Greg Beckman
June‡	Quiz Night!	Craig Bland
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Aaron Smischney
August	Eric Choy	Allan Romer
September‡	Marty Hebda	Marty Hebda
October	AMPS Judging Review	Bill Menzie
November	* KIT-SWAP NITE *	Mike Bird
December	WE Gift Exchange	Chris Chany
January 2026‡	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 at 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 2025 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2024).

‡ Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Well, we made it to December! Due to our changing meeting schedules and the library's rules, we had to forgo our first Wednesday meeting at the library this month. Instead, we will just be having a short business briefing during our Christmas party on **December 5th**. We really don't have much to discuss, and I promise to keep it brief. Things will be back to normal on January 7, 2026.

Don't forget to bring a wrapped model for the White Elephant Gift Exchange if you want to participate. Two rules: It can't be started, and it should be a model you would want to build if you received it.

December 5, 1950: The last United Nations troops left Pyongyang, as the British 29th Independent Infantry Brigade covered the retreat of the U.S. 25th Infantry Division and the South Korean 1st Infantry Division troops that had been between the Yalu River



*Flight of Refugees Across Wrecked Bridge in Korea
photographed by Max Defor on Dec 4, 1950.*

and the North Korean capital, then destroyed all but one of the bridges over the Taedong River.

See you Friday!

Chris Chany
President

AMPS Boresight (Volume 33, Issue 3)

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

- ♦ **AMPS 2025 Convention Recap** by Peter Espada
- ♦ **2025 Medal Winners**
- ♦ **Best of Awards**
- ♦ **Skill Level Promotion & AMPS Masters Honor Roll**



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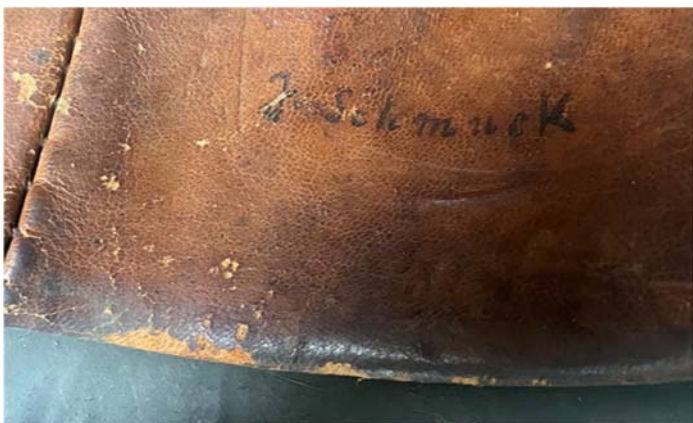
Page 4

(Continued from page 1)



This bust (left) was broken, but my dad brought it home and had my grandfather, who was a welder, repaired and then sprayed it bronze.

A Luftwaffe helmet and a Heer helmet, with decals only on one side (below). The difference in color is easy to see.



The owner's name? Did he survive the war?



I don't know the full story behind this bazooka practice round (below). I know my dad originally was assigned to anti-aircraft and anti-tank duties when he came to NY to ship out. He ended up in the hospital for a few days, and they transferred him to Field Artillery. While in NY, he visited his parents. I think that is when he gave them the round for safe keeping.



I also have a staff car pennant which I have to look for. My brother got my dad's helmet and some German officer's swords and daggers. VMI got the rest of the officer's belongings and a huge flag from a schoolhouse.



I remember my dad told us they were taking German rifles, throwing them in the street, and running a 2½ ton truck over them to destroy them.

He also mentioned that while they had a ¾ ton Dodge truck, they preferred their captured Schwimmwagen because it would just skid over mud on its boat bottom.

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Page 5

The Case of the Missing Pistol

During my teens when we lived in NYC, my dad showed me a Belgian pistol he also brought home. I don't remember exactly what it looked like, but it was close to the one in the photo below. I remember it was small like James Bond's Walther PPK.



My parents retired to Pennsylvania, and 15 years later my dad passed away. My mother came to me a few years after she got rid of a lot of his stuff and asked me if I knew where the pistol was. I did not know and neither did my brother. We spent the next ten years searching her house and never found it. We believe either my dad took it apart and threw it out in pieces or it is sitting under the floorboards of the house (or hiding in the attic somewhere). Now that I am in Texas, it would be nice to have.

Chris



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TABLETOP GAMES

PUZZLES

CHESS

RPGS

CCGS



WINTERBLITZ 2026

SATURDAY JANUARY 24, 2026

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Museum of the American G.I.
College Station, Texas



- Raffles
- Best of Awards
- Hall of Fame Inductees
- Door Prizes
- Vendor Room
- Demonstrations

- 100 – Youth (younger than 18) (all scales, all eras)
- 200 – Classic Kits (kits, accessories, and add-ons manufactured before 1979)
- 300 – Artillery (all scales, all eras)
- 350 – All Things Towed (all scales, all eras) – must have BOTH “tractor and trailer”
- 400 – 1/48th Scale (Allied)
- 450 – 1/48th Scale (Axis)
- 500 – 1/72 and smaller (all eras)
- 600 – Fully Tracked Origin to 1934 (all scales)
- 700 – Fully Tracked Open Top Vehicles 1/32nd and 1/35th (all eras)
- 800 – Fully Tracked WWII Axis 1/32nd and 1/35th (closed top)
- 900 – Fully Tracked WWII Allied 1/32nd and 1/35th (closed top)
- 1000 – Fully Tracked Post WWII to 1990 (e.g. Korea, Vietnam, Cold War) 1/32nd and 1/35th (closed top)
- 1100 – Fully Tracked Desert Shield/Storm to Present (1991 to 2026) 1/32nd and 1/35th (closed top)
- 1200 – Paper Panzer/Fictional (all scales)
- 1300 – Halftracks (all scales and all eras)
- 1400 – Armored Cars (wheeled) (all scales, all eras)
- 1500 – Softskin Vehicles (all scales, all eras)
- 1600 – Motorcycles – with or without sidecar (all scales, all eras)
- 1700 – Miscellaneous Military and Support Vehicle (all scales, all eras)
- 2000 – Fully Tracked Full Interior (all scales, all eras)
- 3000 – Larger than 1/32nd (all eras)
- 4000 – Self Propelled FlaK (anti-aircraft) Vehicles (all scales, all eras)
- 5000 – Figures (all scales, all eras)
- 6000 – Dioramas/Vignettes (all scales, all eras)
- 6500 – Rotary Wing (Helicopter) Tank Busters (all scales, all eras)
- 7000 – The P-47 Challenge U.S. P-47s ONLY (all scales, all eras)
- 7500 – Brown Water Navy – Vietnam Riverine (all scales)
- 8500 – Landing Craft - watercraft that delivers men and/or equipment to shore (all scales, all eras)
- 9000 – Maschinen Krieger Armor Suits (all scales)

Tank of the Year: Panzer 38(t) – special prize for the best 38(t) or 38(t) variant (all scales, all eras)

Show Theme: Military Support Vehicles (all scales, all eras)

VISIT www.winter-blitz.com FOR MORE INFO



Gifts of Christmas Past

Time to get cranking for our White Elephant Contest to be held at our first meeting of 2026 on **January 7th, 2026**. In case you have forgotten what you received in our past Christmas parties, here are photos from...





2022:



2021:



JOIN AMPS TODAY

U.S. Membership Rates:

Type	1 year	2 years	3 years
Regular (Digital) ¹	\$30	\$55	\$80
Regular + All Printed ²	\$55	\$105	\$155
Junior ³	\$15	\$25	\$35
Family ⁴	\$5	\$10	\$15

¹ Digital package includes four (4) Digital and two (2) Printed issues of *Boresight* per year.

² All Printed package includes six (6) Printed issues of *Boresight* per year.

³ Juniors are members aged 17 years or younger.

⁴ Family rates are for anyone living at the same address as an active regular member.

To join using PayPal, visit AMPS website: www.amps-armor.org
-or- fill out this form below:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **PHONE:** _____

E-MAIL: _____

Did an AMPS member encourage you
To join AMPS? If so, who was he/she? _____

Send completed form and check/money order to:



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All payments must be made in U.S. funds. For outside U.S. (Canada and International) rates, please visit AMPS website at www.amps-armor.org.

New On The Block



Following last year's example of politically incorrectness in our December newsletter, here's this year's installment of "naughty xmas" photo. New kit releases will return next month.

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 war in Ukraine.

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