

SPRUE EXAMINER



BC-1A

kitbash

by Ron McGracken



**Ben Morton
Reviews**





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IPMS/USA Support the Troops Initiative

The IPMS/USA initiative was established to provide model kits, supplies and reference materials to our servicemen and women serving in combat zones, recovering in hospitals, and rehabilitating in specialized facilities. The program is expanding into other areas as well. Some local programs take place in USO facilities, some are centered around active duty personnel and are scattered across the country. The IPMS/USA Support The Troops program is still going full-tilt. The national program director is Jon Emery. Jon is accepting any and all contributions and is sharing them with all of the active programs around the country.

www.models4troops@gmail.com



www.austinsms.org

Austin Scale Modelers Society (ASMS) is a chartered chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society (IPMS/USA). ASMS meets on the third Thursday of each month. Annual dues for full membership are \$25/individual or \$30/family. The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. It is intended for educational purposes only.

ASMS does not endorse the contents of any article.



PRESIDENT'S SOAPBOX

BY IAN LATHAM



Hey Gang,

Well it's May in Texas and the 'Dog Days' of summer are around the corner, you know what that means, the season of indoor modeling has begun! Get your AC serviced and crack a beer and let's get down to business.

The ASMS Annual BBQ & Auction is coming up on June 8th and my wife and I are opening the doors to our house for the wondrous event. This is also the first time in a while that it will be held on the south side of town, being somewhere between Buda and Kyle, and so hopefully we can lure some of our San Antonio brethren up for some fun. There will be a \$5.00 donation for the event and we do ask everyone to bring a side dish of their choosing, also at least one kit to contribute to the auction and a wallet full of money.

Remember, it's for the children! Now is the time to start combing through your stash for the unbuilt COMPLETE kits that you want to donate to the table.

Also, the procrastination contest is only a month away so you only have about 3 more weeks before you might want to start on your kit. Just a reminder.

We have another wonderful newsletter for you full of amazing facts and fallacies sure to entertain even the most cantankerous members. I know the editor is working overtime to cobble together the goodies your about to enjoy, but I know even he has limits to his astounding skills and patience. Please take some time to jot down some wonderings and thoughts of your own, on a napkin or ten dollar bill, and send them to Rick and help us continue to make this frolicking fare that is the Sprue Examiner the kind of pulp you wouldn't mind leaving on the train.

Now go build something.

Ian

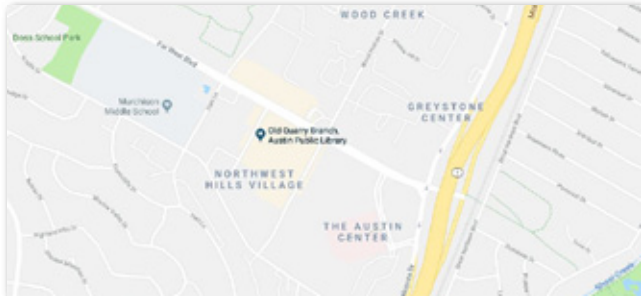




HOUSE CLEANING



ASMS MEETING



**Third Thursday each month
7:00 pm - 8:45 pm
at the
Old Quarry Branch Library
7051 Village Center Dr.**

Next meeting May 16th, 2019

No Reservations Neccessary!



ASMS Club Dues Are Due!

Annual ASMS club dues are \$25.00/individual
or \$30.00/family.

You may bring your dues to a club meeting or remit same
to ASMS, 111620 Via Grande Drive, Austin, TX 78739.



Events

- 6/01/2019 **Scalefest 2019/Region 6 convention**
<http://www.ipmsnct.net/Scalefest.htm>
Grapevine, TX
Randy Spurr - scalefest@gmail.com
- 6/08/2019 **SoonerCon 2019**
<http://www.ipmsmetrookc.com/>
Bethany, Oklahoma
Richard Fisher - challenger@challenger-n-scale.com
- 6/22/2019 **AutumnCon 2019**
<https://northshoremodelers.net/>
Covington, LA
Randy Spurr - scalefest@gmail.com
- 7/20/2019 **HAMS 13th Annual Model Car Show and Contest**
<https://www.ipms-hams.org/>
Spring, TX
Rob McQuown - robert.mcquown@sbcglobal.net
- 9/14/2019 **SuperCon2019**
<http://fortworthscalemodelers.org/>
Arlington, TX
Dave Hibscher - hurricaneyankee52@yahoo.com

Club Quarterly Contests

- May: Open
- June: **Procrastinator Contest (Maybe)**
- July: Open
- August: Open
- September: **Bondo Contest**
- October: Open
- November: Open
- December: **White Elephant/Model of the Year**

Monthly Meeting Presentations:

- May: Ron McCracken
- June: ?
- July: ?
- August: ?
- September: ?
- October: ?
- November: ?
- December: ?

Austin Scale Modelers Society



Presents
The



2019
CAPITOL CLASSIC

Show
Theme



**SUMMER
OF LOVE**

Anything manufactured or in use during 1967.

Saturday, October 5th 2019

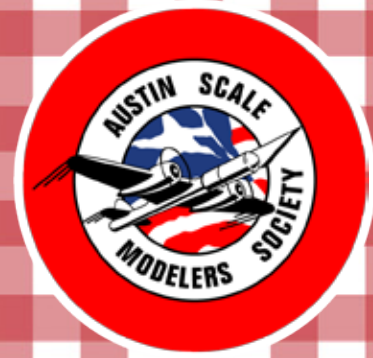
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Travis County Expo Center

7311 Decker Ln, Austin, TX 78724

✿ **IPMS Model Contest** ✿
75 Vendor Tables ✿ **Food**
Make 'N' Take ✿ **Door Prizes**

www.austinsms.org



ASMS 2019 Annual Backyard BBQ & Auction

What:

Bring a \$5.00 donation,
A side dish of your choice,
A COMPLETE kit for the Auction,
& Your wallet!

When:

Saturday, June 8th
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where:

159 Black Cap Run
Buda, TX 78610





Kit-Bashing The T-6's Grandpa

BC-1 in 1/72

By Ron McCracken



Breathes there an aviation fan who hasn't heard of the AT-6? But, how many know the roots from which it sprang? That is the topic of this kit-bash.

The AT-6 started out as the BC-1. Basic Combat (BC) was a short-lived designation applied to only three competing designs. Aviation lore has it that the hope was that by implying that combat-capable types were being procured, the Congress might be more generous. Evidently it worked, because 177 of the North American BC-1 type were procured (a substantial order for the 1930's Air Corps) and became the starting point for development of the well-known AT-6 series. Next up was the BC-1A, which replaced the fabric covered fuselage with an all-metal one, adopted the familiar T-6 vertical fin shape, and substituted the wider-chord BT-14 wing. The only visual difference between a BC-1A and an early AT-6 was the DF loop antenna under

the forward fuselage. The next development in the series was the AT-6 itself.

To put this in historical perspective note that the last advanced trainer procured prior to the BC-1 was the AT-5, in 1927. This derivative of the Curtiss Hawk fighters was a fixed-gear biplane. Consequently, the advanced training role was being filled by the combat types in use, at the time the monoplane, retractable gear P-35 and P-36. But even "hotter" types, the P-38, P-39, and P-40 were either on the drawing boards or already flying and it was obvious to trained aviators, if to no one else, that jumping into one of these straight out of a fixed-gear basic trainer was a recipe for strewn the landscape with scrap aluminum. Hence, the urgency to get a complex monoplane trainer into production to transition new pilots to higher performing operational types.



However, despite its landmark status, the BC-1 aircraft has never, to my knowledge, been kitted. But its license-built derivative, the Commonwealth Aircraft CA-1 Wirraway, has and can be modified into a passable representation of its little-known progenitor.

In addition to its historical significance, the BC-1 does offer a colorful paint scheme. The challenge is that the BC-1 happened along just before the Army and Navy settled on a common set of color standards (“AN”, or “Army-Navy”) so the standard Air Corps colors at the time were used and to my knowledge are not bottled in ready-to-use form. The blue is somewhere between turquoise and teal blue. The yellow is similar to chrome yellow, but distinctly more orange when compared side-by-side.

So, here are my “secret” formulae for #23 light blue and #4 orange yellow, mixed using Testor’s paints, and matched against color chips published in Robert Archer’s book *The Official Monogram US Army Air Service and Air Corps Aircraft Color Guide – Vol 1 1908-1941*:

#23 Light Blue:

- Four parts Testors #1110 Blue (in the small, square bottles)
- One part gloss insignia white (ModelMaster)
- One part gloss chrome yellow (ModelMaster)

#4 Orange-Yellow

- 15 parts gloss chrome yellow (ModelMaster)
- 2 parts gloss insignia white (ModelMaster)
- 1 part rust (ModelMaster)

Both colors are very translucent, so they **MUST** be applied over a white primer if you want them to look their vibrant best. They truly do result in an eye-catching model, regardless of the subject.

As an FYI, Testor’s 1110 blue is a decent match for AN true blue, which replaced #23 blue after 1938. AN Chrome yellow, which is the same as Testors chrome yellow, replaced #4 yellow after that date.

The basis for this conversion is the Special Hobby CA-1 Wirraway in 1/72nd scale. The modifications include a different rudder shape; a two-bladed

**1st special
72 HOBBY**

**CAC CA-3/5
Wirraway
“First Blood
over Rabaul”**





propeller; a single fuselage-mounted machine gun; some engine cowling and exhaust stack changes; a loop antenna under the forward fuselage; and a pair of venturi tubes on the starboard forward fuselage side.

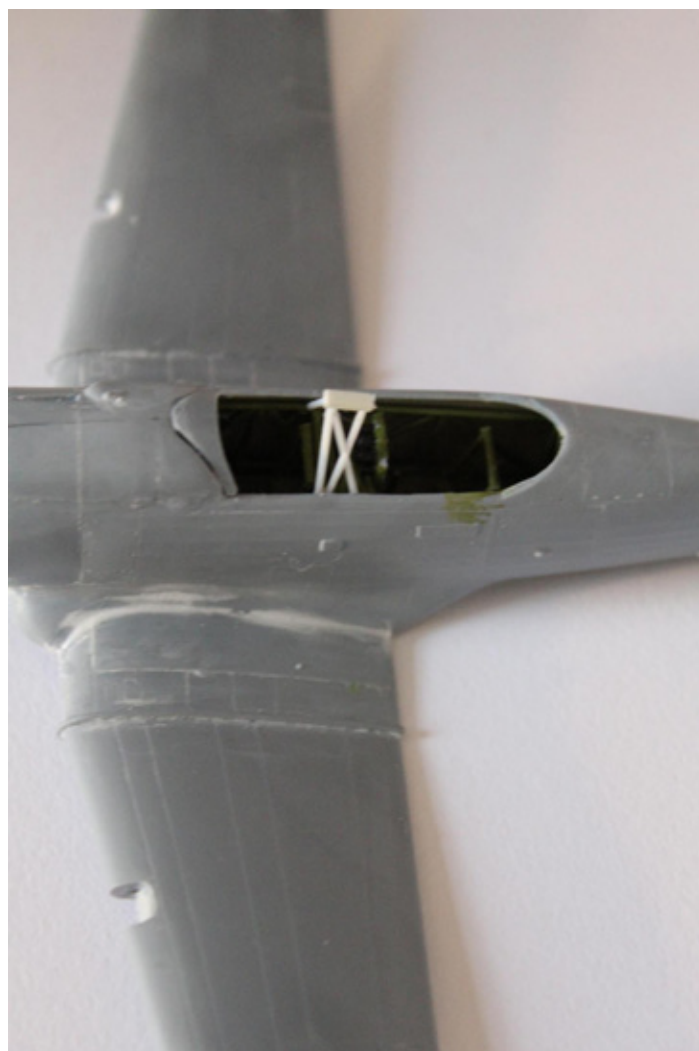
First, obtain your kit. Sadly, I must relate that finding the kit and getting the thing assembled will be your first big challenges. The fit of the wing to the fuselage underside is the most serious construction problem, and you should expect a considerable period of cut-n-fit before it goes into place. The kit has a very complete interior, including even the steel-tube structure. But there is lots of flash to be scraped away, the side frames need to be bent into position at the rear end and clamped somehow or other until the cement cures, and there is nothing much to help keep it all in alignment. Add to this, the instructions are not much help in figuring out where everything goes. The control sticks are British-style, with a round ring at the top of the pilot's, and you'll need to fabricate U.S. pattern replacements. The crew seats should likewise be replaced with identical, U.S. pattern seats of the period.

There is an important interior painting detail peculiar to U.S. aircraft of this period. While tubular structure was typically painted chromate green or interior green, the interior faces of fabric coverings at the time were painted a cream color. Since the BC-1 fuselage sides were fabric covered, you should paint the interior surfaces of the fuselage halves accordingly.

The turnover structure is as crude as the rest of the interior structure and is highly visible through the thankfully thin and transparent canopy. I scratch-built a replacement for this structure using .025" diameter Evergreen plastic rod. From photos I've concluded that this structure was aluminum in color.

The kit includes very nice instrument panels, but the one photo I've found of a BC-1 rear cockpit panel shows that it was completely exposed – no glare shield, no canvas cover, nothing. Which means, the instrument casings would be visible in front of the panel. So, you'll need to add six .040" diameter rod

instrument casings to the front side of said panel before cementing it in place. These "casings" are flat black in color, as is the panel face, while the forward side of the panel would most likely be interior green.



You will discover that the kit includes two upper forward fuselage covers – one with no guns, the other with two. Start by cutting each of these parts in half lengthwise, then use the port half of the no-gun option and the starboard half of the two-gun option to make a part for your conversion. This part goes in place after the fuselage halves are assembled.

After the fuselage halves are assembled is the time to trim the rudder. The rear edge should be cut off at the forward edge of the trim tab, in a straight line parallel with the rudder post. Then smooth up the curve of the top half of the rudder. Finally, the bottom of the rudder slopes up and aft in a perfectly



straight line and intersects the aft edge of the rudder in a sharp corner. You'll need to add a bit of plastic strip to the bottom and fair it in with putty to achieve this. The final step is to re-scribe a new trim tab of the same approximate size and in the same general location as the one you just carved away.



The canopy comes next, and the best way to deal with the two-piece canopy is to cement the two sections together before fitting them to the fuselage. Be careful about the orientation of the rear part – it is difficult to tell the difference between the front side and the bottom. If you have it right, the bottom of the rear section will neatly cover the rear of the cockpit opening with no significant gaps. Once the cement sets, begin the test-fitting and trimming that will be necessary to secure a snug fit and fasten the canopy in place. One final touch is required. On the Wirraway the rear canopy section rested on the fuselage top with no fairing. On the BC-1, there was a noticeable curved fairing between the canopy and the fuselage top deck. To create this, apply a piece of masking tape across the back of the canopy, starting and ending at each corner where the aft piece joins the front section and crossing the canopy rear centerline about $\frac{3}{32}$ " above the fuselage. Then use filler putty to create a curved fairing reaching up to the masking tape. Once the putty cures, use a round file to smooth and shape it before removing the masking. One last detail—the Wirraway canopy rear was a single-piece blown plexiglass unit. The BC-1 used a heavily framed unit. You'll have to mask and paint the frames.



The kit includes two cowlings, one injection molded, the other resin. Consign the resin part to the spares box. Assemble the injection molded cowlings, then make one modification, which is adding a fairing on the bottom centerline. The easy way to get this fairing is to take a length of .060 X .125 Evergreen styrene strip, carefully warm it and bend it to a 90 degree "L" shape. Cement this over the lower joint line with the bend wrapping around the front of the cowlings. Once the glue sets, carve away the front end flush with the front of the cowlings and trim the back end flush with the back of the cowlings. Round off the edges a bit and your modified cowlings is ready.



Unlike the Wirraway, the BC-1 had only a single exhaust stack on the starboard side. Simply cut the port stack off of the kit resin part and that's done. You'll also want to fill in the notch in the port fuselage side with a bit of plastic sheet, then file/sand the joints smooth.



The Wirraway has a prominent fairing over the tail wheel strut. This is absent on the BC-1. Cut it off and substitute a new tail wheel strut made from wire. I also substituted a tailwheel from the Heller T-6 kit.

The BC-1 had a DF loop antenna under the fuselage just ahead of the main gear wells. This you'll have to scratch-build or find in the spares box.

The BC-1 had an air vent on the port upper forward fuselage. An odd fairing whose opening faces rearward covers the round vent opening. The photo illustrates the addition.

The BC-1 also had a pair of venturi tubes on the starboard forward fuselage side. A venturi tube provides a partial vacuum to power some of the flight instruments. Imagine taking two ice cream cones, cutting off the pointed ends, and gluing what's left together at the small end. The result looks like a venturi tube. My method of producing these fixtures is to rapidly stretch a length of sprue or plastic tubing that has been heated over a candle.



Rapid stretching results in a sharper taper. Then cut a 1/8 " long piece from each end of the stretched section and glue them together. These fixtures are usually painted black.

I substituted a two-blade propeller from an old Heller T-6 kit for the three bladed prop of the CA-1. The prop should be painted bare aluminum overall, with rust (a good match for "maroon", the official anti-glare color for props in the '30s) on the rear surfaces of the portion of the blades that protrude beyond the diameter of the cowling. And that completes the modifications. Otherwise, the kit can be assembled pretty much out-of-the box.

So there you have it. A minor bit of kit-bashing yields a model of a historically significant trainer aircraft. And all this is possible because the Aussies evidently took the claims of combat capability seriously, and Special Hobby considered the Wirraway worth kitting! Enjoy your kit-bash!

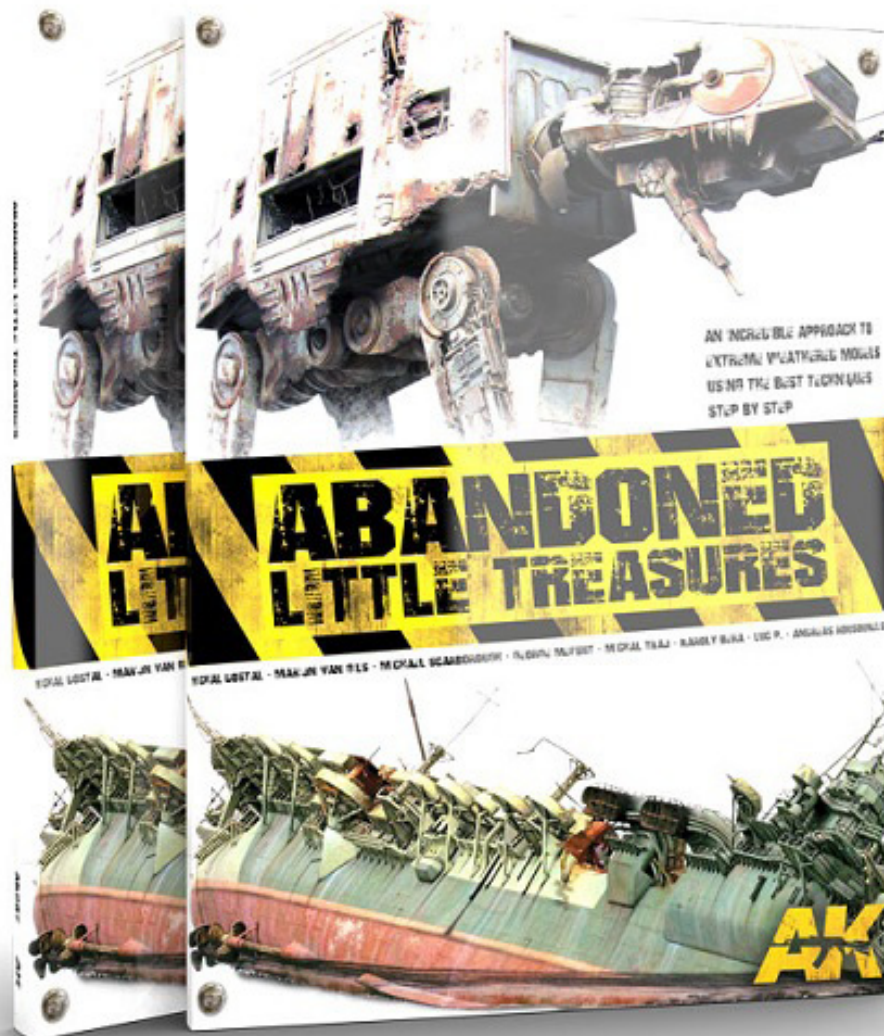
Ron





Abandoned Little Treasures Book Review

By Ben Morton



<https://ak-interactive.com/>

Courtesy of the AK Interactive website: As the title suggests, Abandoned Little Treasures is a book that offers you detailed descriptions of how to create models of various abandoned objects. Following the concept of the best sellers Extreme Reality, we release this new super-book. The best modelers from around the world share their scratch-building, painting, and extreme weathering techniques in

richly illustrated step-by-step articles. Amongst the subjects covered, you will find a tank, an aircraft carrier, a WWI airplane, a sci-fi vehicle, a tractor, a building, and a few others. This book shows us how realism can be achieved in scale modeling and will be a good experience for our next projects, 136 pages of quality modeling!



Abandoned Little Treasures is the latest in a series of how-to books on the subject of abandoned or derelict vehicles and aircraft. The detailed steps that the various modelers used to achieve their end result will amaze and delight. (Not to mention putting my modeling skills to shame.)

The subjects covered and the finesse utilized by the different contributors I found to be just exquisite. These are first rate modelers at the height of their craft. But hav-

ing said that, each one has included detailed, easy to follow step-by-step processes that the various modelers used to achieve the desired effect. This tutelage is accompanied by loads of high quality photographs that illustrate each step beautifully.

One article that I was most fond of is of the IJN carrier Amagi at Kure Harbour, 1946. The ship lay at anchor when it was bombed and the diorama depicts the Amagi in its twisted and tattered state as it awaits salvage. The level of detail is outstanding. As an example, the modeler thought to show the tire tracks of some support vehicles no longer present. It really is the little things!

Included in this publication are detailed articles for modeling abandoned versions of the follow:

- Tiran 4 Tank
- Broken Ambitions. IJN Carrier Amagi, Kure Harbour, 1946
- AEG G.IV
- Game Over (Pacman)
- Paper Compressor
- Star Wars AT-AT
- Stalinets S-65 Tractor
- Rail Station



The article on construction of a rail station structure further illustrates the diversity of materials used throughout this publication. The rail station is made from foam core board.



There is loads to enjoy about this book, over and over again. One fun thing with writings that include non-native English speakers/writers is the different syntax and phrasing that software translations give to these types of publications.

It can make some of the photo captions a bit difficult to follow but you'll figure it out. It may require you to re-read different sections to get the authors idea. That will be time well spent as there is lot to absorb from this book.

All photos from the AK Interactive website. My thanks to AK Interactive and IPMS/USA for the review copy.

Ben



The Cotton Report:

HAPPY MODELER'S FATHER'S DAY!

By Rick Cotton

Somewhere, maybe in the back pages of the US Constitution, in the fine print, or maybe somewhere at the bottom of the back of the Magna Carta, or perhaps even waaaaayyy back as far as the 11th Commandment (which must have chipped and fallen off the stone on Moses' way down the mountain) is a law, and fact of life which has, throughout known human history, been true:

"Father's Day" means Dad has to cook. "Cook" meaning grill. Outside. Where the heat, humidity, and those big, red wasps live. Big freaking red monsters, with unsavory attitudes, that buzz right by your nose and wave that great big stinger at you like a weapon. Which it is.

Unlike Mother's Day, where Mom gets treated like a queen, Dad gets treated like the illegal alien kitchen help. Dad sweats like a pig whilst baby-sitting some overpriced HEB beef on that 2,000 degree pile of charcoal (I am a BBQ purist... I do NOT EVER use gas), swatting away mosquitoes, professing what a "grill master" he is (he isn't), and swilling rapidly-warming whatever-was-on-sale beer.

Endless inquiries from others as to "how's it coming?" fill his afternoon, until the smoking meat is finally done, and he can, at last, beat a retreat into the air conditioning. The relatives will descend upon his lovingly(?) crafted steaks like so many ravenous post-Iditarod sled dogs, while he gasps in his easy chair, mops his dripping brow, and wonders why the h*ll he has to cook on "his" day. If he's lucky, there will still be one small steak left when he has the energy to get up and eat it.

This is the prototypical American-style Father's Day, as we... or most of us... have always known it. "Hey Dad, it's YOUR DAY! What are you grilling? Can I invite my fifteen friends over????"



Dad gets a hug from Mom, greetings from the kids, and maybe a tie or a pair of socks. Then he has to cook. That's it.

Uh... no.

That will not be the plan. My Father's Day plan this year is different. It will be a Modeler's Father's Day, and it will go VERY differently from the ones we have seen in the past.

"Whatcha making today, Dad?"

"Reservations. And you're buying, son."

Stunned silence....and a stunned-er look.

" 'Cause you have a job now! Attaboy. I'm thinking Vietnamese....no crowds. Got your wallet?"

Dad will need to be fed. Grilled Vietnamese Pork "Bun" (rice noodles and veggies) with fish dipping sauce will do nicely, thanks. Or maybe, Pho (pronounced "Fuh", not "FO"), spring rolls with peanut sauce, oh, yes, please. And maybe taken to a movie. Preferably nothing moody, artsy, or Star Warsy and with lots of explosions, hot babes, and stuff. Guy flicks. Too bad "Dunkirk" won't be out until July. And maybe even to Schlitterbahn in Galveston. Hey, that sounds like a plan. Then maybe fed again after that. Hmm, this is shaping up nicely for Dad...for once.

Then again, maybe a museum trip instead. There is the Lone Star Flight Museum, across the street from the Schlitterbahn....of course, their new Ellington Field site opens in September 2017, so I'm not sure what is still there in Galveston. I'll have to check.

I have not been on the USS Texas in a year or two. How about the Hardhat Tour, where you can go way, way down in the bilge and actually watch her sinking – live? Or, there is the Museum of the American GI in College Station. Road trip to the Lexington in Corpus? Camp Mabry? The Nimitz Museum? THAT's a good one. Lots of options.

What about a Father's Day present? I do NOT need any more plastic. That being said, I will gladly accept ANY and ALL new plastic. The disease is insidious, and I still need my fix.

I am hoping my present this year is something I can actually use. Yes, I love getting Texans (and ONLY Texans) NFL gear, and do wear it. Yes, I need new pants for work, but that's boring. Yes, I would like a fishing rod, or a new fat-boy-big-wide-seat bicycle. Need to do some miles after all that grilled pork.

But....

I am hoping, just hoping, that the broad hint I dropped to my loving wife the other day takes hold. The one about "Oh, I am running out of model space! I will need new glass shelves for this case soon. What ever shall I do?" (at this point, insert tip of index finger into corner of mouth, open eyes wide, and try to look helpless and desperate – think Mary Pickford).

That's what I NEED. That's what I WANT. And knowing Sweetie like I do, she will probably come through. She's like that. No, she does not have a sister. If for some reason she misses the hint, no big deal, I can always order it myself half-way through the next BIG project.

So, after years of sweating over the &^%\$*& grill, sunburning on top and charcoal burning underneath, smelling like a bad BBQ joint all afternoon, and getting ties and socks, and other boring cr*p, I am going to take hold of this... "holiday"... and say to the world:

I AM DAD. THIS IS WHAT I WANT ON MY DAY!

I wonder if it will work... ..

...but at any rate, I will get some shop time later. Sweetie... God bless her... will see to that. I think she loves me.

HAPPY MODELER'S FATHER'S DAY!
(I like that new name....)



Rick



On The

TABLE

By **Flanged End Yoke**

The tables were full in February.

Bill Kulpa continues to awe the members with his skill at building 1/72nd aircraft. This month he brought in four. Up first was a pair of Luftwaffe recon aircraft a BV-141 by Heller and an FW-189 also by Heller.



Next up was a Sepecat Jaguar done up in RAF colors. This kit was also from Heller.



In a little smaller scale Bill brought in an LS 1/144th Lockheed SR-71A.



Bill Delk was busy this month. It seems he has been inspired by Ziggy Downs-Bumgardner and is building Gundam kits. This month he brought in two Bandai 1/144th scale kits. The first was a Sinanju mobile suit.





The second was a MS-06F Zaku II. He also brought in the instruction sheets.



Bill also shared with us a commission painted Vampirella kit. The kit was painted by none other than our Master painter Bob Bethea. The kit is in 1/8th scale.



Bob Bethea brought in his usual plethora of projects some completed and some in progress. First up was a completed bust from Dark Carnival of the Mexican General Santa Anna in 1/12th scale.

Bob's works in progress varied. First up are two Iroquois Indians.



The new USMC figure from Andrea is next. This is an amazing figure that comes in several scales including 1/48th and 1/72nd. Bob's figure is in



1/72nd.

Bob also brought in a generic German dude in 1/35.



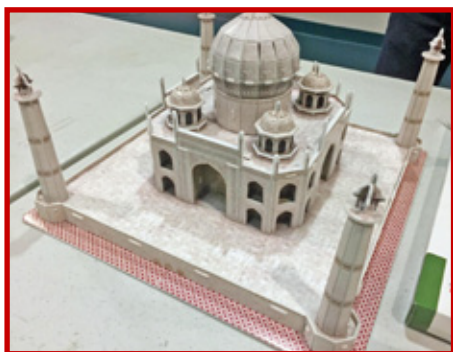
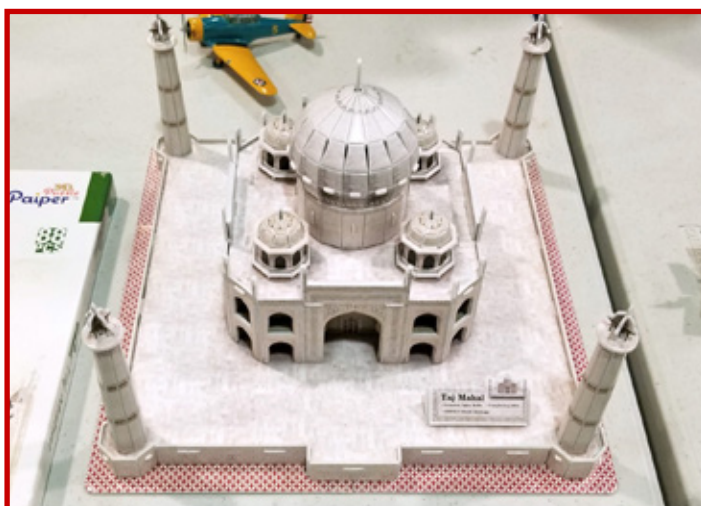
Last from Bob is a bust of Willie Nelson that started off as a pirate. The monkey on his back will be handing him a reefer





when it's finished.

Bill Agay took a break from ships and shared his



Airfix 1/72nd
Harrier GR-9.

Mike Poole
shared a paper
model of the Taj
Mahal with the
group that had
quite a story



behind it.



Rick Herrington brought in his completed Tamiya
1/48th M1A2.

Jorge Martins brought in a 1/72nd Academy PV-1
Ventura. Jorge said this was the first model he had
completed in 28 years. Jorge did a fine job as it



came in second place in the Model of the Month
contest.

The winner of the Model of the Month contest



was Bob King's 1/48th scale P-51 which was painted up in the ace Elwyn Rhighetti's livery.



Bob also brought in another 1/48th P-51 in Olive Drab.

Ben Morton brought in the subject of a review he did in this month's newsletter, a book called *Abandoned Treasures* published by AK Interactive. Ben let me borrow this book and the article on the 1/700th scale Amagi is just awesome. What's great about this book is that the modelers take you through



step by step on how they achieved their amazing results.

Last up is the subject of an article in this month's newsletter also. This is Ron McCracken's 1/72nd Special Hobby conversion of the BC-1A. Read the article to find out how Ron did it.

Flanged



This Month In History

May 1, 1960 - An American U-2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central Russia on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The sensational incident caused a cancellation of the meeting and heightened existing Cold War tensions. The pilot, CIA agent Francis Gary Powers, survived the crash, and was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Russian court. Two years later he was released to America in exchange for an imprisoned Soviet spy. On his return to America, Powers encountered a hostile public which apparently believed he should not have allowed himself to be captured alive. He died in a helicopter crash in 1977.

May 5, 1961 - Alan Shepard became the first American in space. He piloted the spacecraft Freedom 7 during a 15-minute 28-second suborbital flight that reached an altitude of 116 miles (186 kilometers) above the earth. Shepard's success occurred 23 days after the Russians had launched the first-ever human in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, during an era of intense technological competition between the Russians and Americans called the Space Race.

May 6, 1937 - The German airship Hindenburg burst into flames at 7:20 p.m. as it neared the mooring mast at Lakehurst, New Jersey, following a trans-Atlantic voyage. Thirty six of the 97 passengers and crew were killed. The inferno was caught on film and also witnessed by a commentator who broke down amid the emotional impact and exclaimed, "Oh, the humanity!" The accident effectively ended commercial airship traffic.

May 7, 1915 - The British passenger ship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, losing 1,198 of its 1,924 passengers, including 114 Americans. The attack hastened neutral America's entry into World War I.

May 19, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, Royal Air Force bombers successfully attacked dams in the German Ruhr Valley using innovative ball-shaped bouncing bombs that skipped along the water and exploded against the dams. The dams had provided drinking water for 4 million persons and supplied 75% of the electrical power for industry in the area.

May 20, 1927 - Charles Lindbergh, a 25-year-old aviator, took off at 7:52 a.m. from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, in the Spirit of St. Louis attempting to win a \$25,000 prize for the first solo nonstop flight between New York City and Paris. Thirty-three hours later, after a 3,600 mile journey, he landed at Le Bourget, Paris, earning the nickname "Lucky Lindy" and becoming an instant worldwide hero.

May 20, 1932 - Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. She departed Newfoundland, Canada, at 7 p.m. and landed near Londonderry, Ireland, completing a 2,026-mile flight in about 13 hours. Five years later, along with her navigator Fred Noonan, she disappeared while trying to fly her twin-engine plane around the equator.



OLD RUMORS/NEW KITS

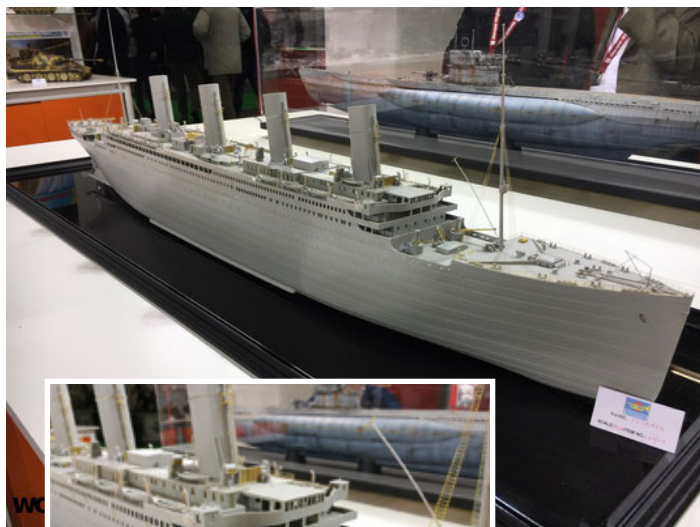
Rick Herrington, Ron McCracken, Mike Lamm

Shipping News

By Rick Herrington

New releases in ships are few and far between this month.

For those who have breathlessly awaiting the announcement of a 1-200th RMS Titanic your wait is over. The boys and girls at Trumpeter have announced a forthcoming RMS Titanic in house-bust-scale 1-200th.



In a smaller scale 1-350th Trumpeter is releasing....wait for it.....a Bismarck kit. Let's face it guys the Bismarck is like the Yamato, every manufacturer has to have one. Hopefully Trumpeter put the A team on this one because Revell's last 1-350th Bismarck release will be tough to beat.



Last up is another 1-350th release this one from Dragon. Dragon has back-dated their Scharnhorst release to depict her as she looked with her sortie with Gneisenau in 1941.

German Battleship **Scharnhorst** 1941



That's it for this month. Pull a kit from that stash and build it!

Ricardo





New and In View Aircraft

By Ron McCracken

This month I'm starting out with the "No particular scale at all" category, and acquaint you with a company named Atlantis. They seem to specialize in re-releasing some really, really "oldie but moldie" kits, back from the days when "box scale" was the norm. Examples: the old Revell B-24J and P-3 Orion kits. Also the old Aurora DC-9 airliner in 1/72nd. They have a web site, and it is worth a look, for the nostalgia if nothing else. If they ever decide to re-release the Aurora 1/72nd Boeing 737, I might even buy one and kit-bash it into a T-43.



Moving on to the standard scales, in 1/144th, Academy is releasing a Rockwell B-1B. This is a new-tool kit and photos of pre-release sprues show it is very detailed for this scale, although the engraved panel lines looked a bit heavy for my taste.



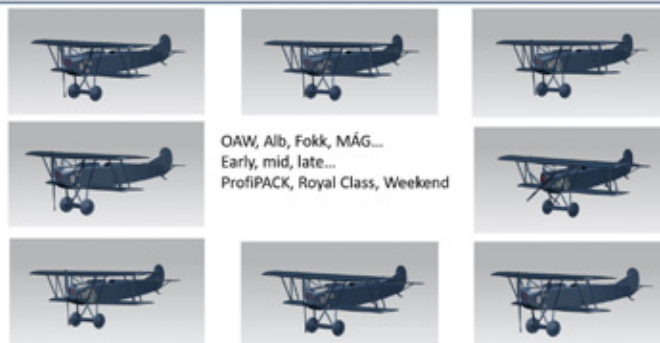
Trumpeter has announced a Vulcan B.2 in 1/144th, which some on-line sites have available for "Pre-

Order" (and you know what that means). However it is supposed to be out this month, so I'm including it.



In the One True Scale (1/72), Eduard has announced a Fokker D.VII in the "Royal Class" line. This is a re-release of an older kit, with some new parts.

Fokker D.VII 1/72



Eduard has also announced a ProfiPACK edition kit of the Fokker D.VII focused on aircraft built by OAW factory. Decals for an aircraft flown by Gefr. Wilhelm Scheutzel are included.





Italeri has re-released their 1990's vintage Fokker F-27. So, while not exactly new, if you are looking for an F-27 kit now there's one available still in the shrink wrap.



Hobbyboss has announced a new-tool T-4 JASDF Trainer, available for pre-order now on some web sites.



ICM has announced another re-box of their MiG-25 RBF Recon Foxbat, with new decals and parts.



Modelsvit has several re-boxings (with new parts) including their:

- Su-17UM3 Fitter



- Su-22UM3K Fitter



- MiG-21F-13 Fishbed E





I've read that Modelsvit produces fairly accurate Russian stuff, but they are limited run kits with all the construction challenges that entails. Revell has announced a re-release of a Tornado ECR 'Tiger Meet 2018' in 1/72nd, which appears to be the 2017 Italeri kit under new management, with new decals.



They have also announced a F-4E Phantom II in the "Easy Click" (snap-together?) line. For all that it seems to be new-tool, it is a bit toy-like and has raised panel line detail, so per-



haps not one's first choice for this oft-released aircraft.



Trumpeter has announced a new-mold Tu-22K Blinder B. I haven't found any reviews, but the usual cautions with Trumpeter kits apply – some



good news, and some bad news, usually. Depends on whether the "A" team or the "B" team worked on the kit.



In the ever-popular 1/48th scale, Airfix leads off with a new-tool Spitfire FR.XIV. This is the later, Griffon-powered variant of the classic Spitfire. Reviews of pre-release mouldings differ on whether clipped wings or full-span wings are included, but all agree it is a very nice kit.



Eduard is releasing a Limited Edition kit of the Bf 109 E and Bf 109 F-2 aircraft. The kit is focused on a/c flown in the Soviet Union during Operation Barbarossa and in the autumn of 1941.



Academy has announced a B-25D in Pacific Theater markings, which seems to be an alternate



parts re-release of an earlier kit. The box art shows a gun-nosed strafer with the nose glazing painted over – hopefully there actually is a clear part! On the other hand, the opaque nose does give you plenty of room for the plenty of lead you'll need to keep from having a tail-sitter!

ICM is releasing a re-box (with new parts) of their Ju 88D-1. 10 sprues, and highly detailed, including the in-line engines!



Depending on your source, Zvezda is releasing either a re-box (with new decals) Yak-1B, or one with some new plastic. I'm really not sure which.



Getting to the Big Stuff, there are two re-boxed kits in 1/32nd scale:

Hobbyboss has re-boxed their B-24D Liberator, with (according to Scalemates) some new/revised parts.



Revell has announced a re-boxed Focke-Wulf FW190 A-8 "Sturmbock", updated with new parts, and based on their earlier A-8/R11 night fighter variant.



Under the new kit category, we have two from our friends at Wingnut Wings, both available for pre-order:

Gotha G.1, the start of the famed Gotha bomber series, comes in at 24 inches of wingspan and a price tag of \$199. But, as a famed founding member of ASMS often said, "Sometimes you have to spend the righteous buck." Kit features High quality Cartograf decals for 5 aircraft - 349 high quality injection moulded plastic parts - 9 photo-etched



metal detail parts - 150hp Benz Bz.III engines - 20kg & 50kg Carbonit bombs, optional IMG 08, LMG 14 & 2cm Becker cannon armament - Fine in scale rib tape detail - Full rigging diagrams.



Gotha UWD, a floatplane variant of the G.1, of which only one was ever built. Same size and price as the G.1 above. Features High quality Cartograf decals - 274 high quality injection moulded plastic parts - 4 photo-etched metal detail parts - 160hp Daimler-Mercedes D.III engines - 10kg Carbonit bombs & LMG 14 Parabellum machine gun armament - Fine in scale rib tape detail - Full rigging diagrams.



That wraps it up for this month! Happy modeling!

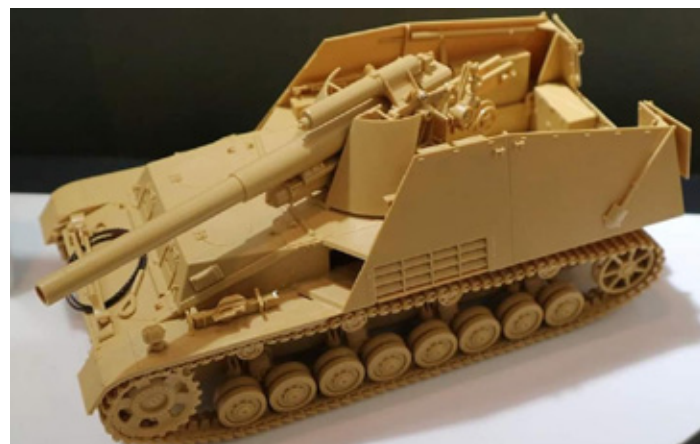
Ron



Tracked Topics

By Rick Herrington

Not much to share this month. All the new releases are in 1/35th so let's get started. Tamiya had a couple of new releases at the Shizuoka Hobby show. The first was a new late production Hummel.



The second was a special edition of their recently released Panther D. This edition includes a metal barrel, photo etched engine deck screens and individual track links.





Another entry from Shizuoka is a release from Revell Germany. This is a Leopard 2A6.



Rye field models display at Shizuoka included an M4A38 with workable track links.



Not at Shizuoka but nonetheless new Takom is releasing an Early Production Jagdpanther G1.



ICM is up next with two new Operation Barbarossa kits. The first is called Army Group Center and is pretty much a diorama in a box. The kit includes a Kfz.1 car, a Type L3000S truck, 4 German infantry figures and 4 German drivers all in 1:35th scale.



Next from ICM is a German Command Vehicle Crew. This is a perfect set to go with your Hanomag 251c. The one with the big antenna on it.





Amusing Hobby is releasing another World of Tanks fictional tank the British FV217 Heavy Tank Destroyer.



Next up is a kit from Y-Modelle of a 40mm anti-aircraft gun with wheeled chassis.



Bronco has stepped up with a Canadian release. This time it's an early production Cruiser Tank Ram Mk II.



Hobby Boss is releasing a Merkava 4 w/Trophy system. The Trophy system is an Israeli developed tank protection system that defeats anti-tank missiles.



Hobby Boss is also releasing a French R39 light tank. Like the French R35 it too was armed with a short barreled 37mm and was meant for infantry support.



Last up Italeri is releasing a Canadian Kangaroo.



That's it for this month Tread Heads. See ya' next month.

Rick





It Figures

Michael Lamm

Welcome to the May edition of It Figures! I'd like to thank our overpaid and underworked (or is it the other way around?) editorial staff for more than ably filling in for me last month. Thanks! Here's what I've found this month in the world of miniature people.

Scale75 continues their War Front series of figures with two new Germans in 1/35th scale. This time, we have two choices of German paratroopers. The first features a Fallschirmjäger soldier advancing in a crouched pose. He's carrying a MP-44 assault weapon, and is wearing the distinctive paratrooper rimless helmet and smock. The pose looks realistic, and the details are nice.

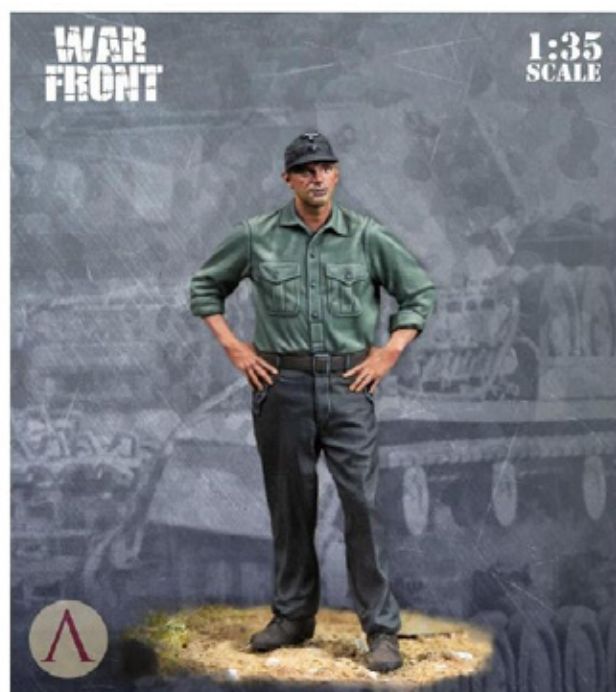


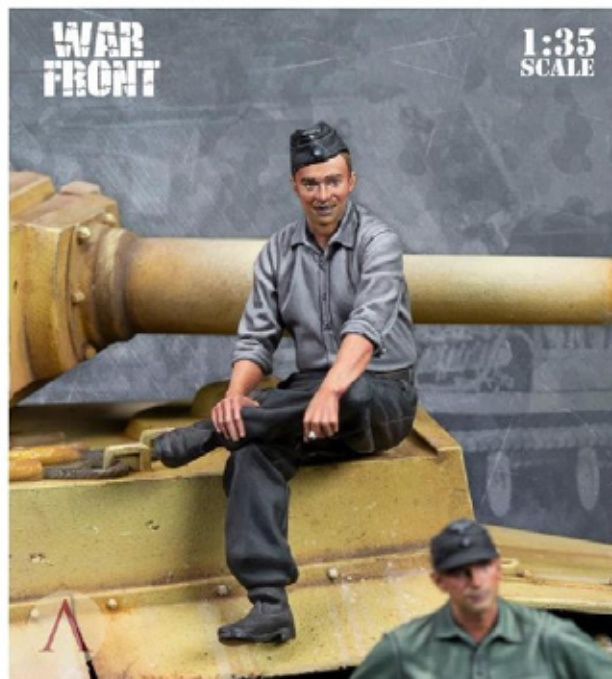
The second figure depicts a second Fallschirmjäger in the act of tossing a stielhandgranate (aka "potato masher grenade"). He too is wearing the rimless helmet, but has a winter coat over his jump smock. He is also carrying a FG-42, a semi-automatic rifle unique only to the German paratroopers. Over his winter coat, he's wearing the 8-pouch bandolier specifically designed for the 20-round magazine of the FG-42. Although, the figures aren't

labeled as such, I imagine they are modeled after Fallschirmjäger who fought in the Ardennes. Photo 2



Also from Scale75 are a couple more Germans. This time two new tankers. One posed in a seated position smoking a cigarette, and the other standing. The figures poses are pretty generic and aside from the headgear, they're clothes are generic enough, that they could go with just about anything. They're both wearing a standard work shirt and uniform pants.





<https://scale75.com/>

I wasn't able to find any images of the actual resin parts, but Scale75's previous resin figures have been fantastic, so I'm sure these will follow suit. No information on the availability of other scales, but I'm sure there will be options in 1/72nd and 1/48th in the near future.

ICM has some new figures coming out covering a couple under-represented subjects. First up, are a group of British tankers from World War I in 1/35th



<http://www.icm.com.ua/>

scale. The four figures are posed in a group, with an officer posed to be pointing at a map on the ground, while the rest of the group listens to his description. The figures are nicely posed, and can go with really any armor subject of the period.



The second group of figures features 3 American pilots in 1/32nd scale walking the flight line. You can imagine they're discussing an upcoming mission, or the previous evening's activities. All three are wearing their harnesses, but carrying their parachutes. These poses are not something we see too often, and with three different pilots you get the option of posing them together or with separate planes.



Finally, we have another unusual figure choice. This time, it's 2 American drivers from World War I. This set comes with two drivers in seated positions, both are wearing tunics and the campaign hats



common to the American Expeditionary Forces at the time. These provide a nice option for some of the recent World War I vehicle kits.



Mantis Miniatures has a few new Germans (of course) to add to your projects in both 1/35th scale and 1/72nd scale. One thing I like about Mantis line of resin figures, is that they don't include a lot of weapons. This allows figures to go with a variety of scenes away from the action, and it's always easy

to add weapons nearby as if the figures are taking a moment to rest.

First up are a pair of Germans in 1/35th scale, but-toned up for Winter. I suppose somewhere along the Eastern front. The first figure is wearing the full winteranzug 42 kit, which included snow pants, a parka, gloves and a balaclava. The pants and parka were reversible, usually with either a mouse grey or camouflage side, so you can choose a mix of camouflage patterns when painting this guy.

The second figure is posed in a heavy sheepskin coat over his uniform. While this coat would not have been standard issue, it's not uncommon to see photos of NCOs and officers in these winter jackets. It's safe to assume that these coats were probably war prizes, or items sent from home to soldiers at the front.



Mantis also produces some 1/72 scale figures, and they've released a set of resin German tankers. The set includes 6 different figures, more than likely



intended to represent a Panzer crew, with at least one officer in their midst. The crew come posed in a relaxed manner and all appear to be wearing winter clothes, with a nice variety of coveralls and different uniforms to keep things interesting. It's always nice to see good resin figures in 1/72 and these are a welcome addition.



<https://www.mantisminiatures.pl/EN/>

Now for a few items that are just a little larger, we go to Fernando Ruiz Miniatures. Rollo, the Duke of Normandy, is a 1/12th bust. The detailing level of this sculpture from Pedro Fernandez is amazing especially considering the variety of fabrics and textures featured in it. Everything from steel to wood, leather and quilted fabric, as well as woven fabric and animal fur.

Rollo, or Gaange Rolf, was a Viking leader who became the first ruler of Normandy, and this bust really does him honor.



There are 8 parts, which includes the separate parts for a helmet if you choose to display him with a helmet.



In 54mm, we have another Viking leader. This time, Rurik who was one of the leaders of a group of Scandinavian explorers who established the state of Kiev. This kingdom was of great importance

in the history of Russia and the dynasty founded by Rurik stretched its lineage to the Tsars. Rurik is posed with a shield on his back and his battle axe by his side. This sculpture by Eduard Pérez features some very nice touches, like the details on the trim of his tunic and the fur on his cape.



<https://ferminiatures.com/>



Keeping on the subject of Vikings ICM has released one of their own. This one is in 1-16th scale.

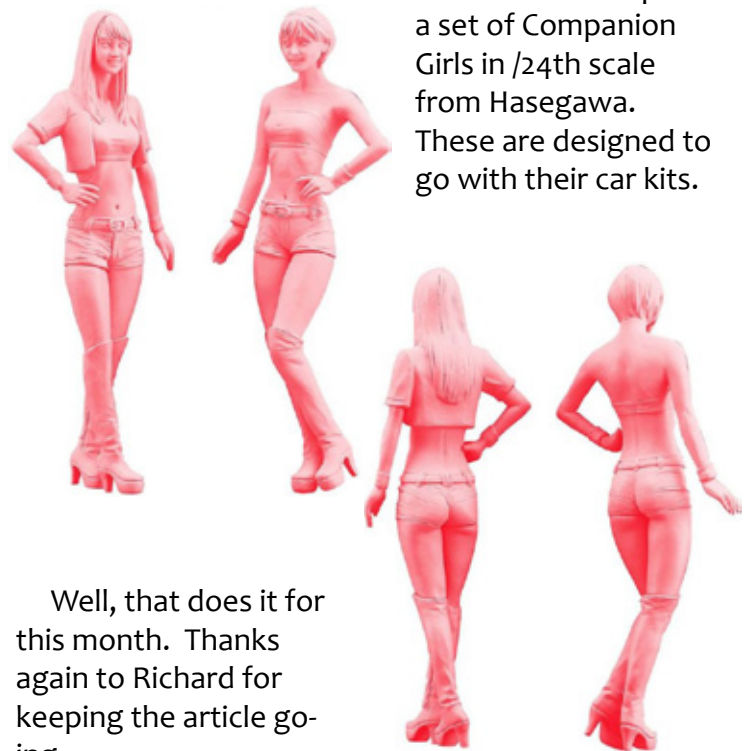


If you've been finishing out the last season of Game of Thrones you will be familiar with the Ice King. ICM now has a kit in 1-16th.

Moving to 1-35th with ICM they are releasing a set of figures designed to be posed in a German command half-track. (SDKFZ 251) They call it a German Command Crew and it would be perfect for a Barbarossa diorama.



Diesel Kits is releasing a 1-16th figure they call Dog Mother. It comes complete with dog and she looks nasty. Not sure if this is a 3D printed figure or not. If it is there could be lots of clean up to get her to look right.



Last up is a set of Companion Girls in 1-24th scale from Hasegawa. These are designed to go with their car kits.

Well, that does it for this month. Thanks again to Richard for keeping the article going.

Now, go build a model and add a figure to it. You won't regret it!

Mike



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