



# Sabot Away!



## Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

July 2015  
Volume 19, Issue 7



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## Hex Turret T-34

By Greg "Gregovich" Beckman

**A**bout six or seven months ago, a couple pictures of a very early Hex Turret T-34 surfaced on the

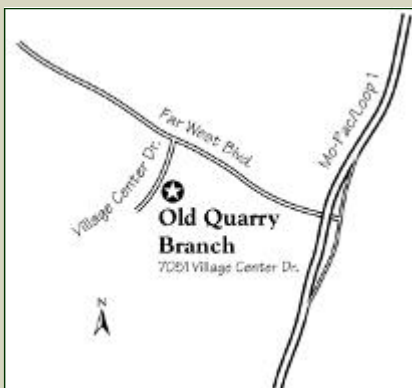
Web. This caused a stir of Internet conversations and digging for more photos. Another five or six pictures of a specific tank captured by the Finns was found and posted on various T-34 interest groups on Facebook, etc. I, like

*(Continued on page 4)*

Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

**July 1, 2015**

Annual dues for full membership are USD \$12 to be collected at each January meeting. Upon receipt of payment, a membership card will be issued. This card is valid for one year, and it entitles holder to discounts at various local hobby shops in the Central Texas and San Antonio areas.



**Sabot Away!** is the official newsletter of AABS and is published twelve times a year on/before each monthly meeting. Any inquiry on subscription issues or assistance on article contribution please contact editor Eric Choy via email [aabsco@gmail.com](mailto:aabsco@gmail.com).

The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of AABS.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ♦ July 1 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ July 22 to 25 - IPMS/USA Nationals Hyatt Regency Columbus, Columbus, OH
- ♦ August 5 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ September 2 - AABS Club Meeting
- ♦ September 12 - SuperCon 2015 Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park, Arlington, TX
- ♦ September 26 - AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo 2015 Georgetown Community Center, Georgetown, TX



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## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January, 2015	Tom Pachalos	Tom Pachalos
February	Tom Pachalos	Dave Bourland
March	Eric Choy	Eric Choy
April	TBA	Milton Bell
May	Jake McKee	Jake McKee
June	Dave Bourland	Aaron Smischney
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Ted Andreas, Jr.
August	John Talley	Rick Herrington
September	AMPS Judging Review	Zach Talley
October	Kit Auction	Bill Menzie
November	Kevin Hutchison	Kevin Hutchison
December	Ian Candler	Ian Candler
January, 2016	Ted Paone	Ted Paone

Here is a list of members who are responsible for providing articles for the newsletter and program presentation at our monthly meetings.

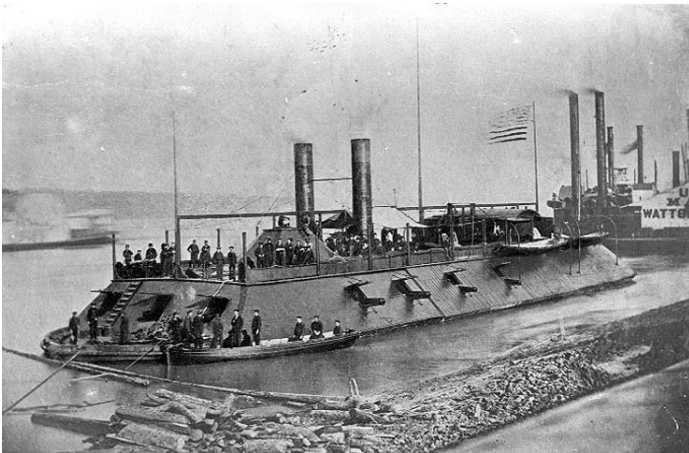
Please note any member may contribute as many articles as he/she wants anytime. The purpose of this schedule is to ensure we have at least one article in the newsletter each month.

Prompt submission of your article is much appreciated. The deadline is always **11:59PM on the last Wednesday of the previous month** (e.g. Tom Pachalos' article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).



## *From the Turret*

Summer is officially underway! I hope everyone gets a chance to stay out of the heat and build something, or at least take a little time to visit a museum. In mid-June I visited The Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg with my wife Cindy and daughter, and we found it to be a great experience. By the time you read this column, Cindy and I will also have visited Vicksburg, MS, where we will not only visit the military park, but also have a chance to explore the *USS Cairo*, a Civil War river boat ironclad. *Cairo* may be stretching the term 'armored vehicle' a bit for some of us, but the development of armored ships played an important role in the history of land based armored vehicles.



Always looking for timely armor history, I didn't have to look far this month. Sixty five years ago the South Korean and UN, primarily US, forces were being relentlessly pushed back into the Pusan perimeter by the invading North Korean forces in the opening stages of the Korean War. The North Koreans were armed and supplied well with WWII era weapons from the Soviet Union, including many T34's. The US troops hurried onto the Korean peninsula to face the invasion from the communist north were also armed

with WWII era weapons, but were not initially supplied well. Supply problems were so bad for some American units that their heavy weapons, including mortars and recoilless rifles, were sent to the front without ammunition.

I'm looking forward to catching up with you all and seeing your projects at the meeting on Wednesday night! By the way, don't forget to be looking for your next *Boresight* issue. It will be the first edition from our own Eric Choy!

**John Talley**  
President



A North Korean T34 that was apparently knocked out with a grenade by General William F Dean, of the 24th Infantry Division, during the battle for Taejon.



An M26 Pershing near the Nakdong River in late summer 1950.





*(Continued from page 1)*

most Russian Army fans, was intrigued, especially since the tank had the famous white camo with tank tracks painted on it. Since seeing the photos, I started digging around for parts and purchasing aftermarket sets to start a project of building this early T-34.



*Finnish troops on the captured tank. Notice the track camo at the upper left side of the hull.*



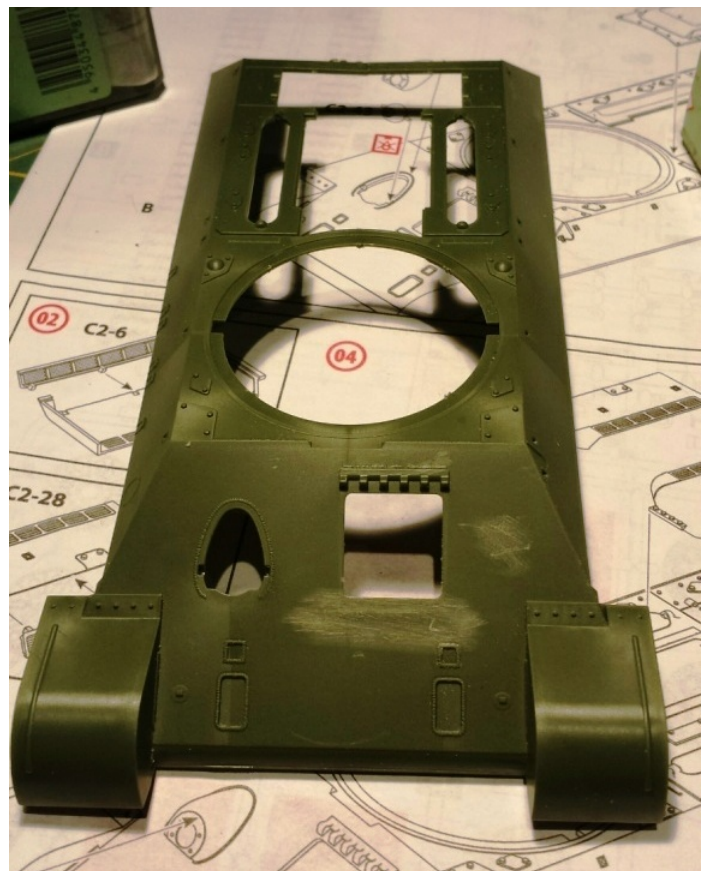
*Same tank from a different angle. The track camo is more noticeable in this photo*

The base kit that I used for the conversion is the new ICM 1/35<sup>th</sup> T-34. The kit is not that good, but it is what I have. Besides, I will be switching out the inferior parts as I go.



Here are some key things about this tank:

- ♦ Early tracks from Model 40/41 time frame....none waffle. (I will use DML tracks in my stash)
- ♦ Resin early Hex turret from Miniarm as the kit turret is not the correct type and a weak spot of the kit.



*Front of the hull when I just started on it. I removed the bullet splash strip in front of the drivers hatch.  
ICM plastic is a little soft.*





- ♦ Armored vent dome has six slots as opposed to four. (Working this issue...resin replacement for a kit resin part)
- ♦ No provision for a horn or headlight. I sanded area flat on the kit.
- ♦ Different tow hooks. Using a combination of modified and resin parts, I placed early skinny type in the front and "C" type on the back.
- ♦ Not an early feature but I replaced the transmission solid plastic screen with a part from AFV Club with brass.
- ♦ ICM's MG hump is grossly under scaled. I used a DML one without the MG armored shield.
- ♦ Replaced kit road wheels with ones from DML.



*The side engine vents have been replaced with PE parts, and the transmission cover is from AFV Club with some mesh screening.*

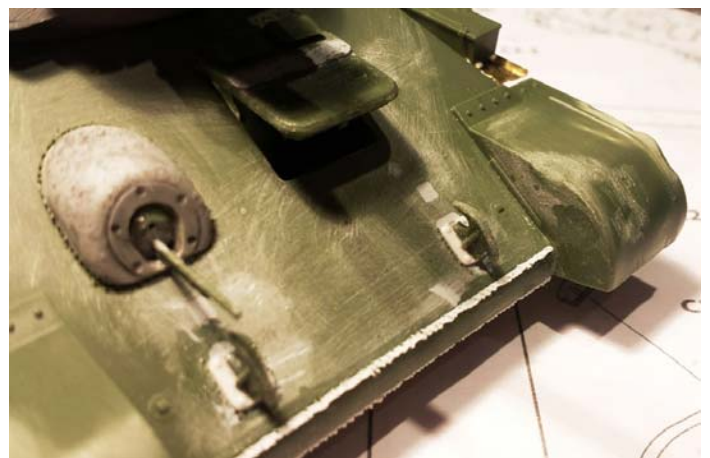
*Miniarm turret is assembled with primer applied. A nice little addition, and it comes with a turned barrel.*



*Brass fenders from Celticwerks were bent and battered after attachment. I have also added weld beads to a few different parts of the model.*



*I have removed the tow hook related welds and filled the indentations. The DML MG hump is in place without the armored shield. Not used to ICM's soft plastic, I have made some unwanted gashes. All have been filled and sanded.*



*I've modified the resin and kit tow hook parts to make the unique tow hooks for this variant of early Hex turret T-34.*

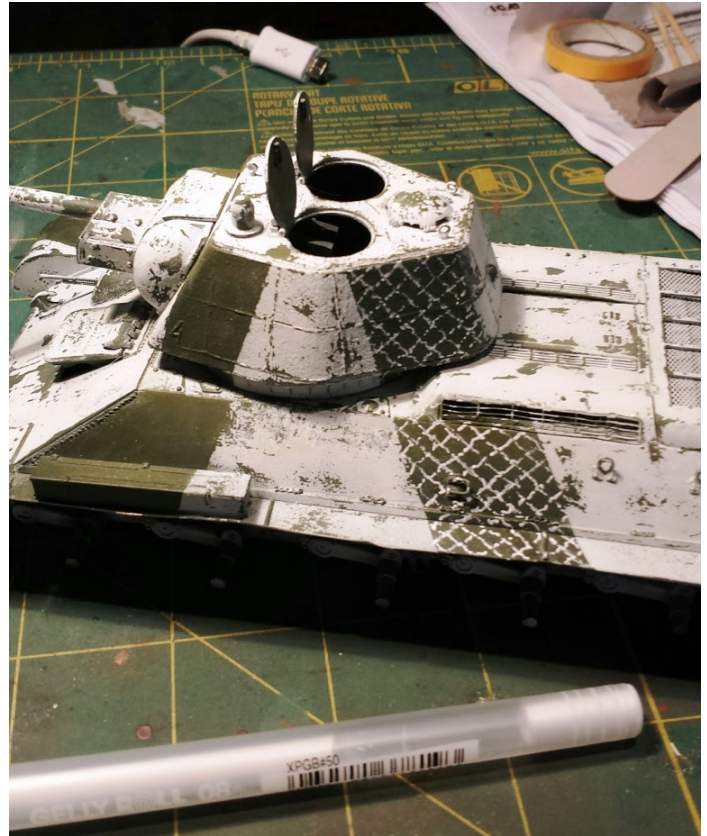




4BO paint has been applied, and hair spray is up next. After that I will mask for the track camo and apply heavy weathering.



Masking prior to the white camo painting.



Hairspray method complete and beginning of the track camo painting.



Masking removed prior to the track camo painting and prior to hair spray method started.



All camo painting complete. Weathering up next.





*Project finished!*

*Грегорович (Greg)*



## American Armored Divisions of World War Two

by Ted Andreas, Jr.

**F**or scale modelers research is often critical, especially when there is a desire to create a work that represents an actual historical event. Any plan to create a diorama or vignette to portray a “slice of history” for example will need to know what types of equipment was actually used, what unit(s) was/were involved, what markings were visible, and a myriad of other details.

One of my earliest vignettes showed an armored car crew in route to Bastogne as part of General George Patton’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Army relief effort. By researching the topic, I believe the resulting work is a reasonably accurate, although small, snapshot of the march to break the German stranglehold in the Battle of the Bulge.



Several years ago I did some research on American Armored Divisions of World War II and wrote a tribute to the men of those divisions. It was quite an

enjoyable project and one that I am glad to have seen through to the end. The one disappointment was the fact that my efforts to record more stories of the “common” yet uncommon soldiers of those divisions were not too successful. Today we have very few World War II veterans left and that particular national treasure is being depleted daily.

Nevertheless in my opinion one of the great stories of World War II is the entry of the United States into the war. We were late comers and were not prepared to fight on any front. The process of mobilizing the nation to build the greatest army and navy the world has ever seen, and to manufacture not only the equipment needed to arm our forces but to also supply our allies with much of their material needs, is so incredible that words cannot effectively articulate what was accomplished.

The planning, training, and equipping American armored divisions were a significant part of the overall war effort. The actual plan was bigger than the end result. However the Allies won the war before the additionally planned for divisions were needed.

By the time the Germans surrendered, we had activated sixteen armored divisions. These divisions were 1st to 14th, 16th, and 20th Armored Divisions. All of these divisions were in ETO with one, 1st Armored Division “Old Ironsides,” in Italy and the rest in Northwest Europe. Most of our armors had advanced into Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia by 1945.



At that time it should be noted that although the U.S. Army and Marine Corps used armor extensively in various Pacific and China/Burma theatres, these resources were smaller type units such as Independent Tank Battalions. Some armor units were organized on even smaller scale formations.

Our armored divisions were organized originally as “heavy” divisions with two regiments of armor and





one regiment of armored infantry. This arrangement made for an end strength organization of 14,000 soldiers per division. Each armored regiment fielded four battalions of medium tanks and two battalions of light tanks.

By 1944, it was becoming almost impossible to maintain our armored divisions at such a level. A reorganization resulted in keeping two armored divisions at the original design. Those two were the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division "Hell On Wheels" and 3<sup>rd</sup>



Armored Division "Spearhead." The remaining fourteen divisions were converted into "light" armored divisions. Please note that heavy and light designations here refer to the size of the division and has nothing to do with tank classifications.

This reorganization brought the armor component down to three 'medium' tank battalions (in this case medium refers to the type of tank predominant within the organization). Along with reductions in support units within the armored divisions, the realignment meant each armored division now only required 10,000 men to be at full strength.

The reduction in armor strength was huge, but our light armored divisions were still fielding more tanks

than German Panzer Divisions. After the Battle of the Bulge, the actual conditions in the German divisions had deteriorated so badly that in an open fight, the Germans could not go toe-to-toe with the Americans; a panzer division was no longer a match for either type of American armored division.

Furthermore, the reorganization of American armored divisions made slightly more infantry available. As the US Army became better at combined arms tactics, this change was quite beneficial. Armored divisions now had three armored infantry battalions instead of one armored infantry regiment. It was also a more flexible command and control arrangement of infantry.

Of course when we talk about American Armor in World War II, the Sherman tank is the iconic symbol and workhouse of most American armored units. Both "light" tank battalions and "medium" tank battalions had a mix of M3/5 Stuarts (later M24 Chaffees) and M4 Sherman tanks. The Sherman was the predominant type in the medium tank battalions while the Stuart/Chaffee mix was greater in the other type.

The M26 Pershing tank was fielded late in World War II. It was our first "heavy" tank used during the war. This type of tank was integrated into existing formations and did not alter the organization of the American armored division/tank battalion significantly. However, it did provide units in possession of these tanks with a powerful counter to the remaining German Tiger and King Tiger tanks.

In conclusion, the American Armored Divisions played a key role helping defeat Germany in WWII. These divisions were well equipped and well supplied. Early in the war and at several points during the war, they were roughly handled by a very proficient foe often armed with more powerful tanks. Yet in the end our tankers prevailed. They made great use of the equipment available and eventually overran the western part of Germany while the Russians steamrolled German resistance in the East.

Ted





## 2015 Second Quarterly Contest Winners



**1st Place:**  
**Ted Andreas, Jr**  
*1 /35<sup>th</sup> IDF Tiran5*



**2nd Place:**  
**Ian Candler**  
*1 /35<sup>th</sup> Panther A*



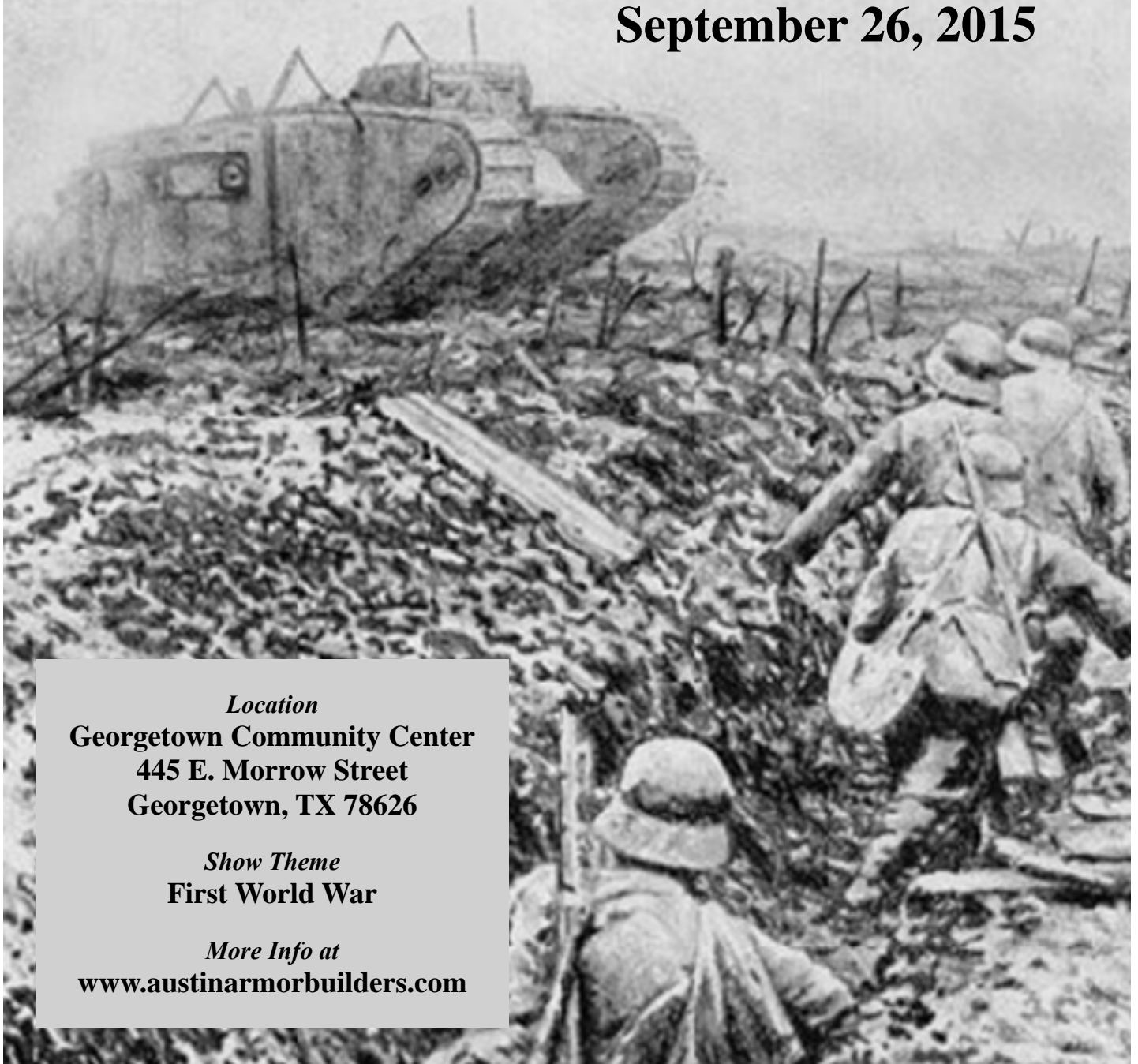
**3rd Place:**  
**Greg Beckman**  
*1 /35<sup>th</sup> Hex Turret  
T-34*







# AMPS CENTEX Armor Expo MMXV September 26, 2015



*Location*  
**Georgetown Community Center  
445 E. Morrow Street  
Georgetown, TX 78626**

*Show Theme*  
**First World War**

*More Info at*  
**[www.austinarmorbuilders.com](http://www.austinarmorbuilders.com)**

Above artwork was done by renowned armor artist **Jody Harmon**. Mr. Harmon has graciously granted AABS permission to use this image for this event. This and other artwork of his can be seen and purchased at his official website **[www.jodyharmon.com](http://www.jodyharmon.com)**



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## NEW ON THE BLOCK



A new 1/35<sup>th</sup> Panhard 178 from ICM. It'll be interesting to see how it compares to the old AL-BY/DML one.

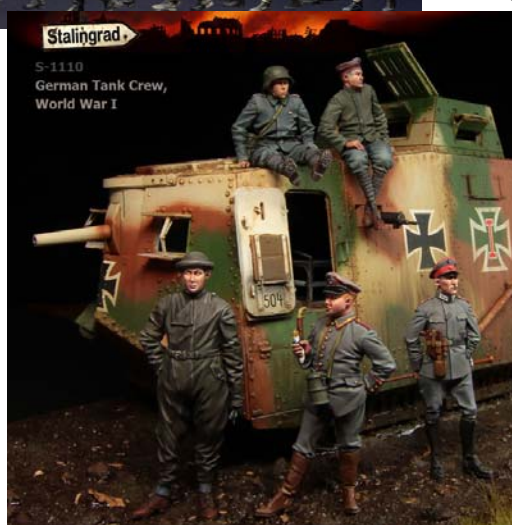
### U.S. MILITARY POLICEMAN w/MOTORCYCLE



Another motorcycle release from MiniArt in 1/35<sup>th</sup>. This time it's the US military police version.



Finally, more figures in TOTS! This ten-figure set is a scale down version of the 1/35<sup>th</sup> German POW kit released previously by Stalingrad.



Also new from Stalingrad is this 1/35<sup>th</sup> WWI German Tank Crew set to go with Meng's A7V. Each figure in this kit can also be purchased separately.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 23, Issue 3)

The latest issue of **Boresight** is out. Here is a quick look inside:

- ♦ **M113A1 TOW CAP** by David Black  
A Hobby Fan conversion using the M223 TOW kit and protective cover.
- ♦ **Italian M13/40 & M14/41, Part I** by Mike Roof  
A modeler's guide to production features.
- ♦ **AMPS 2016 Convention** by Tim Darrah  
A mini-update on what to expect in 2016.
- ♦ **Obice da 100/17 Mod.16** by Steven Andreano  
The Italian 100mm howitzer from IBG Models.
- ♦ **AMPS Local Chapter News**  
What's going on in the AMPS community.





## About Us

The Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) started in 1999 when Don Jones, a member of the local IPMS chapter, decided "what a good idea to get out two nights a month, and on least one night talk tanks."



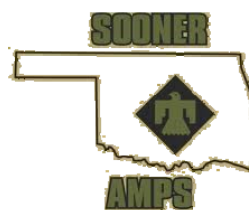
Since then AABS is the only modeling club in Central Texas devoted solely to armor modeling. We don't build planes because they are just plain! Our passion is armored fighting vehicles and military figures. Subject of our interest ranges from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent Gulf War Conflicts.

At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques and tricks. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town field trips to museums and model shows.

Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest armor model show in AMPS South Central Region (AMPS CENTEX). Known as Lone Star Armor Expo, we attract some of the best armor modelers in Texas as well as in the neighboring states to come participate.

To find out more about AABS, you can visit our website or pick up a club flyer at your local hobby shop.

We are on the web @ [AustinArmorBuilders.com](http://AustinArmorBuilders.com)



Snapshots of two very nice armor entries taken last month at SoonerCon in Oklahoma City, OK.

Rod Bell and Eric Choy were among the attendees of the annual model event co-hosted by IPMS Metro OKC and Sooner AMPS.

