



**AMPS**  
The Armor Modeling and Preservation Society

# Sabot Away!

## Special points of interest:

- Next AABS club meeting to be held August 07, 2002 at 7:00 PM.
- Highlights from July 2002 Club meeting.
- Book Review: Death Traps — Review by Dave Bourland
- Display Cases by Dave Bourland

## Inside this issue:

What's Up!	1
Next Meeting	1
Upcoming Club Events	2
Highlights from July	2
Book Review	3
Display Cases	4
Vendors	5
New Kits / Future	5
For Sale / Want Ads	5
Combat / War Movie	6
For Sale, Trade, Wanted	6
Links of Interest	6

August 2002 Issue

August 3, 2002

## What's Up!

August is here and we are starting off a New Year at the Yarborough Branch library. I confirmed our new schedule today and we still have the first Wednesday of the month. We will have this slot through July of 2003.

After checking out the latest Military Miniature in Review there are some really neat kits coming out on the horizon. I am looking forward to several of these beauties. I am also looking forward to getting back into the swing of things. I truly miss the club and my fellow Treadheads!

The Styrene Blues in the key of FLAT...

There comes a time at least in my life when you just can't seem to finish a project. I have not had the building bug bite and take hold. I have started so many projects coming so close to finishing and then here comes

another kit. I can contribute the majority of my problem in out doing my last project. I become so involved in detail that I loose sight of what I initially started out to build.

I have tried to build something box stock and find myself thinning here and putting rivets there, adding those wire grab handles and finding some MV lenses for those lifeless headlight buckets. Box stock goes straight out the window.

I have cleared my workbench so many times so I can concentrate on the project before me but to no avail. I have now completely cleared my desk of all tools, paints and projects. It is a vast wasteland of nothingdom. Let's see what happens,

I will keep you updated. Maybe I need to build something not related to my love of armor and figures. **DJones**

## Next Meeting

Our next club meeting will be August 07, 2002 at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the City of Austin Yarborough Public Library. Street address is: 2200 Hancock Drive, Austin, Texas 78756. Telephone number is 512-454-7208.

Bob Bethea will present "Optical Illusions - Camouflage in 1/35 Scale". Here is an op-

portunity to learn camouflage techniques from Bob.

Also, the meeting will be a "On the Workbench" session to prep for the ASMS contests.

We are looking for people to demonstrate at future meetings the following:

- Transporting your models

- Ground work for displays
- Buildings for Dioramas
- Adhesives - Different glues for different materials and the best way to apply them, etc.
- Roughing it - Making armor look like cast / rolled metal.

## Upcoming Club Events

Here are a list of activities schedule for future AABS club meetings:

### September 2002

- Club Activity - Gadgets Galore - Bring your favorite tool(s), homemade or store bought.

### October 2002

- Open
- On the Workbench - Session to prep for November club contest.

### November 2002

- Club Activity - The contest.

### December 2002

- Open

Annual Schultz's Beer Garden Party (December - TBD)

Please contact Ted Paone (Program Coordinator) if you wish to present or have an idea about a topic presentation you would like to present or see.



Russ Holm demonstrating his panel fading technique at the July 2002 club meeting.

## Highlights from the July 2002 meeting



Dave Bourland showing a model display case in his presentation on how to display your models.



Bob Bethea's 1/35th scale French Renault AMR-33 VT



Flakpanzer 38(t)

*" Thank you Russ Holm and Dave Bourland for your excellent presentations "*



Dave Edgerly observing Russ Holm during Russ's panel fading demonstration.



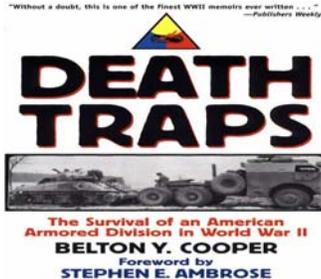
Russ Holm's HiPM German Sdkfz 131 (6 Rad) Armored Car



German Figures with a destroyed Soviet Tank.

## Book Review

Review by Dave Bourland



### Death Traps The Survival of an American Armored Division in World War II by Belton Y. Cooper

Belton Cooper was an officer of the maintenance section of the 3rd Armored division from Normandy to the end of the war. His duties varied widely, from overseeing the refitting of Shermans as they arrived in England, making replacement tanks combat ready, brief indoctrination given to new crews, and maintenance of all equipment of the 3rd Armored division.

A great part of his time was spent in a jeep carrying combat reports, replacement requests, and other coordinating activities between the forward and rear elements of the division. At times he would have to cover great distances of territory that was, although passed through by forward elements might still be far from secure.

I first became interested in Coopers book when Stephen Ambrose quoted from him. He used one of his technical summaries in a point counter point about German vs. American Armor. The information was used in a very positive light but when I saw Cooper's title in the footnote I figured their was 'more to the story.'

The central theme of Coopers book is that while the American Army was talented and powerful it was handicapped and paid a great price for the weaknesses of the Sherman tank. He maintains that steps could have and

should have been taken to bring US armored branch to par with the rest of the army. Cooper makes these points, supports them and calls attention to planks in that argument as he chronologically take you across Europe. He emphasizes the points but he doesn't beat them like a dead horse; it is throughout the story but not the story on whole.

Cooper covers several themes, a number not well covered previously. Here is a quick skimming of those topics with page number references for your research.

**Getting combat ready.** Vehicles, particularly Shermans were shipped one way, refitted in England [pg 25], refitted again at division and finally handed over to a new crew who would continually refit and rearrange all the equipment. Super detailers must remember that the tech manual may be right, but only right for a short part of the lifetime of that equipment.

**Vehicle wear and maintenance schedules.** He covers how often Sherman spark plugs need to be replaced, why armored car tires get shredded rather than flat, how long American and German tank treads last. The Logistical needs and shopping lists of divisions on the move [pg 88]. How quickly and why 105 mm howitzers wear out [pg 204] long before their builders thought they would. Turns out they could fire much faster, producing greater wear, than allotted for by planners.

**Hedgehog cutters in preparation for the assault on St. Lo.** Cooper's unit modified many of the divisions tanks after trails on the beach. He describes the tests, the process, materials used, and how it took them per tank. We all know the cowl is a great example of Yankee ingenuity. Odd that the cutter only made it's appearance at the very end of the campaign, yet is so identified with that period of combat. Perhaps it is an example of good'ol Yankee PR too.

**After action reports.** He covers a number of aspects of Tank recovery. In combat, [ pg 80 ] from minefields [ pg

153 ], ratios of damaged tanks to recovered [pg 259]. Sometime he will cover details as complete as what type of ordinance hit what machines where. He gives examples of both German guns on US tanks and US guns on German tanks.

He covers three important aspects of the Perishing. The trails and debate of which tank to emphasize in production [pg 25-28]. The facts in support of each, who was on what side for what reasons. Descriptions of the limited combat reports of the divisions Perishing. Last the making the Super Perishing [pg 230]. It was Cooper himself that made those modifications. He was chosen due to his background in Naval architecture. He could not only add the armor but balance it out to preserve the mobility and turning ability of the turret. He describes the Escrap<sup>1</sup> that was scavenged for the extra armor, how much weight it added and what and how it was counterbalanced.

I highly recommend this book for your library. You get a lot of nuts and bolts data in a very readable format. Cooper was a witness to a lot of important and usual events. He has covered a lot of material not commonly covered and covered all material common and not very well.

## Display Cases

### By Dave Bourland

Many of us feel a model is naked until it has liberal additions of photo etch. I feel that way about a display case. In my head a model should be displayed in a manner that reflects the love, effort and care with which it was built. Too often I see wonderful creations left on a shelf to gather dust looking like an orphaned child. Many of us have seen articles and even local demonstrations on how to build your own displays cases. This is certainly a practical and attraction option. However I wanted to find more options.

Specifically I looked for:

- Stackable (About 10\$ per unit)
- Easily purchased or made in quantity
- Standard sizes [ Increasing the likelihood of being able to match or purchase in the future ]
- Variety of sizes and styles

I started a search for pre-made cases used in other hobbies and industries.

Fish Tanks. They can be inexpensive, found in quantity, and a variety of sizes, but overall they fail as an a good option. They are usually too tall and too narrow and use poor quality glass.

I did find Betta Fish cases that are great for single figures in scales up to about 1/16th. They come in a limited variety, run about 3 to 4 \$ and are found at all Pet Stores.

Kritter Keepers. These are clear acrylic cases for turtles, lizards, snakes etc. They come in a great variety of sizes. Clarity is not the best and often have some part of the mold that is not a good fit for

our uses. Usually they have a colorful top lid that would look more appropriate display a Barbie rather than a Brumbar.

Sports and Action Figures display cases. These are great. They are made in standard sizes, by a great number of companies and can usually be found at discount for larger quantities via mail-order. Be aware most of these sites do not give dimensions rather they describe as case as for action figures, baseballs, hockey pucks, etc.

Cereal box and Action figures by Ball Qube. Ideal for 1/700th waterline ships. Ball Qube sold locally at Container Store and Rooster Andrews. Expensive locally [ 16\$ ] as little as 11\$ in quantity via mail-order.

Ball Qube makes a football display cases but it is not suited to models due to the cylindrical mounts on the sides. I have found Ball Qube products at, <http://www.basehit.com/>, <http://www.cardboardgold.com/>, and their own site, <http://www.ballqube.com/>.

The best products I found for 1/35th scale displays are made by Protech. <http://www.gotoprotech.com/> They make three great products for our uses:

- They make a baseball stand that is like the base of a column, great for elevating a figure, aircraft or anything you want to show off the bottom.
- An Action figures case that is the right size for soft skins and small armor.
- An Economical Football case. Costs as little as 10\$ in quantity. Can hold a DML Rail way base, a Tiger II with Turret angled and even a MAUS with Turret angled.

They also make mini helmet hold-

ers, 3 mini helmet holders, and 6 mini helmet holders. Unfortunately they don't yet make them in their economical format.

***“In my head a model should be displayed in a manner that reflects the love, effort and care with which it was built.”***

**Dave and a display case.**



## Support these Vendors

**King's Hobby Shop**  
8810 N. Lamar  
Austin, TX 78753  
512-836-7388

**Archer Fine Transfers**  
1205 Silvershine Way  
Knightdale, NC 27545  
919-266-4181

**VLS/Warriors**  
1011 Industrial Court  
Moscow Mills, MO 63362  
636-356-4888

**Tamiya America**  
2 Orion  
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656-4200  
949-362-2240

**RHPS Models**  
PO BOX 906  
Massillon, Ohio 44648  
330-837-1031

**RZM Imports Inc.**  
PO Box 995  
Southbury, CT 06488

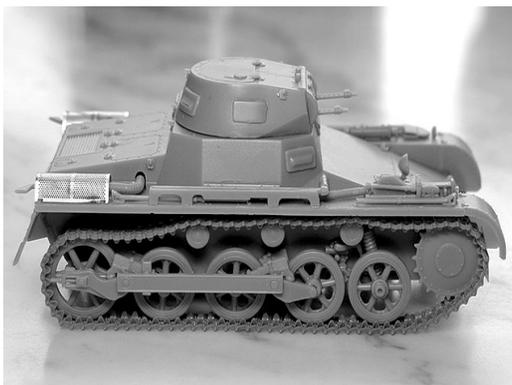
**The Tank Workshop**  
6110 W. Solano Drive S.  
Glendale, AZ 85301  
636-915-3862

**CRM Hobbies**  
3326 Watson Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63139  
314-645-1117

## New Kits - Future Releases



An all new 1/35<sup>th</sup> kit of the Panzer I A. Designed by Yoshikatsu Tomioka with 2 figures sculpted by Yoshitaka Hirano. This highly detailed kit features working individual track links and photo etched parts.



**“We need  
volunteers to  
contribute  
How-To  
articles, Kit  
Reviews, Book  
Reviews, etc...”**

## Combat/War movie results

Currently, we only have two members who put in their favorite combat / war movies. Here are the results:

- Band of Brothers (2)
- Saving Private Ryan (2)
- A Bridge Too Far (1)
- Where Eagles Dare (1)
- The Longest Day (1)
- Kelly's Heroes (1)

- Battleground (1)
- Sands of Iwo Jima (1)

Please send your top five favorite Combat / War movies to Don Jones at [djmaus14@aol.com](mailto:djmaus14@aol.com).

Currently there is a tie for first place.

### Band of Brothers



### Saving Private Ryan



## For Sale / Trade / Wanted

This space is available. Please contact Don Jones if you would like to put something on the board.

## Links of Interest



[Http://www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)



[Http://www.track-link.net](http://www.track-link.net)



[Http://www.missing-lynx.com](http://www.missing-lynx.com)

Austin Armor Builders Society

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

# National Museum of the Pacific War

Fredericksburg, Texas

PRESENTS

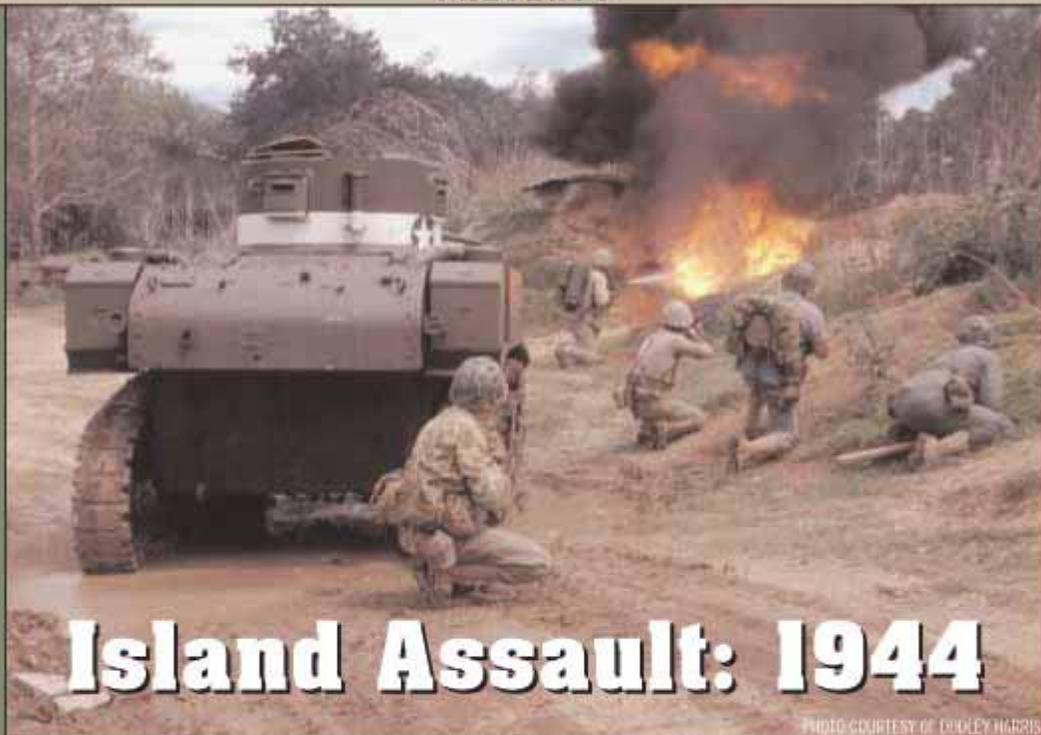


PHOTO COURTESY OF DODDLEY HARRIS

## Island Assault: 1944

**DEMONSTRATIONS BEGIN AT:**  
**10:30 AM 12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM**

- See demonstrations of the only operational World War II flamethrower in Texas.
- Experience a combined arms attack on a Japanese pillbox.
- Follow authentically dressed and equipped World War II soldiers on a tour of a Pacific War battlefield.
- Get an up-close and personal look at some of the most famous vehicles and weapons of World War II – including a Stuart tank, halftrack, TBM torpedo bomber, VAL dive bomber, and much, much more!

FREE with purchase of regular museum admission.

Without museum admission: \$2 – adults, \$1 – students.  
Regular museum admission: \$5 – adults, \$3 – students, 5 and under are free.

The PACIFIC COMBAT ZONE is located a block and a half east of the main museum complex. Parking is available along the street.

**SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY**

**March 9-10  
May 25-26  
July 6-7**

**SAT., SUN.  
& MONDAY**

**August 31 –  
September 2**  
(no 4:00 show on Mon.)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE MUSEUM AT (830) 997-4379**

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