

IT'S ONLY A NEWSLETTER

IPMS Marietta Scale Modelers

June 2019

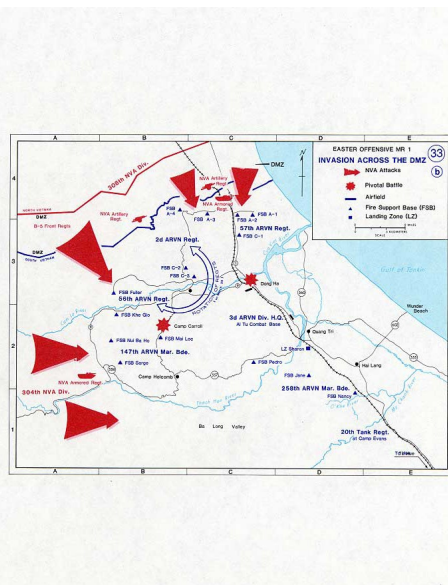
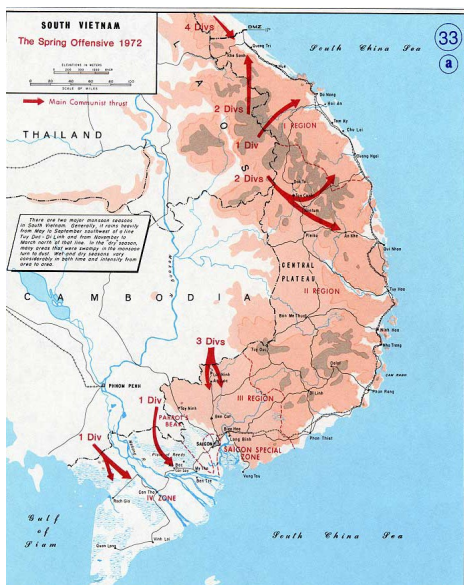
QUIZ FOR JUNE

1. On June 30, 1972, GEN John Weyand took over command of the US Forces in Vietnam from an commander who had famously led a tank battalion in Patton's Third Army during WW2. Who was he?
2. What famous carrier-borne aircraft first flew on June 26, 1942?
3. What event began on June 4, 1916, which would eventually cause the Russian Empire to sue for peace and cause the fall of the Czar in 1918?

IPMS Marietta Scale Modelers

*Meet every 2nd Saturday of the month at Hobbytown USA in Kennesaw, GA
 840 Ernest W Barrett Pkwy NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144*

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South Vietnam 1972

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MAY MEETING NOTES

Charles Davenport

While Rob was off galivanting with the armor crowd, the rest of us enjoyed the raucous MSM crowd. In fact, our fearless leader, Martin, who really must be fearless, called the cacophonous assemblage to order with a curt shout for everyone to settle down. Really, we have a great crew who enjoy each others' company because Martin is always having to remind us to keep the side chatter down in order to pay attention to the member giving his show n tell talk. We were all shocked to see the photo of Mark Grzenia's incredible car crash! How he survived that only he can tell. We all hope to see him very soon!

In Rob's absence, Chuck took over photo duties for the meeting. You can follow the action with his captioned photos. And, as a special tribute to our Model of the Month builder, Doug Shearer, enjoy the photos of his remarkable Ho-229 diorama.



Dave Michener paid some loving attention to this Minicraft, 1/144 MD-80 using a variety of Testors/Tamiya paints and Bare Metal Foil to achieve this sterling finish!



This Caterpillar is based on Tamiya's Komatsu Dozer which was itself a knock-off of a Caterpillar '30s dozer. Mark converted the kit to a cable-operated power take-off and chain hoist for the blade.



Mark Nickelson brought an interesting collection of vehicles and equipment in 1/48 scale. Shown here is a Harlan tug & towbar by "Something" (Mark's words). Not shown is the David Brown Airfield Tractor by Accurate Armor, and the True Details USAF Electrical Power Unit. Mark used Model Master paints to finish the models.



Among the cool collection of tractors Mark Nickelson had this Hanomag SS-10 which eventually saw service in the V2 rocket terror campaign.



Joe Driver is working on Hasegawa's 1/48 P-40N. He cited his special technique of "sneezing on" the model. You'll note the tremendous level of detail in the empennage. Joe also notes that this airplane flew in a war. His propensity for historical understatement leaves one gasping for breath.



There is a certain, je ne sais quoi, about Joe Driver's latest piece. I'm not sure if it's the NOSE art or what.



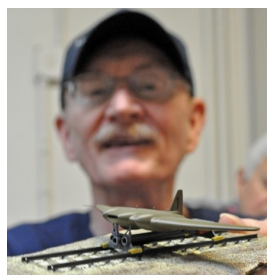
McLean is scratchbuilding the interior details of his Kittyhawk A4-1.



McLean Gilbert is working on this Kittyhawk 1/48 A4-1.



Mike Idacavage brought in this mitre cutter which he described as a very capable cutting machine. You can get one from lastcavalry.com for \$110 (Yowza!).



Tirelessly creative and ever ebullient Mike Idacavage brought this Newman's Models 1/72 scale JB-1A Thunderbug, the first jet-powered cruise missile (not to be confused with Germany's V-1 which was pulse-jet powered). As with ALL of Mike's creations you can expect to see scratchbuilt add-ons and the Thunderbug is no exception to the rule. He scratchbuilt the launch sled & base. He also added lift rings, jet exhaust and a pitot tube.

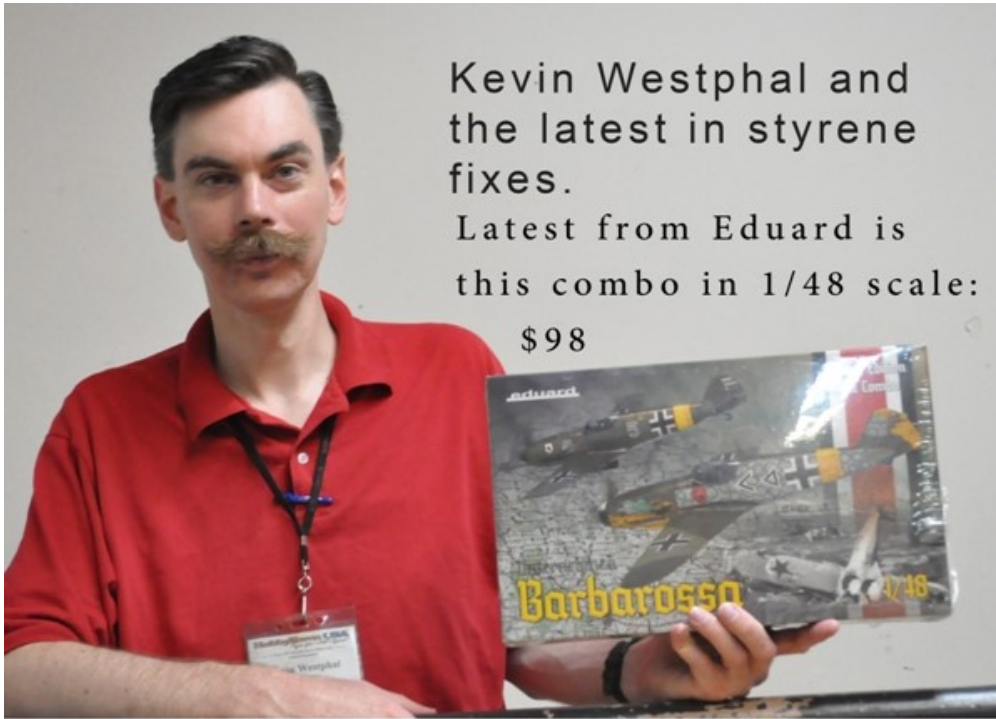


Mike Idacavage is also building a vintage Revell kit of the Talos missile. This '58 kit is in 1/40 scale. Mike has had lots of parts cleanup to do and even corrected the tail fin shape. He intends to depict a White Sands launch vehicle. He also noted that the Talos scored 4 MiG kills in Vietnam.



FNG Mike Kramer likes subs & other stuff!





Kevin Westphal and the latest in styrene fixes.

Latest from Eduard is this combo in 1/48 scale:

\$98

Gecko Models: Cruiser Tank Mk IIA CS, A10 Mk I, A10 Mk I, an early prewar version in 1/35 scale for \$70



WWII British MG team \$27

Other goodies from Kevin & Hobbytown USA:

Tamiya Marder III, an updated new mold \$44



Tamiya M10 IIC Achilles

\$44



Squadron/Signal books

\$20 each

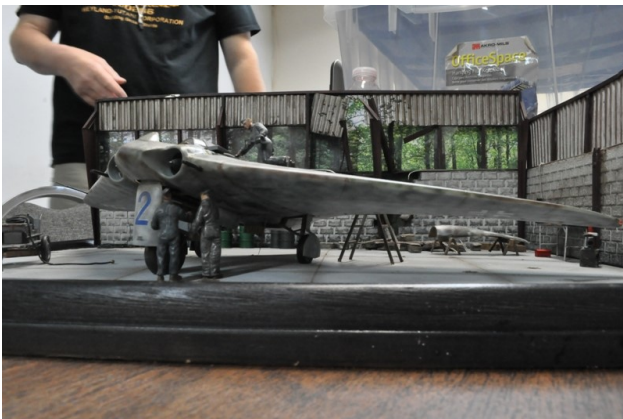


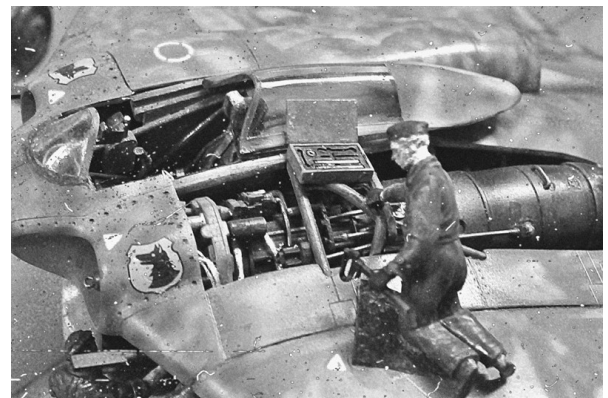
There is no doubt that MSM is home to an ever-increasing number of skilled modelers. With his latest mini-masterpiece, we thought it might be fun to show off some of the photos that were taken at the May club meeting of his Ho-229 diorama. Doug points out that very few of these aircraft were actually completed and none ever saw combat, but the sheer audacity of the design leaves modelers a world of opportunity for individual creativity.

And, Doug took his shot. Just take a moment to really look at the upper wing camouflage. In his youth, Doug was a gear head and car painter. He shrunk some of his creative impetuosity and put it on the upper wing.

Our resident photo-bug, Chuck Davenport, gave a go at creating some “vintage” shots of Doug’s model!

Congrats to you, Doug Shearer, for May’s Model of the Month!





Smithsonian's Ho-229 under restoration

ONE DAY IN A LITTLE TOWN CALLED AN LOC

Maj. Charles T. Davenport, USAF, (Ret)

Military folks generally disparage the term “hero” when it is applied to them. For military professionals “heroism” is nothing more than doing what you were trained to do in, sometimes, extraordinary circumstances. The heroes are the ones who never made it home outside of a body bag.

So, this photo essay finds its source in the extraordinary circumstances that transpired outside the little town of An Loc by a platoon of Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Rangers, on a hot, humid, reviled day during the eponymous battle that raged from April 13 to July 20, 1972. Your author spent those days in casual pursuit of the female persuasion in college, neglecting his studies, while Sergeant Henry E. Shelnett, better known as, “Ed,” to his friends, fought for his and the lives of his men in a lop-sided battle that saw the first ever deployment of massed armor by the north Vietnamese Army (nVA). (The reader may wonder why this author dropped the capitalization of the letter “n.” It is out of a habit he learned during his tour in South Korea where anything related to the north was not capitalized. It was a “thang” and old habits die hard.)

In the opening scene of the movie, “Platoon,” “Chris”, portrayed by actor Charlie Sheen, through whose eyes we are witness to events, deplanes and is met with the filth and horror of the war. What is missing, as Command Sergeant Major Henry Edward “Ed” Shelnett, USA (Retired) explained some 45 years later, were the oppressive smell and the plumes of smoke on the near horizon. Those plumes of smoke were not those of battle but, rather, from the sooty effusion of latrines burning-off “residue”. Vietnam got worse from there.

My intent here is not to recount the battle but to highlight a little known piece of machinery that found an ARVN Ranger platoon fighting for its life and losing too many of its souls in the fight against nVA forces during that savage spring and summer.

The Chinese Type 63/65 SPAAG (self-propelled anti-aircraft gun) is likely one of the most unusual armored vehicles fielded by any nation simply because of its parentage. First, it was not manufactured by the Chinese. In fact, there is no record of this type of vehicle having ever been produced there. The Russians did not manufacture it either. Rather, all the available information supports the idea that the vehicle was cobbled together and fielded by the north Vietnamese themselves using a Russian T-34/85 chassis and a Chinese Type 65, twin 37mm anti-aircraft cannon, itself a Chinese development of the Soviet K-61 single 37mm AAG. There is also the possibility that this was the only example of this type “manufactured.” Owing to its manual traverse, it was only effective against helicopters and other slow-flying aircraft. But, the nVA quickly learned that it was devastating against personnel on the ground. The only example that exists outside of Vietnam, if indeed there are any left at all, is the one disabled by Ed’s ARVN Ranger platoon!

In order to “take out” the SPAAG, Ed’s unit used a variety of weapons. When I first photographed the real thing at the Army’s Air Defense Artillery Museum at Ft Sill, OK, I was struck with the “crudity” (my word invention) of its construction and the fact that the gun cupola was cocked at an odd angle. I called Ed back in Georgia and asked if he knew why the cupola was cocked at such an odd angle. He said, “Well, Chuck, that’s what happens when you throw a satchel charge in there.” Ed also explained that he had to call in air strikes on the Soviet-styled nVA armored column in order to keep from being overrun. Obviously something “bad” happened to the SPAAG because the gun mount is “bent.” You can see it in the photos I took.

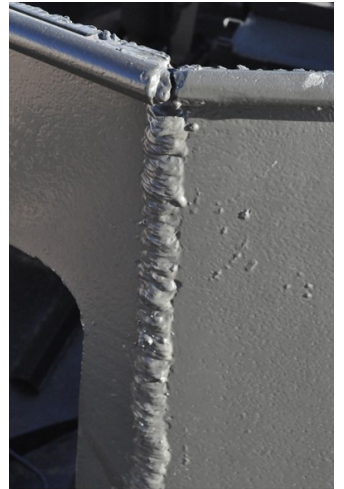
And, therein lies the reason you are reading about this at all; I thought, “how cool would it be to build a model of “Ed’s tank?” When I started looking for models that I could detail I found one cheesy 1/72 scale model with guns that were little more than blobs of plastic. I also purchased the UM 37mm AAG in 1/48 scale, nicely detailed, but only a single gun. Nothing, nada, nicht, ne rien...in 1/35 scale. Therefore, I decided to design and 3D print this one-of-a-kind vehicle. As I write this article, I have just recently returned from Ft Sill for a second trip to measure and photograph the vehicle in detail for 3D design. Being serious about design, I have over 500 measured and detail photographs upon which to base my design.



The gun mount is clearly bent at the base! Maybe someone dropped the tank on its head...maybe?



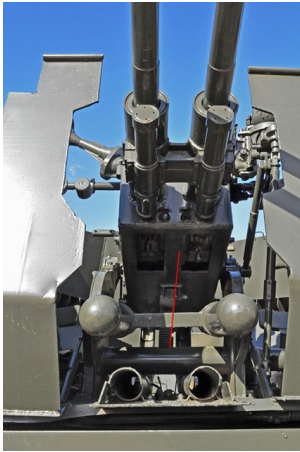
A simple expanding ruler gives me the numbers I need to replicate this part... whatever it might be. A vernier caliper will give me diameters.



nVA construction is characterized by ugly welds and jagged, flame-cut steel.



An ungainly looking combat veteran, the nVA Type 65 SPAAG is possibly the only one of its type ever made.



Cupola traverse, target sighting, and shooting was a two-man job.



That big black rectangular cutout in the chassis is flame-cut and unfinished! That was the ammo reload point.



If that's not cockeyed, I don't know what is! Amazing what a satchel charge can do.



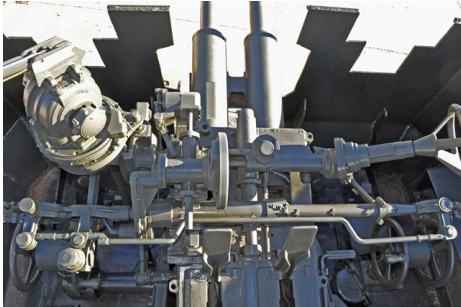
Not surprisingly, the interior is trashed, but the engine and final drive are still there. It must have been like hell for the interior crew: the engine, fumes, noise, and the heat and humidity of Vietnam.



Chuck tames the beast! Easy to do when it's nice and sunny and no one's shooting at you!



The complexity of the sighting equipment is going to make for an interesting 3D design process.



From above, the sighting gear represents a complex piece of engineering. There is no evidence of gun stabilization. It was purely a mechanical monster!



Ed's tank not long after its capture and before she was repainted at Aberdeen. Han Quan translates to "Kept safe". LS72/DB72K is likely an ARVN unit designator. No idea what SDNB stands for.

image courtesy: Jon Bernstein, Curator, USA, ADA Museum



No translation for the graffiti. When Ed's unit put the tank out of commission, his ARVN Rangers claimed the nVA graffiti was not nice. Whether or not this is the original nVA graffiti is unknown. That lamp remains exactly today as it was then. The cupola is rotated in the ammo loading position.

image courtesy: Jon Bernstein, Curator, USA ADA Museum



To replenish ammo from the interior of the tank, the crew would rotate the cupola to line the ammo loading hatch with the cutout in the tank chassis. The traverse lock prevented the cupola from rotating during ammo reloads. The traverse lock aligns (one assumes) with a hole drilled into the front left of the chassis.



The nVA Type 65 SPAAG during her sojourn at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Nowadays, inquisitive enthusiasts can find her languishing outside behind the Army's ADA Museum. Soon, she'll be moved inside the Army's new ADA Museum.



This perspective composite gives you the false impression that there is plenty of room in this beast. Nothing could be further from the truth! You need either to be an elite nVA soldier or a contentment to get in or move around. I spent two days in there with an iPad Pro, camera, slush pad, and an assortment of measuring tools. It was a CHALLENGE!

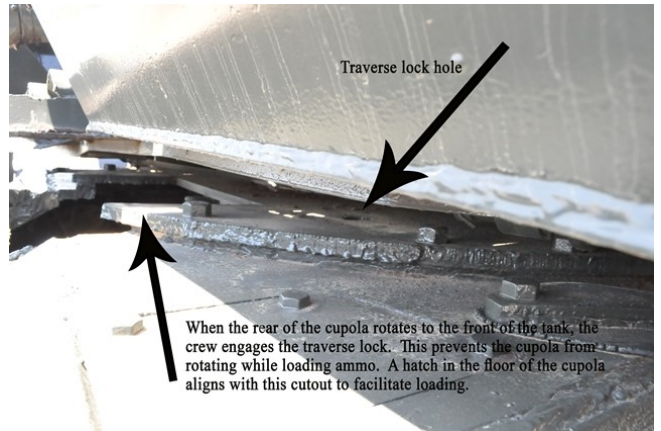


Definitely "Made in China," even before it became a "thang."



nVA Type 65 @ Ft Sill, OK

photo courtesy: Jon Bernstein, Curator, USA ADA Museum



When the rear of the cupola rotates to the front of the tank, the crew engages the traverse lock. This prevents the cupola from rotating while loading ammo. A hatch in the floor of the cupola aligns with this cutout to facilitate loading.

PANTHER II

Rob Morales

On the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, The National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA, held a special display at it's World War II Company Street area. Included were several World War II-vintage military vehicles, courtesy of the U.S. Army Armor & Cavalry Collection at Ft. Benning. U.S. equipment included the M3 Halftrack, an M-8 Greyhound armored car, a jeep, a M3 37mm anti-tank gun and a M4A3E8 (76) Sherman tank. Also present were a Kubelwagen, a Pak 40 75mm anti-tank gun, and the sole existing Panther II chassis.

The Panther II was a development of the Panzer V Panther, featuring upgraded armor and powerplant. It was also to be fitted with a newly designed more compact turret. The surviving hull example was captured by U.S forces in Germany at the end of WW2 and shipped back to the USA for testing. The Patton Museum at Ft. Knox acquired it in the 1970s after it spent most of the previous time at APG. The author recalls seeing this vehicle many times during his service time at Ft Knox. When the Armor School was relocated to Ft. Benning, this vehicle was shipped down and will eventually be displayed in the planned new Armor and Cavalry Museum at Ft. Benning.

The turret on the vehicle is a Panther G type turret, added sometime after the vehicle was shipped over to the USA.

A kind thank you to Rob Cogan, Dave Hobbs and the other staff of the U.S. Army Armor & Cavalry Collection for arranging for the special display.





IPMS/USA is the United States Branch of the International Plastic Modelers' Society, whose roots can be traced to the startup of the first IPMS National Branch during the 1960's in Great Britain. In 1964 a US-based modeler applied for a charter to start the US Branch. In the ensuing 4 decades, IPMS/USA has become a 5,000 member, all-volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the modeling hobby while providing a venue for modelers to share their skills in a social setting, along with friendly but spirited competition in the form of local, regional, and national contests and conventions. As this is written, there are over 220 active US chapters (including groups in Canada and the Philippines as well as one "cyber-chapter" existing entirely on the internet). These chapters are organized into 13 geographically-determined Regions, overseen by Regional Coordinators. The IPMS/USA Executive Board, made up of elected and appointed members, serves as the overall governing body for IPMS/USA.

IPMS/USA produces the Modelers' Journal, an all-color magazine supplied to our members 6 times each year. Sample copies of the Journal are available upon request, and you'll find several cover shots elsewhere in this handout.

In addition, IPMS/USA maintains one of the largest and most-visited public websites in the modeling community (www.ipmsusa.org). Members and visitors can view product reviews, chapter and contest information, see examples of members' work, and view images of contest, museum walkarounds, and the like. A members-only Forum allows discussion of specific topics of interest amongst our membership. The remainder of the website is open to the modeling public and sees thousands of hits weekly.

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QUIZ ANSWERS FOR JUNE

1. The commander was GEN Creighton Abrams. Abrams had commanded the 37th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division during WW2, and succeeded GEN William Westmoreland in Vietnam in July, 1968. Abrams was later immortalized by the Army when it christened its M-1 Main Battle Tank after the legendary tank leader.
2. The Grumman F6F Hellcat. Hellcats were credited with destroying a total of 5,223 enemy aircraft while in service with the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm. This was more than any other Allied naval aircraft. Postwar, the Hellcat was phased out of front-line service, but remained in service as late as 1954 as a night fighter.
3. The Brusilov Offensive, Russia launched a massive offensive created by General Aleksei Brusilov to break through Austro-Hungarian lines in Galicia (now Ukraine) and relieve pressure for the Allies on the Western Front and the Isonzo Front in northern Italy. The Brusilov offensive commanded by Brusilov himself went very well, but the overall campaign, for which Brusilov's part was only supposed to be a distraction, because of Evert's failures, became tremendously costly for the Imperial army, and after the offensive, it was no longer able to launch another on the same scale. Many historians contend that the casualties that the Russian army suffered in this campaign contributed significantly to its collapse the following year.

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