

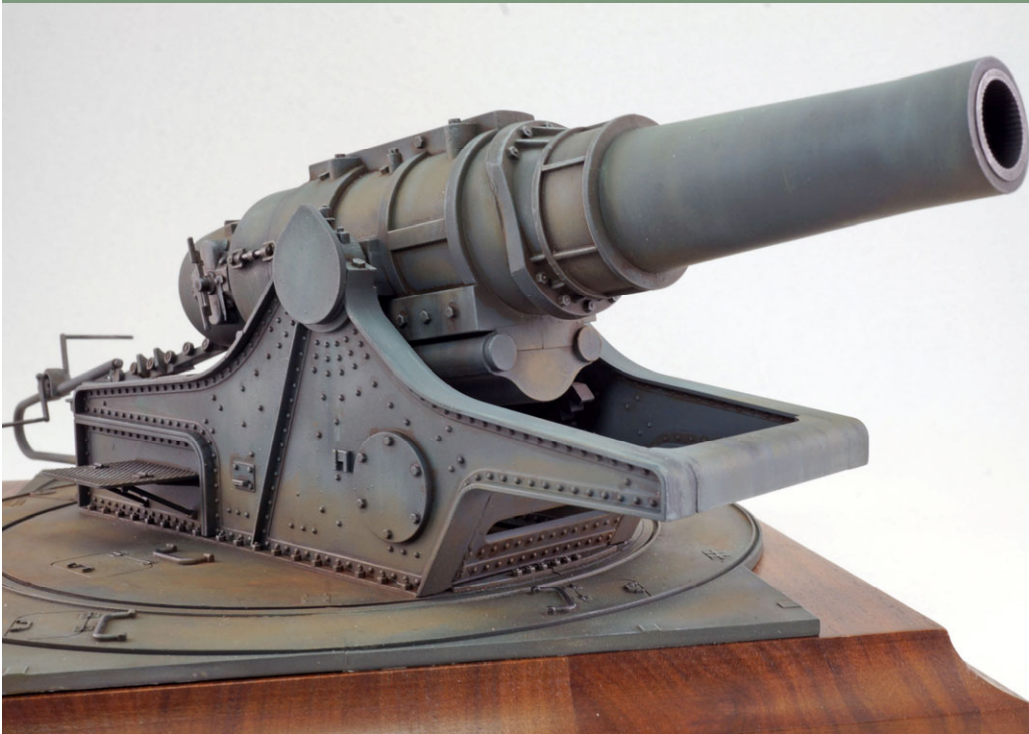


# Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

May 2016



## Skoda Heavy Gun

By Russ Holm

**T**his is a review of Takom's 42cm (16-inch) M1917 Siege Howitzer. In 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale, this baby is BIG!

**HEY! THIS IS THE FIRST MODEL I HAVE BUILT IN OVER A YEAR AND A HALF !!!**

This gun is interesting not only for the size of the caliber but for the long service it provided in both world wars (1917 to 1945).

The Takom kit comes with three sprues of plastic parts and a few photo-etched pieces. I thought, when I initially inspected some of the parts, that it was

*(Continued on page 5)*

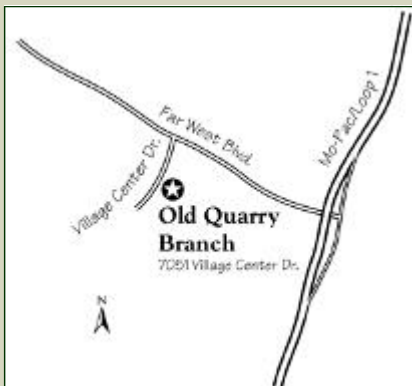
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Austin Armor Builders Society (AABS) meets at 7PM each month at the **Austin Public Library Old Quarry Branch**. Our next meeting is on

**May 4, 2016**

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

- ♦ **May 4 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **June 1 - AABS Club Meeting**
- ♦ **June 4 - Scalefest 2016** Grapevine Convention Center, Grapevine, TX
- ♦ **June 18 - SoonerCon 2016** Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK



### AABS Officers May 2016 – Apr 2018

**John Talley**, President  
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**Ted Andreas, Jr.**, Vice-President  
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## Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2016	Ted Paone	Rick Herrington
February	Kevin Hutchison	Ted Paone
March*	David Davis (Guest)	Alex Gashev
April	Aaron Smischney	Rod Bell
May	Dave Bourland	Russ Holm
June*	Bob Bethea	Greg Beckman
July	Ted Andreas, Jr.	Eric Choy
August	Kit Auction	Ian Candler
September*	Rick Herrington	Ted Andreas, Jr.
October	Ian Candler	Joe Fisher
November	John Talley	Greg Beckman
December*	Eric Choy	Bill Menzie
January 2017	Worth Haggerton	John Talley

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 wants any time. 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. Rick Herrington's article for January was due on the last Wednesday of December).

\* Quarterly contest month



## *From the Turret*

As usual, it was great to see everyone's projects at the April meeting. We also received some good pointers from Aaron Smischney on modeling scale ground work, particularly asphalt and concrete.

Last month's officer elections saw Eric Choy, Ted Paone, and myself reinstated, while Ted Andreas, Jr. was elected to take over the Vice President role from Greg Beckman. I'd like to thank Greg for his service to the club over the last two years, and I also want to thank Ted for stepping up for the next two years.



**John  
Talley**  
President



**Ted  
Andreas**  
Vice President



**Eric  
Choy**  
Treasurer



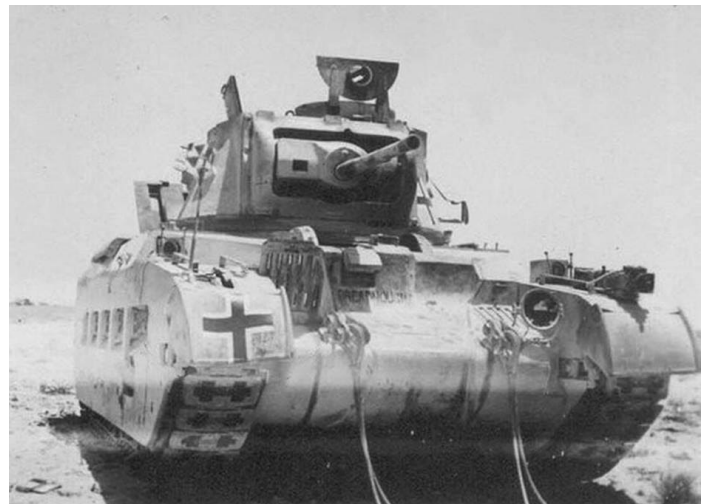
**Ted  
Paone**  
Secretary

While researching for this month's historical project inspiration, I found that 75 years ago the British Matilda II was in heavy use across the Mediterranean. Surprisingly, the Germans were using it in some of the more interesting forms in the defense works at Halfaya Pass in North Africa.

The British had six Matildas on Crete when the German airborne forces started landing. Unfortunately, the tanks were worn out, and most broke down before having much effect on the combat during the campaign. In fact, one Matilda had a broken turret traverse and could only rotate the turret in one direction!



*A knocked out Matilda in Crete.*



*A Matilda named "Dreadnaught" captured at Halfaya Pass and turned back on the British.*



*Turnabout is fair play: Aussies recaptured a Matilda and the German crew that had turned it against them.*





*The turret of a captured Matilda that was used as a fixed position defense point in Halfaya Pass*

I'm really looking forward to the May meeting this week. In addition to the always inspiring projects, presentations, and discussion, we should be hearing a lot about both the National AMPS show that ran in the beginning of April and the Houston show that recently took place.

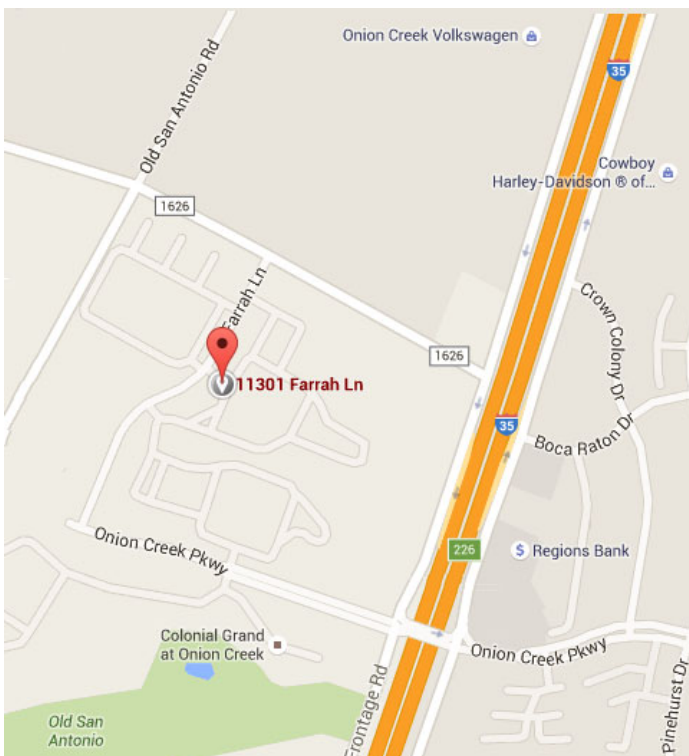
**John Talley**  
President

## Pat Rourke's Celebration Details

**M**elissa, Pat Rourke's daughter, is inviting his father's friends in AABS to a celebration of Pat's life on **Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 7PM** inside the clubhouse of **The Landing Double Creek Apartments**. The address is:

**11301 Farrah Lane, Austin, TX 78748**

Here are map and directions:



Southbound I-35 (from Austin/Round Rock/Waco):

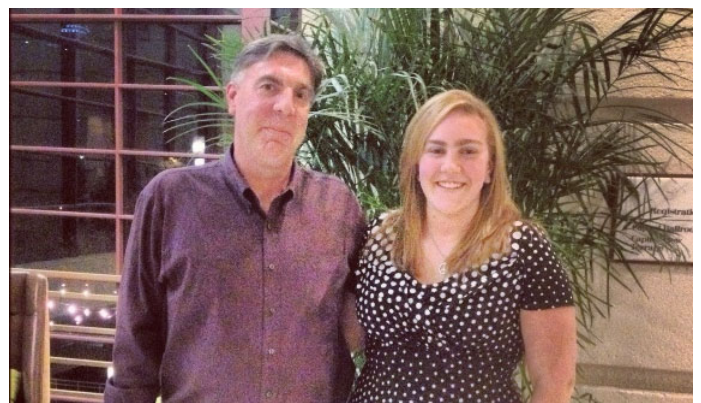
1. Take exit 225 for Onion Creek Pkwy/FM1626.
2. Continue on southbound I-35 frontage road for about one mile.
3. Turn right onto FM1626.
4. Take the first left onto Farrah Lane.
5. Apartment clubhouse will be on the left.

Northbound I-35 (from Buda/San Marcos/SA):

1. Take exit 225 to merge onto southbound I-35 frontage road.
2. Turn left onto Onion Creek Pkwy.
3. Turn right onto Farrah Lane.
4. Apartment clubhouse will be on the right.

Dress code is **business casual and no black** please. The family requests no flowers or gifts, but if anyone would like to make a donation to help out Melissa's college tuition and expenses, please visit her **GoFundMe** page at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/24n9h884>



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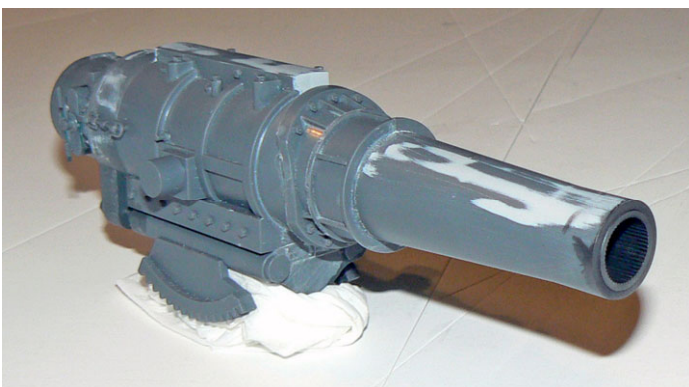
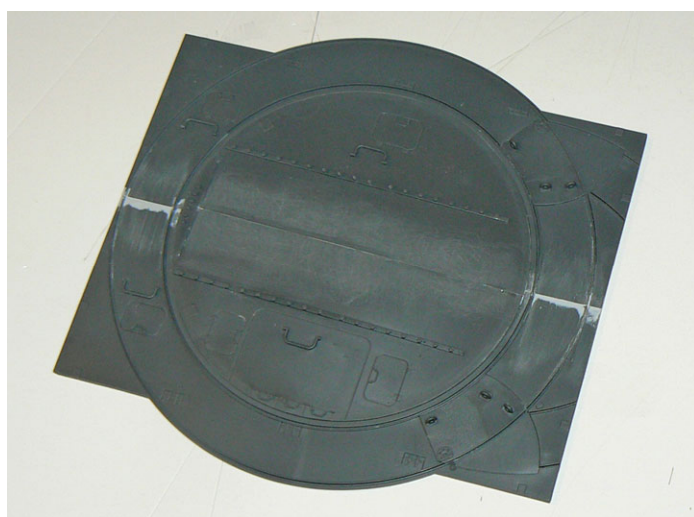
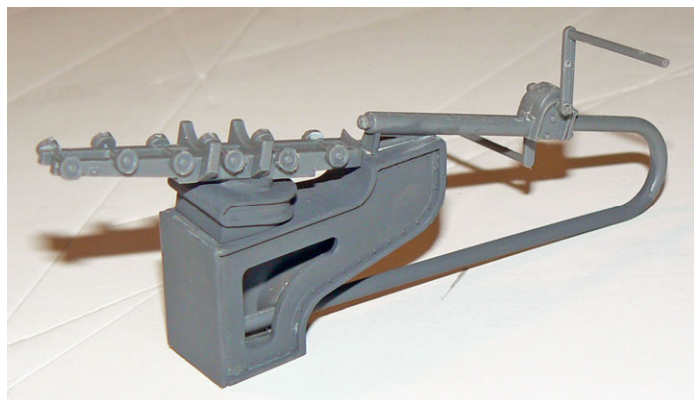
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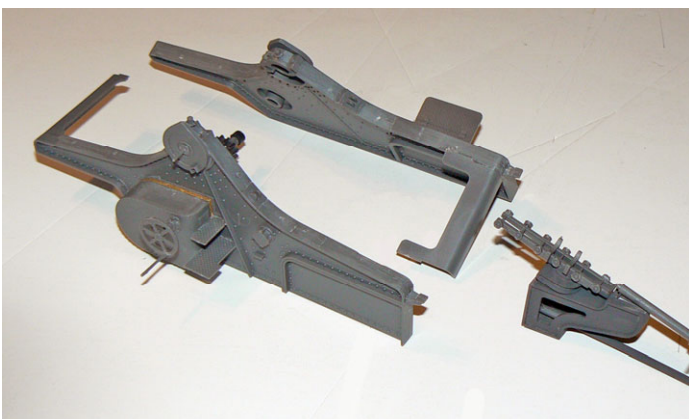
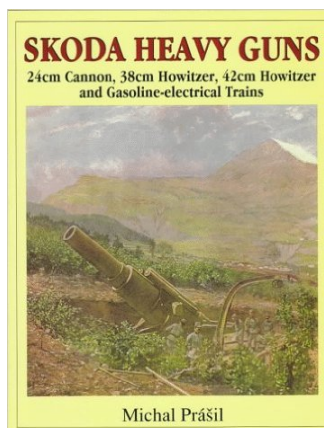
going to be an easy project. Unfortunately, the parts did not align as cleanly as I had hoped. My friend Eric Choy noted that I used a fair amount of Gunze "Mr. Surfacer" on the barrel and other components. Some of them were necessary to get rid of the seams, and some of them were there to fix my construction goofs. Yes, I'm old and out of practice!



The instructions in step 2 did not make it clear to me that the barrel and liner were to be installed clear through to the breach block. The instillation of the gun to the carriage gets a bit fiddly.

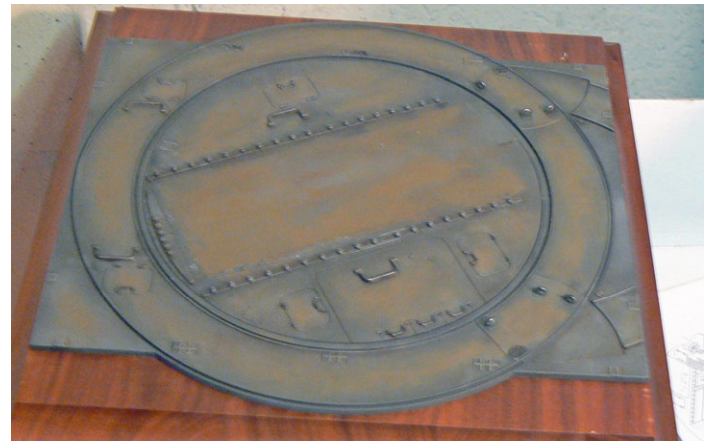
I was stunned with how easy the photo-etched rivet track went around the elevation transmission. Parts C-6 and C-7 can be built either open or closed. I chose closed. Parts B9 and B10 will probably require some filler after gluing. Again it was not clear to me, in step 5, as to which part the retainers were supposed to attach.

I was fortunate to have the book "Skoda Heavy Guns" by Michal Prášil that describes the 25cm, 38cm and 42cm howitzer. With this reference many questions as to placement of parts were answered.



I wish I had the skill of Bob Bethea or Eric Choy to properly paint the supplied figure to give the model a sense of scale. Remember this is a 16-inch gun, the same caliber as those on an lowa-class battleship!

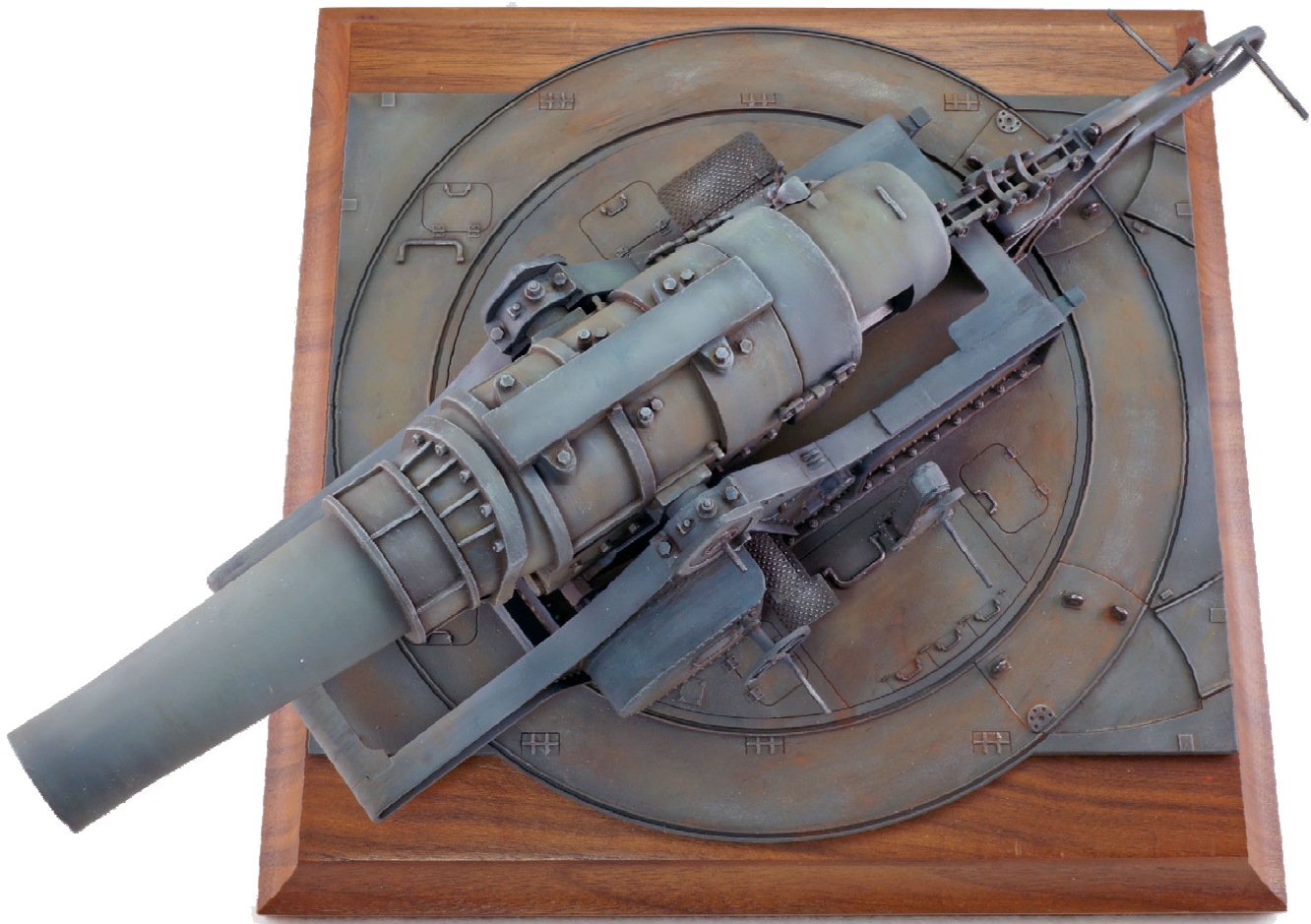




I guess because I use enamels I didn't prime the model prior to painting. I painted an overall dark German Gray. Then I panel-faded the model as a preliminary weathering effect. A coat of acrylic clear was used to seal the enamels in before applying a dot system of filters with yellow, blue, black, and burnt umber artist oil paints. Finally I used MiG Pigments to simulate dust and dirt on the base plate.

Despite some engineering flaws and confusing instructions, this is a great kit for first time artillery modeler. You can't get any bigger than this for a howitzer or gun in 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale, unless you want to tackle SoarArt's 80cm "Dora" Railway gun!!!

**Russ**





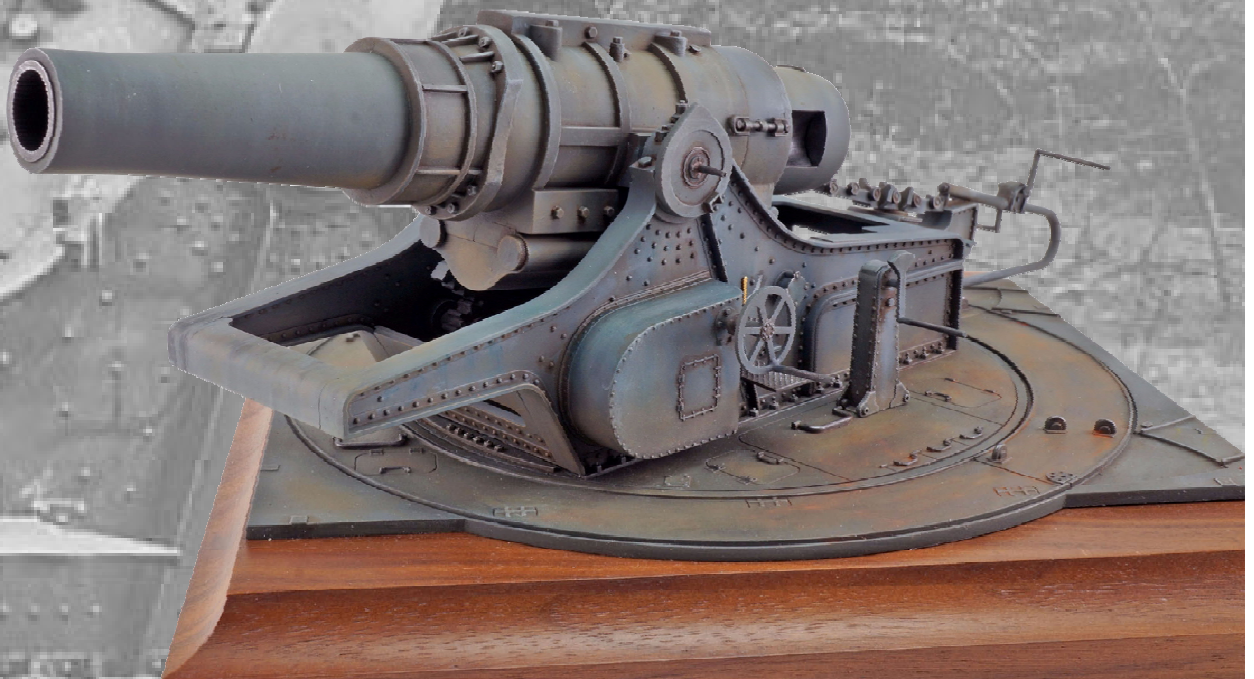
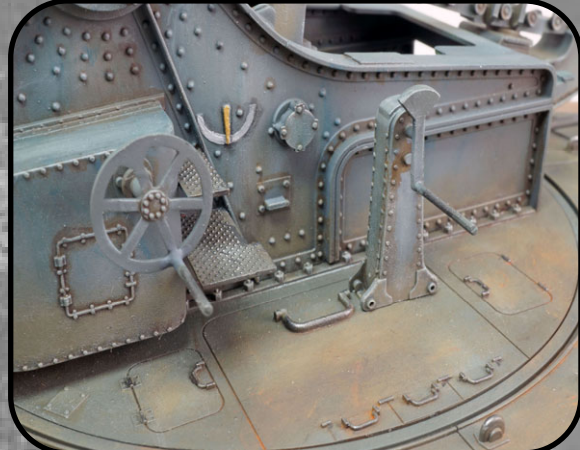
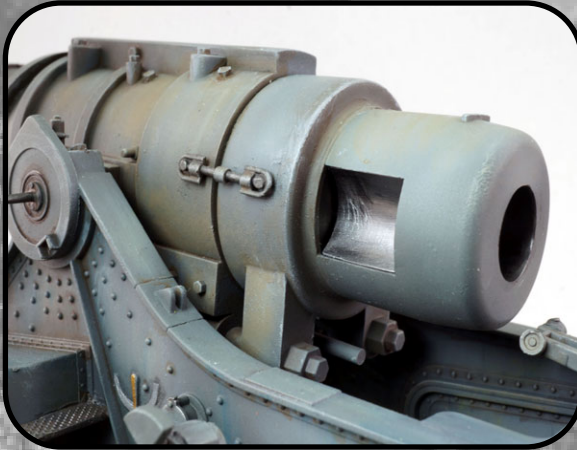
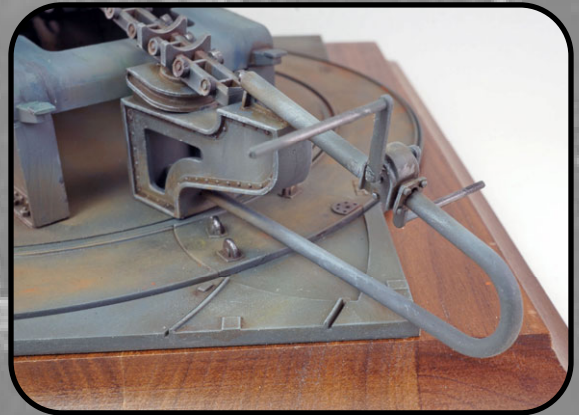
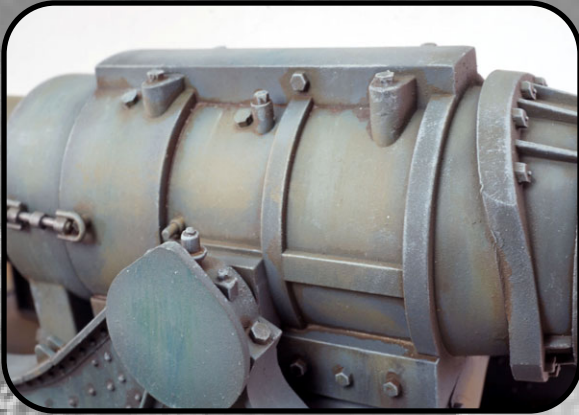
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**[www.amps-armor.org](http://www.amps-armor.org)**





## New On The Block



More Chieftain based kits in 1/35<sup>th</sup> from Takom. Marksman was a Leopard Gepard look-alike except it never went into production.



Amusing Hobby seems to like paper panzer subjects. Their latest is a 1/35<sup>th</sup> scale 28cm Sturmmörser 38D based on the 38(t) Hetzer chassis.



Yet another AMX-13 in 1/35<sup>th</sup>! This time it comes from Tamiya. One has to wonder how many more French light tanks are we going to see in the near future...

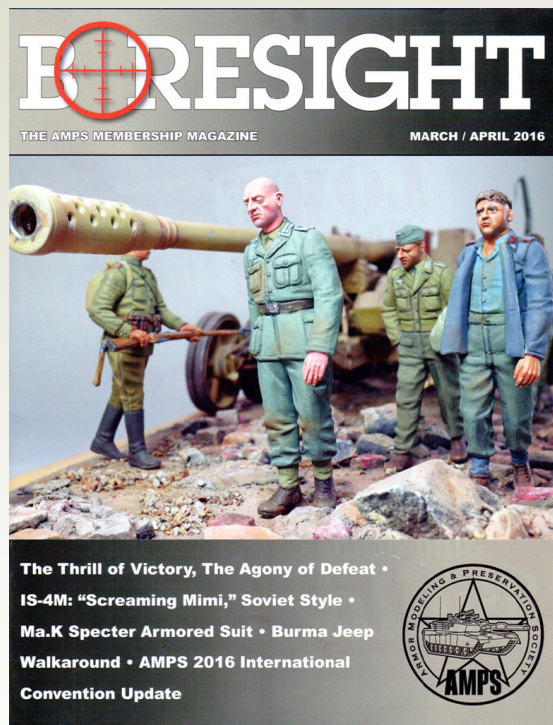


Fact or fiction? I thought Pershing II retired before the latest HEMTT tractor M983 went into service! Anyhow, the box art and 1/72<sup>nd</sup> kit from Modelcollect are way cool.

## AMPS Boresight (Volume 24, Issue 2)

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

- ♦ **The Thrill of Victory, The Agony of Defeat** by Bob Bethea & Henry Núñez, Jr.  
A Berlin 1945 Diorama.
- ♦ **IS-4M: "Screaming Mimi," Soviet Style** by Cookie Sewell  
Part II: The Model.
- ♦ **Ma.K Specter Armored Suit** by Brett Avants  
Building WKB Models' 1/20<sup>th</sup> resin Maschinen Krieger armored suit.
- ♦ **Burma Jeep Walkaround** by John Kirkpartick  
Photos of a WWII C-B-I 1.5ton cargo workhorse.
- ♦ **2016 AMPS International Convention Update** by Tim Darrah





## 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."



AABS is the only scale model 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 modeling events. Every odd-numbered year AABS hosts the biggest scale armor modeling show in Texas that attracts some of the best armor modelers in the Lone Star as well as neighboring states.

Since inception AABS is a local chapter of Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS), a national organization dedicated to the promotion of scale modeling and armored vehicle preservation.

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

19990424

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

*At the 2016 AMPS International Convention last month, Bob Bethea, our local "braille scale" aficionado, has nothing but praise for Joe Koenig's 1/72<sup>nd</sup> SdKfz.9 Famo and 210mm Mörser 18 heavy howitzer.*

