

Happy



National



Artichoke



Hearts



Day!

SPRUE



EXAMINER



Chapter Contacts:

Please forward to your members!

The lead item in this newsletter is Mike Lamm's build article on the new Trumpeter kit of the Soviet SU-101 Self-Propelled-Gun.



Mike point out that this AFV was a prototype and never built in quantity. This would make its selection for major tooling investment in such a complex kit (over 340 parts) remarkable. Perhaps it's another sign that the U.S. market is not the biggest on the global modeling scene, and the major sales are expected elsewhere.



Not as famous as THE “Shangri-La” (at right), the P-51B that Gentile pranged on April 13th, 1944 while buzzing the 4th Fighter Group’s home base at Debden, showing off for war reporters!

Floyd Werner continues the reviews with his build of “Gentile’s Last Ride”, the P-51D that the ETO ace flew when brought back to the ‘states to do war bond toursand prevent the propaganda battle loss should the high-visibility *HERO* be lost in further combat.

YOU HAVE PROBABLY ALREADY CHECKED OUT....

Old Rumors/ New Kits 2G

...to read about all the new kit rumors.... but how about a 1/32nd scale IAR-81C from Special Hobby!



For years and years, we have no kits at all of an interesting, if rather forgotten Romanian type; and now we have it in multiple scales!

MOVING RIGHT ALONGI'll take it as a challenge when the regular Sprue Examiner feature **Fred's Fun Facts** credits me with having inspired the Sprue Examiner editor to mention some March 16th events. Of the ones he lists, some I admit having no knowledge whatever, for example **that date being National Artichoke Hearts Day**.* Of course, a fewDr. Robert Goddard's first liquid fuel rocket, for example ... I DID know aboutbut couldn't have provided the date.

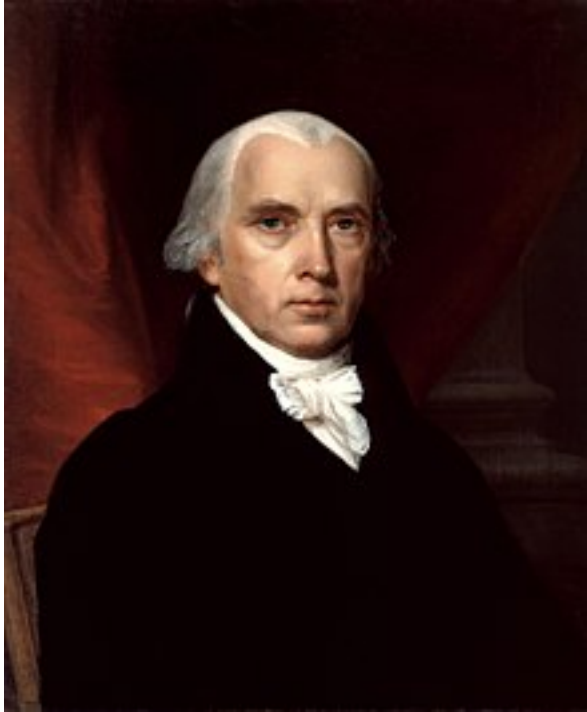
ALSO, while I freely admit to having been in Vietnam on March 16th 1968, I categorically state that *I had nothing to do with the Mỹ Lai Massacre.*

However, left UN-mentioned are other important **March 16th** events, like the birthday of comic Jerry Lewis. He turns NINETY on this date...



If you're as old as I am, for me the names **Dean Martin** and **Jerry Lewis** will forever together, and this is how I'll remember them....

..... but perhaps much more important, the March 16th birthday of **James Madison**



...who beyond being our fourth president, is honored as a principal author of our **Constitution** and its first ten amendments, the **Bill of Rights**: a TRUE “Founding Father”. If it were not for “little” James Madison (he was only 5’ 4”!) and the system of checks and balances that he wrote into these documents, preventing any one branch of government from squeezing out the others; we might not have a country today to celebrate! <http://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/james-madison>

MOVING RIGHT ALONG, againif you’re crying because you just dropped a teeny-tiny piece of Photo Etch onto the shag carpet on that almost-finished sure Nationals winner, and no need a real belly laugh; be sure to check out Rick Cotton’s “Display Dilemmas”. In it he describes his personal odyssey in claiming a modest amount of space to display his masterpieces from SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG, again, againthere is a nice report on San Antonio’s recent Model Fiesta 36 (wow, 36 years in a row!) with lots of pictures. One of them was a model that set me off on a new

tangent, for it was the the most famous 1959 Cadillac ambulance/
hearse in the world, the famed “Ecto 1” of Ghost Busters. (To set the
mood, you can play the famous theme here while you continue to
read about this famous vee-hickle... [https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=m9We2XsVZfc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m9We2XsVZfc))



First, instead of a picture of the model, the REAL THING above,; and a
link to the story line of the vehicle: [http://ghostbusters.wikia.com/
wiki/Ecto-1](http://ghostbusters.wikia.com/wiki/Ecto-1)

Next, the REAL story line of REAL vehicle, and what happened to it...
<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/ecto-604573-car-vehicle.html>



....and the later version, above

<http://jalopnik.com/a-close-look-at-the-new-ghostbusters-ecto-1-car-and-som-1762475586>

I'm on a rollrecently a mention was made of Tom Mix, an early "cowboy" movie star who was an undeniable "character": seen below in the car in which he died.



Foster Rash, who wrote the article in the Orange County chapter newsletter, has provided the following additional information about this man who really WAS “...larger than life”.

- Mix claimed to have ridden with Mexican revolutionary Pancho Villa. Novelist Clifford Irving’s book *Tom Mix and Pancho Villa* is a fictionalized account of the relationship and an interesting read.
- In his later years, Wyatt Earp lived in LA and liked to hang out at the movie lots and tell stories of his days in the wild west. Mix hired him as a “consultant.” Mix was a pall bearer at Wyatt’s funeral (1929).
- The movie *Sunset* (1988) stars Bruce Willis as Mix and James Garner as Earp, who team up to solve a murder. Total BS but an entertaining buddy movie if you enjoy Willis and Garner.

- Mix was a USC football fan and as a favor to the USC coach, hired a player named Marion Morrison as a prop boy and extra. Morrison later changed his screen name to **John Wayne**.

...and againDan Thompson of the Huntsville (Alabama) chapter emailed, noting that a week or so ago, I'd admired Al Saubermann's model of the USS Peacock, and sent me his pictures of his own HMS Gorgon, a Royal Navy "fifth rate" warship active during the French Revolutionary period and the first of five Royal Navy ships to bear the name over a nearly two hundred year period. (The Brits did come up with some interesting names: the name was from Greek mythology, of a female visage so ugly that a glance would turn anyone to stone.) Check out Dan's neat model (and photography!) at this link.... https://get.google.com/albumarchive/116637781725296267499/album/AF1QipNIB8rIPjEUYvS67peo0vL_3jbYBEHcC_slhhGJ

...finally(no cheering, please) going back to the Marietta chapter newsletter and its picture of the "Long Range Desert Group" Canadian Chevy 30 CWT. Comment came from Pete Mossong "down under" in New Zealand: but not about the trucks, rather about the men and their uniform items! Pete commented that " the 'Lemon Squeezer' hats and New Zealand shoulder tabs were of the Kiwis who **manned 80% of the original LRDG.**"



Wow! EIGHTY percent were Kiwi! And the Brits got all huffy and took the mid 1960's American "The Rat Patrol" TV show (below) from their TV; for having made Americans as the main characters, instead of Brits!



We then took a different tack on our email exchange, with my question "...what's a lemon squeezer hat?"



First, a lemon squeezer.

You don't see many of them any more. But as can be seen a Lemon Squeezer **Hat** (also called a Campaign Hat); a "...broad-brimmed felt or straw hat, with a high crown, pinched symmetrically at the four corners (also called the "Montana crease")", got its name from a long-ago standard kitchen tool!



Peter added in further emails that *The hat is very similar to that worn by the US Marine Corps, and the Canadian Mounted Police. The Kiwi Lemon Squeezer hat use dates back to before WWI (probably to the 2nd Boer War), and is still used by the NZ Army today for ceremonial occasions.*

The different branches of service were distinguished by coloured puggarees or wide bands around the base of the crown (blue and red for artillery, khaki and red for infantry, black for engineers etc). The "lemon squeezer" was worn to a certain extent during World War II, although often replaced by more convenient forage caps or berets. After being in abeyance since the 1950s, the "lemon squeezer" has recently been reintroduced for parade dress where it is usually worn with a version of the khaki "no 2" service dress of the British Army. Officer cadets and some bands wear this headdress with a scarlet and blue full dress uniform.

Thanks, Peterand now, having added immensely to your store of useless information, I think I'll quit.....



IPMS 6390

* Note: it's National Artichoke HEARTS Day, not National Artichoke Day.