



Sabot Away!



Newsletter of the Austin Armor Builders Society

June 2025

IRON CONTRAPTION

by **Craig Bland**

This 1/35th Takom kit is one of those armor (armour?) kits that just sat on my shelves for several years as I couldn't get motivated to build until I noticed an on-line article about these beasts. More than 1,200 were built in England during WWI. Each weighed 28 tons, had a crew of eight, and came in three versions: "Male" with two six-pound cannons and up to six .303 caliber Lewis machine guns; the "Female" with no cannon (duh!) but carried the same number of Lewis MGs. The third version was used as an ammo carrier with a lot less armor and weapons.

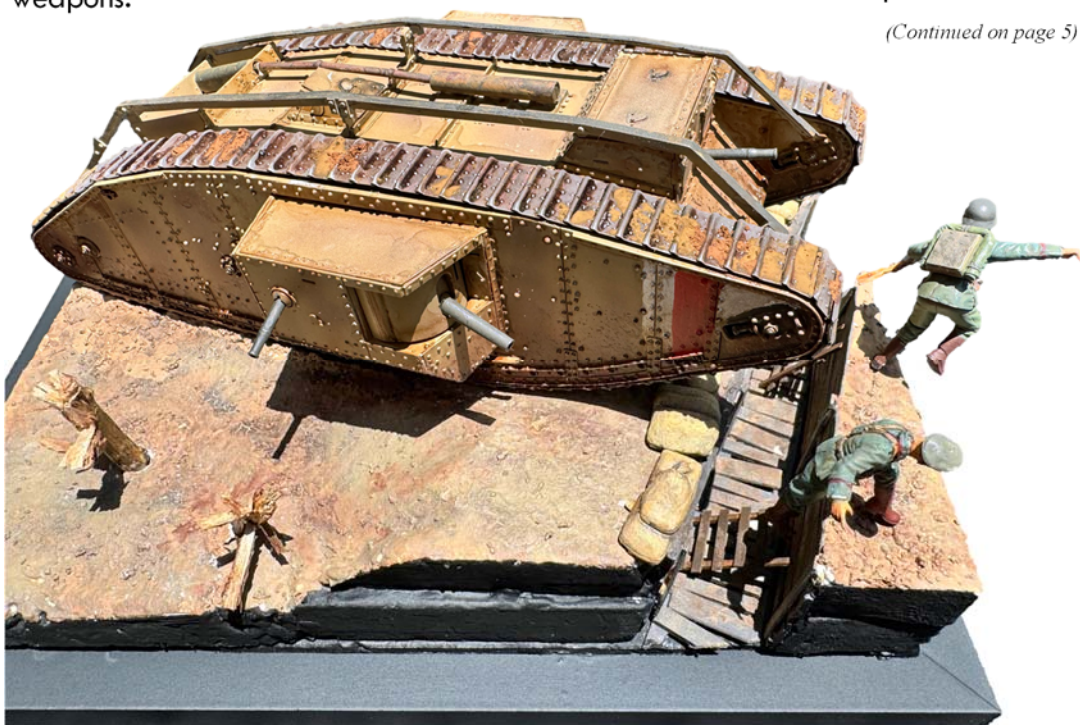
The first action for these tanks occurred in November of 1917 during the Battle of Cambrai when 460 Mk.IVs overwhelmed the German trench system. Several Mk IVs remain today, including a Female "Liberty" being restored at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Construction



I began my construction with the nicely illustrated instruction booklet that clearly shows all the parts placements and

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ♦ June 4 - AABS Meeting
- ♦ June 21 - OKCMetroCon 2025, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, OK
- ♦ July 2 - AABS Meeting
- ♦ August 13 - AABS Meeting



AABS Officers

Feb 2025 – Jan 2027

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Schedule of Upcoming Program Presentations and Newsletter Articles

Month	Program Presentation	Newsletter Article
January 2025	* OFFICER ELECTIONS *	Ted Paone
February	Ted Paone	Eric Choy
March‡	Bob Bethea	Kevin Hutchison
April	Ron Askew	Bill Zych
May	Mike Reeves	Greg Beckman
June‡	Eric Choy	Craig Bland
July	* KIT AUCTION *	Aaron Smischney
August	Allan Romer	Allan Romer
September‡	Marty Hebda	Marty Hebda
October	AMPS Judging Review	Bill Menzie
November	* KIT-SWAP NITE *	Mike Bird
December‡	Chris Chany	Chris Chany
January 2026	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 wants at 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. Ted Paone's article for January 2025 is due on the last Wednesday of December 2024).

‡ Quarterly contest month



From the Turret

Well, we made it to June. Each day the outside temperature continues to rise. That is a good reason to stay inside and build models!

On June 4 1915, during the third Battle of Krithia, British, French, and Indian forces made a third and last attempt to capture Achi Baba, the main position for Ottoman defenses on the Gallipoli Peninsula but were beaten back, sustaining some 6,500 casualties. Ottoman casualties were even higher, ranging between 9,000 and 10,000 men.



On June 4 1940, Operation Dynamo ended with the overnight evacuation of 26,175 French troops. At 10:20a.m., the Germans occupied Dunkirk and captured 30–40,000 French troops.



In the British House of Commons, Prime Minister Winston Churchill made the famous speech commonly titled *We shall fight on the beaches*.



The Battle of Abbeville ended in German victory.

On June 4, 1945, two regiments of the U.S. 6th Marine Division landed on the Oruku Peninsula on Okinawa in an attempt to outflank the Japanese defensive positions.

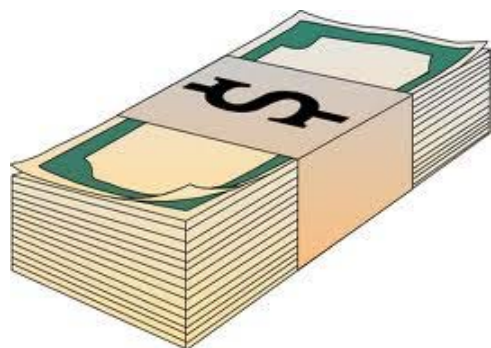


US Army infantrymen advancing with the support of tanks on the southern tip of Okinawa (Wikipedia).

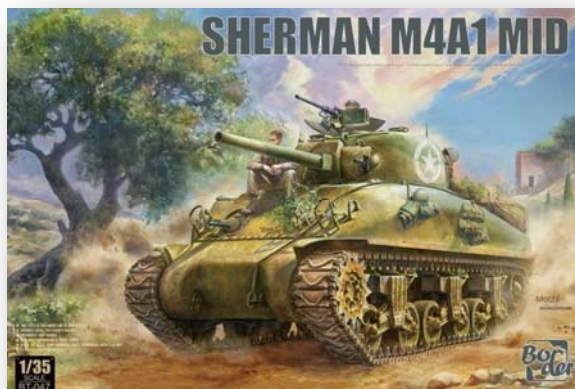
We will get another show update at the June meeting, and Eric has the program. Don't forget to bring a replacement kit if you won our monthly raffle.

See you Wednesday.

Chris Chany
President



OR



Quarterly Contest This Month!

Bring in your finished model to enter our second quarterly contest of 2025!

To enter in any of our in-house contest, you must be a member in good standing. i.e. You need to pay your 2025 dues!!! See details below.

The prize for the first place winner is \$40. Everyone who participated in the contest (except for the cash prize winner) is eligible to win the drawing of the new Border Model's 1/35th **Sherman M4A1 Mid**.

There is no limit to how many model you enter as long as your entry wasn't placed in our previous quarterly contests.



Still haven't paid your AABS dues (\$15)? We have ways to make your arrears disappear! It'll hurt less if you pay now...

We accept cash, check, money order, or PayPal (payaabs@gmail.com). For those who prefer to make a mail-in payment, our treasurer's address is:

**Eric Choy
13213 Marrero Drive
Austin TX 78729**

Please make your payment payable to "**AABS**." DO NOT send cash through mail!

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steps. The body is first, and it's like building a mishappen box. After which, the top ends and various pieces are added. Not until step 13 do you begin assembly of the side "sponsons" to carry the tracks. Interestingly, once you assemble the interior chain and the gear drive on both sides, they will never be seen again when both halves of the sponson are put together!

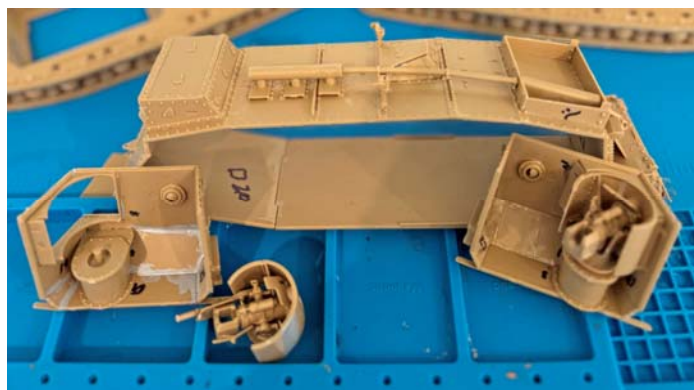


Speaking of sponsons, there are 24 individual rollers that "fit" into the lower sponson on each side. I had to ream out the individual holes with my X-Acto knife to get the rollers to fit correctly.

At step 21, it's time to assemble the tracks to go around both sponsons. Fortunately, I bought Takom's "optional" working tracks that easily snapped together versus the gazillion-piece tracks that come with the kit. These optional track links actually work! Apparently Tamiya released a motorized version of this tank that used similar method to promote the kit.



Step 34 takes you to assemble the two six-pounder guns as well as the Lewis machine guns. Again, once



the side weapon blisters are assembled, the detail of the guns is almost zero, But at least you get to see what a WWI six-pounder looks like!



Painting & Weathering

Now that the model was basically put together, I went on-line for color and paint schemes, which included captured Mk.IVs (supposedly the Germans captured 40 or more and re-gunned many with their own multi-color camo schemes). Lots of color shots but some were obviously not correct. I wanted my Mk IV to be one of the first at the Battle of Cambrai in the basic mustard/brown/drab with the red and white British flashes on the bows.

I primed the tank with Tamiya gray primer. Next, I mixed my special Tamiya colors of Red Brown (XF-64) and Flat Earth (XF-52) to get close to the shade I needed. I used Vallejo washes for the sides with Vallejo mud and sand to distress the bottom of the tank. AK dirt and mud were used for the tracks which were painted a dark steel color prior to weathering.



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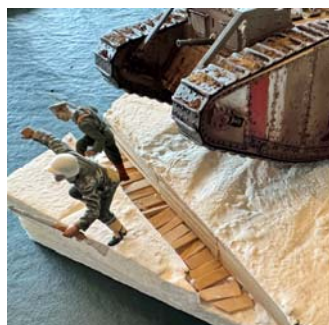
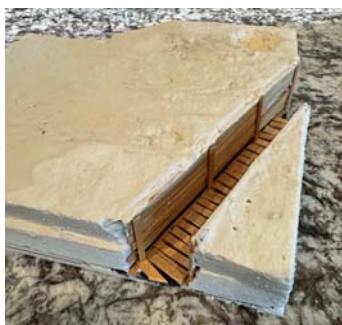
Lastly, I came back with my airbrush to dust the top and upper sides with very light Vallejo Iraqi Sand.

were used to heighten the drama. Uniforms were painted with maroon piping and natural leather ammo pouches and belts.



Groundwork and Figures

Next was the base for this Mk IV, which was to be in the first tank assault at the Battle of Cambrai. I used foam with a bit of elevation to the corner and a German trench cut into the foam. I then placed everything into an old picture frame that was painted to match the base.



To add to the scene, I dug a small shell crater as well as added two twigs for small trees which I splintered as if they were hit by artillery. The drama of the scene is two German soldiers running for their lives out of the trench. They were originally WWII German figures from Nimrod that I converted by reshaping the officer's hat to an WWI enlisted cap and placing a 1/32nd helmet on the other as *Stahlhelm* used in The Great War looks larger. Hornet heads



Coda

This is a fun build, and the kit went together fairly well. The diorama scene was a last minute decision, but I think it works to tell a story. While I understand the terror confronting those two German soldiers running out of their trench, I can't imagine the noise, the heat, the smoke, and the fear of those eight Brits

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virtually trapped inside an “iron contraption”
that ended up being a coffin for so many.

Craig



AMPS Boresight (Volume 33, Issue 1)

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

- ♦ **Big General's Little Ride** by Jesse Naughton
- ♦ **Stuart Memorial Tank Association**
- ♦ **Desert Training Center: CA-AZ Maneuver Area** by Roy Chow
- ♦ **M3A1 Stuart: Armored Recon**



CHECK YOUR SPARE PARTS BOX!

By Allan Romer

I am currently working on another ambulance for our MEDEVAC Group Build. Before I pull the trigger and make a purchase, I thought I'd give a shout to see if anyone has the parts required. Specifically, I need an **US antenna with the coil springs**, preferably angled (see Diagram 1). Secondly, I need an **antenna mount** that was commonly seen on jeeps. It is a triangular piece of sheet metal that the antenna was mounted (See Diagram 2 and 3)

If you have any spares you are willing to part with, let me know, or bring to the next meeting.

Allan



Diagram 1

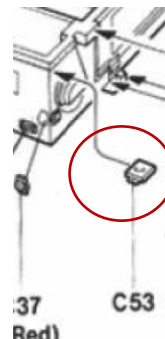


Diagram 2

Diagram 3

MODELS PAINTS TOOLS ACCESSORIES ROCKETS



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IPMS METRO OKLAHOMA CITY

In association with SOONER AMPS

OKCMetroCon 2025

Saturday, June 21st, 2025 9am-4pm

Council Road Baptist Church

Building is named "The Cube" north of main church building
7903 NW 30th Bethany, OK 73008

Theme: **"The Silver Screen"**

Any subject eligible for the theme award must be tied to a specific movie and must have appeared in the movie

ALL MODELERS ARE WELCOME

Plastic Models of all kinds welcome: Aircraft, Tanks, Ships, Automotive, Figures, SciFi

Entry Fee is \$20 with unlimited entries for IPMS judged categories.

AMPS judged categories are limited to five (5) models

Modelers 16 & under: 1st Model is Free \$5.00 for unlimited Junior Entries

OKCMetroCon 2025 will use 1st, 2nd, 3rd IPMS/USA judging rules for all non-Armor categories.
AMPS Gold, Silver and Bronze medal judging rules for all Armor categories.

General Admission is FREE

Donations are welcome

For more details on OKCMetroCon 2025 see:

www.ipmsmetrookc.com

<https://www.facebook.com/IPMSMETROOKLACITY>

JOIN AMPS TODAY

U.S. Membership Rates:

Type	1 year	2 years	3 years
Regular (Digital) ¹	\$30	\$55	\$80
Regular + All Printed ²	\$55	\$105	\$155
Junior ³	\$15	\$25	\$35
Family ⁴	\$5	\$10	\$15

¹ Digital package includes four (4) Digital and two (2) Printed issues of *Boresight* per year.

² All Printed package includes six (6) Printed issues of *Boresight* per year.

³ Juniors are members aged 17 years or younger.

⁴ Family rates are for anyone living at the same address as an active regular member.

To join using PayPal, visit AMPS website: www.amps-armor.org
-or- fill out this form below:

NAME: _____

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CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **PHONE:** _____

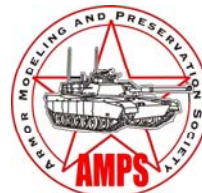
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Send completed form and check/money order to:



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All payments must be made in U.S. funds. For outside U.S. (Canada and International) rates, please visit AMPS website at www.amps-armor.org.

New On The Block



Another WWII 1/35th French light tank from Tamiya! It can be built as a French Army Hotchkiss H39 or Panzer Pz.Kpfw.38H 735(f) captured by the Germans.



Das Werk has just released a 1/16th 7.5cm PaK40 kit. Now we have three to choose from in this scale (the other two are from Gecko and I♥Kit)!

The next two quarterscale kits from Hobby Boss are both Challenger II MBTs! First up is the "plain" European version. It will be followed by the "desertised" type used in Op. Telic.



Need 1/48th decals for Tamiya's still new M5A1 Stuart? Star Decals has a new sheet out with some interesting markings used by the US Army in the ETO of WWII.



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 first 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. Subjects of our interest range from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Middle East, to the most recent war in Ukraine.



At each monthly meeting, we talk tanks, swap kits, and share our building techniques. We also hold regular in-house model contests and organize out-of-town trips to museums and modeling events. Every odd-numbered year, AABS hosts the biggest armor modeling show 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.

For more info, please visit www.ampscentex.org