



## Seattle Chapter News

### SEPT 19 MEET

It's contest month again. However, in addition to the usual Bi-monthly Contest, we thought we'd try something a little different. Have you got an F-4B half converted to a Panther Ausf. G gathering dust? Are tomatoes growing on your nearly completed (except for sanding!) 1/35 Flak Tower? Is the (almost) whole Eighth Airforce simply "in the way", even in 1/72? Well, bring them in! We'd like to see all those projects which have lost their zip and you can't bring yourself to finish. First of all, unfinished models are usually more instructive than a finished one. However what we hope will happen is that some other modeler will be inspired by your efforts and want to finish it. To promote this bit of lunacy we are proposing a special contest to be judged in December. There are two rules: 1) the work must have been started by someone else, 2) it must be finished by December. Entries will be judged in two categories: 1) Conventional (for all those P-38s which are actually finished as P-38s), and 2) Amazing (a no-holds-barred, I don't know what it was and I don't care what it is, but I got it DONE, category). Prizes will be awarded if we can think of something. Imagine, that project you've been feeling guilty about not finishing for twelve years could be completed! Just be sure to knock the dust off before you bring it in.

In a moment of comparative sanity, Terry Moore will give us another vacuum kit building demonstration. He will show us how to skip tedious hours of sanding and ruin the carpet at the same time.

Last month's door prizes were donated by Triple Alliance.

### Review: Hasegawa 1/48 J7W1 Shinden

In the sixties Tamiya released a 1/72 Shinden kit which at best was awful. Although adequate in its day, it's failings are too numerous to list. Now after nearly twenty years we have a second (in a major scale) Shinden, by Hasegawa.

The kit is molded in dark green plastic and is virtually flash free. The detailing is clean, crisp and very fine. The canopy is of their usual high standards. Checking the model against drawings and photos shows no detectable errors in outline. (The kit has proven better than some drawings, so be careful!)

The decals look rather bright, however the markings on the prototype never had much chance to fade. Also the red will darken a bit when placed over the dark green.

Two drawbacks of the kit have been noted. Firstly, of the two prototypes completed, neither carried armament. The gun openings in the nose should be faired over. If a production machine is desired, the kit beautifully represents the guns as they would have appeared. Secondly, some scratchbuilding in the cockpit will be necessary to make it equal to the exterior detailing. The dashboard is excellent and should be saved along with the oxygene tanks. Unfortunately the remainder of the cockpit would best be scratched to match photos of the real aircraft.

This kit is of excellent quality and I highly recommend it. It will make a beautiful (and unusual) addition to any modeler's collection.

#### REFERENCES:

Famous Airplanes of the World, #102 Kyushu Shinden, Kokku Fan Publishers  
Monogram Close Up, #15 Japanese Cockpit Interiors Volume 2, page 29 Matt Hargreaves

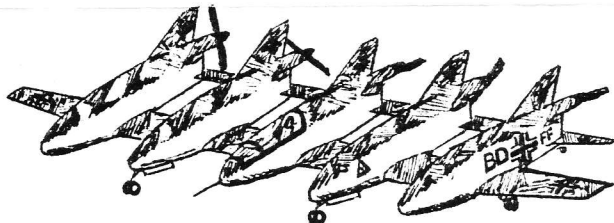
### Figments B to D

So that the Luftwaffe could release more strategically important aircraft for combat duty on the Eastern Front, the RLM designed a glider tug based on the original McBede drawings. The original aircraft was quite underpowered for this task, so the RLM proposed joining fuselages together until there would be enough power for a specific load. This is perhaps aviation's only modular aircraft design. As five fuselages were required for a DFS-230, it is indeed fortunate that the Me-321 Gigant's problems were solved in quite another way.

Ten "Pumpflings" were built (Wr. Nos. 5505 to 5515) and used on the Eastern Front with some success. Unfortunately, the aircraft could only take off in less than one inch of snow, and they were all soon trapped. Eventually the Russians overran the field and were surprised the next Spring to find that they had captured only ten aircraft, not fifty as originally reported.

One aircraft is known to have survived (Wr. No. 5515, BD+FF) and is on display in Sknx, at the Yugoslavian Museum for Farm Implements and Aircraft. There is an unconfirmed rumor that another (possibly 5510) was modified and is being used as an Aerobatics Team in a small East European country.

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### Guest Editorial

Have you ever thought about our group? What it is, what it's for, and what's needed to keep it going? I mean really THOUGHT about it? Currently, we have 60 people on the roster as paid members and there are about 15

or 20 unpaid "casuals" who show up sometimes. What's the value in our meeting every month? Is there any VALID reason why we should continue to meet? (We meet to talk to each other and continue friendships, but we could do that anyway. Sometimes we show off our latest construction, but there are other places we could do that. We come to deal old kits, but there are other ways we could do that. So why keep meeting? Because somebody has hired an assembly hall? Because we don't have anything else to do ON Saturday? Because we've got to get away from the family once in a while?)

I've been a member of this group for almost 20 years and I've seen membership numbers, interests, and member participation go up and down in that time. But I don't think I've seen everything as down as it has been in recent years. There seems to be a rampant "I don't care" in our group recently that makes me wonder about our future. Maybe it's time to close down and disband.

If 20 people are needed to perform the necessary duties that keep our group running, do the other 40 have any obligations or do they just go along for the ride? If only 10 are needed, what about the other 50? If it's 5, what about the other 55? In what sense are they members? Because they pay \$3 dues? For the past few years just 2 or 3 people have run the group at any time. 98% of our group participates by paying a couple of bucks a year and then meet to talk to friends once a month. We elect someone our leader and then sit back for another year to study our navel. What about the other 57 or 58? The one who's elected soon finds that he has a title and some obligations but little real support or help. There is a core of 5 or 7 people who will generally be there when he needs someone, but the rest . . .

At our recent RECON, 19 people either volunteered their services or agreed to help after being asked. As it happened though, only 6 people actually spent significant times at some duty. 13 either didn't show up at all, or showed up to contribute an hour or so, or showed up just to circulate for their own enjoyment. This puts a heavy strain on the 6 who did most of the work and carried the show on their backs. And if it hadn't been for some NON-members, we'd have been in SERIOUS trouble! What happened to 50 people?

This newsletter is put out every month, and every it's done by one person, with infrequent contributions by others. Despite a pool of 60+ mentally alert people with a wide scattering of interests it's almost impossible to get submissions. What happens to 59 people?

At a recent paint-party, we had about 10 volunteers. Fewer actually showed up. Again, mostly the core people. What happened to 50 people?

In the recent annual elections, there've been only single candidates who have gotten their positions by default. No votes were needed because there wasn't even a second candidate. What happened to 59 people?

What happens to our group if 2 or 3 key people decide to take a walk and dump all the hassles? What happens if the core decide to split and go their own way? Would either event benefit the group as a whole? (The Portland chapter folded for a while a few years ago, we've been watching the fragmentation of the B.C. group for the past couple of years, and we've had splits from our group recently. We seem to be breaking apart rather than getting stronger!)

We have elections coming again soon. We need a president and someone will be elected. Who? Will it be YOU? Would you consider running for the position? Someone has to handle the finances too. Will YOU apply for the position? Will you apply next year? Recently, everyone's answer to all of these questions has been, "Let someone ELSE do it". That indicates a great lack of cohesion and that's sad.

Understand, I'm not pointing a finger at anyone, or chastising. My intention is not to create guilt for some past "wrong" or start in-house back biting. I'd like to get you to THINK about the needs of a group like ours. I'd like to change the atmosphere a bit. We need -- ALL of us -- to consider the group as a whole in our thinking. Paying \$3 and attending meetings isn't the end of it, it's the BEGINNING! For the benefit of the group, each member needs to be ACTIVE, and on a regular basis.

- There are many possibilities.
- \*\* Some kind of small submission 2 or 3 times a year. It doesn't need to be earth-shaking, only informative or interesting.
- \*\* Find someone in the general population to come and speak to us. Hero's aren't required, or big names. Just someone with an interesting past who'd be willing to tell us about it and field a few questions.
- \*\* Dig up an unusual film which we could show.
- \*\* Give a presentation or demonstration.
- \*\* Make yourself available for the small duties that appear once in a while.
- \*\* Presenting matters that the group might benefit from knowing, or looking ahead, anticipating needs and problems that should be acted on for the group's benefit.
- \*\* Getting involved to learn what's required so you can become one of the group's officers next year or the year after. The young members especially, need to think of themselves as future club officers and begin preparing for the duties.

THESE are the dues that a member pays in order to keep his organization afloat! Not just \$3 a year. And, for the good of the whole group, ALL of us need to be active in some way all the time. Not just a few people.

So I leave it in your lap. What will you personally DO, this month, next month, the month after that, etc, that will benefit the group as a whole and help take the load off whoever's in charge? Because there isn't a "They". It isn't "Their" group. It's OUR group! If the group is going to keep going WE need to keep it going. IT is what WE make it.

Bill Hawkins