



THE DISPATCH

August 2023, Vol. 62,
Issue 8

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62ND ANNUAL SHOW NEWS

Our 62nd Annual Show is almost here, but it would not be possible without our generous sponsors making it happen. Special thanks goes to:

- [3D Printing Samurai](#)
- [James L. Pratt](#)
- [Huzzah Hobbies](#)
- [Northern Virginia Modelers](#)
- [Sabot Miniatures, LLC](#)
- [Squadron Hobbies](#)
- [Artist Preservation Group](#)
- [Crimson Phoenix](#)
- [The Army Historical Foundation](#)

GO SHOPPING

This year we have a great selection of hobby vendors. The list includes:

- [Artist Preservation Group](#)
- Doug Carl (Doug's Closet)
- [MicroWorld Games, LLC](#)
- [Birch Tree Enterprises](#)
- [Little Tin Soldier](#)
- [The Model Cellar](#)
- [Gael Hobbies](#)
- [James L. Pratt](#)
- [B Miniatures](#)
- [Author Donald Hakenson](#)
- [Author Aaron Hamilton](#) (NEW)
- [Grant Berry](#)
- [3D Printing Samurai](#) (NEW)
- [AC Models USA](#) (NEW)
- [Army Group Center Wargaming](#)
- Nick Strocchia (NEW)
- Kevin Rossi (NEW)
- [Rick Sanders](#)

MEET & GREET

- The following hobby clubs will be in attendance:
- N. Virginia NTRAK (trains)
 - Maryland Automotive Modelers Association (MAMA)
 - Washington Ship Model Society
 - N. Virginia Modelers (IPMS)

HIGHLIGHTS!

- Trophies and Sponsored Awards
- Car/Ship/Train/Armor Club Displays
- Professional Photographer
- GUNDAM Build Tables & Giveaways!
- Modeling Demonstrations
- Hobby Vendors

For Details and Program Updates Visit us @ NCMSSClub.org

Yes, you CAN!

Sculpt
Build
Paint
Show!

National Capital Model Soldier Society

- NW Virginia Armor Modeling Preservation Society (NoVAMPS)
- Washington Armor Club (AMPS)
- N. Virginia Gamers (NOVAG)

LEARN HOW

- Four different modeling demonstrations will be given during the show, including:
- Sculpting—John Jefferies
 - Resin casting—Bob Prokop
 - Ground cover—Eric Reinert
 - Using Inks—Mike Dutcher & Zach Becker

BRING THE KIDS

Nick Strocchia will be hosting a GUNDAM build ta-

ble. Free Pokémon model kits for the kids (while supplies last).

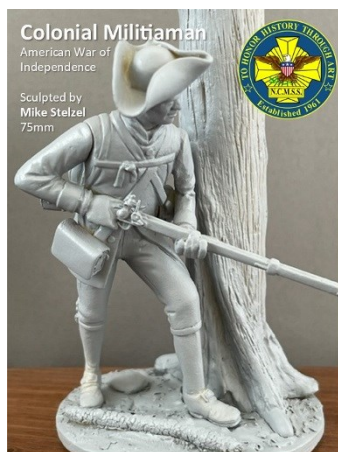
EXHIBIT WORK

Information on how to enter and display your work is available on our [website](#).

- Exhibitor registration begins at 8:00AM — Entry fee \$15, with no limits on number of entries
- General admission begins at 9:00AM — Adults \$10, Kids 17 and under get in **FREE** with an adult!

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the show!

Dave H.



CLUB NEWS

NCMSS On-line Meeting — August 26, 2023

Call to Order & New Business [14:10-14:27]

- 1. Dave** officially started the meeting.
- 2. Dave** noted that Jim Pratt was manning a club table at the [Tank Farm open house](#) in Virginia. Dave & Darci will be manning the table along with Scott Sheltz on Sunday August 27.
- 3. Dave** plugged the NCMSS show, noting there was still some time to reserve your hotel room at the Springfield Hilton. He also noted that the list of vendors for the show was near completion and would be posted on our website shortly.
- 4. Dave** mentioned that he will be sending out emails to confirm volunteers for the show. A number of people have offered to help set up on Friday evening as well as help on Saturday with manning the admissions tables as well as helping **Scott S.** with the raffles. If anyone has kits that they would like to donate for the raffle they can bring them to the next meeting.
- 5. Rick Sanders** mentioned that Dave & Darci assisted with the translation of a new

book coming out soon on the cultural history of the uniform. It will be about 150 pages and it has some great photography and imagery of uniforms. It's written by a professor at the University of Leipzig who specializes in military history. The book covers the time period of about 1600AD to the beginning of WWI.

Rick said there will be another book coming out some time next year on the Prussian army of 1806 which would cover campaigns such as the battles of Jena and Auerstaedt where they were thoroughly whipped by the French. Rick said that when he was at Kulmbach this past summer he was able to go on some battlefield tours with that author. Rick said it should be an interesting read. *(Editor's note: Thank you Rick for allowing us the chance to read the book on uniforms. It was great! We were glad to be of some assistance.)*

6. Mike Pierce phoned in from Cedar Mountain Battlefield where he was volunteering. Dave thanked Mike for encouraging one of his historian friends to submit an article for

last month's Dispatch ([see the July 2023 issue beginning on page 16](#)). We sincerely appreciated the contribution.

7. Dave mentioned that another one of Rick's author friends recently sent us a new book on the Samurai to be reviewed. (See our review on the "Worthy Reads" page!) Thank you Rick.

9. Dave reminded everyone that our next meeting would be in-person at the school on September 27.

Parade Ground [14:27-15:10]
Another great Parade Ground!

Meeting Presentation [15:10-15:40]
Dave gave a slideshow of pictures from the Gettysburg show.

Meeting Adjourned [15:40]

Attendees
Jack Thompson, David Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Dick Perry, Robert Huettner, Zachariah Becker, Mike Thomas, Rick Sanders, Mike Pierce, Burt Thompson, Curt Clinton, Jim Pratt, Brian Ford

MEETING NOTICE

Next In-Person Meeting

Sept 27, 2023

7:30-10:00 PM

Thomas Edison High School
5801 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA
Room E-112

TIP OF THE MONTH

from Dick Perry... Bang for your Super-glue Bucks

Dick said that he recently had some problems gluing figure parts together, so picked up a bottle of Gorilla Super Glue on a whim. He's used other expensive glues in the past with mixed results.

"It is terrific. Once you apply it you better jam what you're gluing quickly because it sets up in 10 seconds," noted Dick. "After an hour you would practically need a crow bar to pry what you're gluing apart. It's great stuff."

A 20g bottle of Gorilla Super Glue can be purchased for between \$6 and \$8 at your local hardware store, Walmart, Target, CVS, or through Amazon.





National Capital Model Soldier Society

Member benefits include:

- * Friendly monthly meetings where we share our knowledge of history, painting, and modeling techniques
- * Monthly guest speakers
- * Monthly *Dispatch* newsletter
- * The NCMSS Washington Show
- * Affordable dues

What are you waiting for?
Welcome to the club!



EVENTS AND PLACES

NCMSS 62nd Annual Washington Show HIGHLIGHTS

September 30, 2023 at the Springfield Hilton, Springfield VA



Author
Donald Hakenson

Don Hakenson is the past President for the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. He is a current board member of that organization and served as a History Commissioner for Lee District in Fairfax County for over five years. Don is also a founder and a member on the board of directors for the Franconia Museum and is a Civil War advisor for the Mosby Foundation, in Warrenton, Virginia...

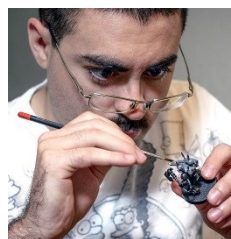
Don's manuscript, *This Forgotten Land, A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexandria, Virginia* and his book *This Forgotten Land, Volume II, Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans Buried in Alexandria, Virginia*, have received multiple awards. Don has also published three other books about Colonel John S. Mosby and his men.



Author
Aaron S. Hamilton

Aaron S. Hamilton is an academically trained historian. He holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in history, as well as the Field Historian designator awarded by the U.S. Army's Combat Studies Institute. He is an amateur maritime archeologist with a focus on submarine history. For more than twenty-five years he has researched and published ground-breaking studies about the final year of World War II in Europe. Books by A. Hamilton include:

- *Knight of the North Atlantic Baron Siegfried von Forstner and the War Patrols of U-402, 1941-1943*
- *Total Undersea War The Evolutionary Role of the Snorkel in Donitz's U-boat Fleet, 1944-1945*



How To...

Modeling Demonstrations

SCULPTING — Award winning modeler **John Jefferies** demonstrates the art of sculpting figures.

GROUND COVER — IPMS and Washington Armor Club member **Eric Reinert** explains how to add ground cover to enhance your figures and dioramas.

USING INKS — ReaperCon instructor and [ListeningToPaintDry podcast](#) host **Michael Dutcher & Zach Becker** shows how to best use inks with your models.

RESIN CASTING — Expert modeler and NCMSS Executive Officer **Bob Prokop** shows you the finer points of resin casting.

Gundam Build Table

Macho Modelz Gunpla guru **Nick Strocchia** will be hosting a Gundam Build table to answer all your Gundam-related questions. Nick will also be giving away Pokémon model kits to young aspiring modelers (while supplies last).





EVENTS AND PLACES (Continued...)

LONG ISLAND MINIATURE MODEL SHOW 2023

Hosted by the Long Island Miniature Collector Society at the Freeport Rec Center 130 Merrick Rd Freeport, NY 11520

NOV. 17TH 6-9PM
NOV. 18TH 9-4PM

COMPETITION & EXHIBIT FEATURING CATEGORIES IN MINIATURE FIGURES, ARMOR, SCI-FI, FANTASY & MORE!

General Admission: \$10 for both days
Exhibitors: \$20 unlimited entries
Kids under 12 Free!

For Further Information:
John Jefferies: (516) 662-5281
Find us on Instagram & Facebook
@longislandmodelclub

National Capital Model Soldier Society 62nd ANNUAL SHOW

Honoring The Revolutionary War's End
120 Years

SEPT. 30, 2023
Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM
At the **SPRINGFIELD HILTON**
5500 Lakeside Rd
Springfield, VA

HIGHLIGHTS!

- Highest and Sponsored Awards
- Car/Ship/Train/Armor Club Displays
- Professional Photographers
- GUNDAM Build Tables & Giveaways!
- Modeling Demonstrations
- Hobby Vendors

For Details and Program Contact: 703-828-8282
NCMSSclub.org

NOVA OPEN

HOBBY CALENDAR 2023

- AUG**
- Aug 30-Sep 3 – [NOVA Open](#), Crystal City, VA
 - Aug 31-Sep 3 – [ReaperCon](#), Denton Convention Center, Denton, TX
- SEP**
- Sep 22-24 – [JerseyFest Model Kit & Statue Fair](#), Newark, NJ
 - Sep 30 – [NCMSS 62nd Annual Washington Show](#), NCMSS, Springfield, VA
- OCT**
- Oct 7 – [PaxCon 2023](#), Southern Maryland Scale Modelers, Hollywood, MD
 - Oct 13-14 – [ArmorCon 2023](#), AMPS Northeast Military Modelers Assoc., Southbury, CT
 - Oct 20-21 – [MMSI Chicago Show 2023](#), Military Miniature Society of IL, Schaumburg, IL
 - Oct 23 – [HMGS Historicon National War Gaming Show](#), Lancaster, PA
- NOV**
- Nov 17-18 – [Long Island Miniature Model Show](#), LIMMS, Freeport, NY

NORTHEAST MILITARY + MODELERS ASSOCIATION

ARMORCON

If you know of any upcoming events that you would like people to know about, please contact Adjutant David Hoffman at bpchasseur@comcast.net and we'll add the date to our calendar.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



Virtual Meeting
August 26, 2023
Parade Ground Participants

*Rick Sanders, Dave Hoffman, Michael Pierce,
Luis Ugarte, Lorenzo Staltari, Devin Reno,
Zachariah Becker, Dick Perry, Mike Thomas*

RICK SANDERS



1700-1720 Russian Butyrsky Infantry Regiment, figures by Russian Historical Miniatures (of St. Petersburg), cast from plaster molds.



1700-1720 Russian Yaroslavsky Infantry Regiment, also cast from plaster molds.



"Mariupolsky Hussars Ask the Militia, 1812."

The hussars and militiamen are by Baer & Schmidtchen; the woman and cossack are by Werner Scholtz. Done in a shadow box using a landscape by a 19th century Russian painter for the background.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

DAVID HOFFMAN



“Confederate Napoleon 12 Pounder and crew finished the night before driving up to Gettysburg last weekend to complete my display in the APG exhibit. May tweak it a bit more yet. 75mm from AC Models (Andrew Cairns).”



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MICHAEL PIERCE

“A Visit to the Old Mistress” (scratch-built) and “Thinking Zouave”.
From Mike’s display at Gettysburg.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

LUIS UGARTE



Limited edition 75mm resin figure by Scale 75. Officer of the 10th Foot Light Infantry during the American Revolution. The piece is based on a figure done by Bill Horan.



“Knight of the XIII century of 200 mm resin. Limited edition sculpted by Rocco Larocca and produced by Master Danilo Cartacci. I have painted it with acrylics.”

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

LORENZO STALTARI



DEVIN RENO



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

ZACHARIAH BECKER



Two works in progress (left).

Retiarius 1/10 scale bust from Medieval Forge Miniatures. All acrylics and inks. I am going to add sweat beads next.

1/20 scale Morrigan bust from In Motion Creations. All acrylics...trying to add lots of detail to hair, feathers, etc.



Completed Iron Hills Dwarf (below)...3d print. All acrylics.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

DICK PERRY

Death of Marshal Lannes. Battle of Essling, 1809 (flat, upper right)

RSM Warwickshire Reg't, 1905 (below left)

10th Hussars, 1895 (below right)



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MIKE THOMAS



Belisarius



Centurion



Cornicen



Etruscan Centurion



Aquilifer



DISPATCHES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Courtesy of Robin J. Howard



‘When the mine went off it blew us out of the water’

D-Day hero dies aged 98



Daily Express, Tuesday, August 1, 2023

By James Podesta

A D-Day hero whose landing craft was “blown out of the water” by a mine has died aged 98.

Ron Murphy will be honoured at his funeral today with a Royal Navy flypast by a Merlin helicopter. His family said that the cricket fan had spent his last day watching the Ashes, drinking a cup of tea.

Ron had volunteered for the Home Guard at just 16, becoming a cyclist messenger before he enlisted in the Navy a year later. On June 6, 1944 he was a coxswain, landing Allied troops on Normandy’s Juno Beach under heavy fire from the Germans.

He recalled in his autobiography: “The combined noise was deafening. Shells passing over us sounded like express trains. I ordered the ramp to be lowered and the soldiers to disembark. I saw that one or two didn’t make it. Casualties were already evident both in the water and at the water’s edge.” After picking up more soldiers from the troopship Duke of Argyll, Ron made a second run ashore. He wrote: “I still don’t know why I did it but I got [the troops] sitting on the side which people would say was a rather silly thing to do bearing in mind what was coming out from the coast but it saved our lives because when the mine went off it blew us out of the water.” Ron briefly lost consciousness but managed to scramble ashore west of Courseulles, pulling an injured stoker to safety.

Souvenir

No one was killed in the blast but the only piece left of his landing craft was its keys — which Ron kept as a souvenir for the rest of his life. After spending the rest of D-Day as a stretcher bearer under fire, Ron spent two weeks convalescing in Gosport, Hants. He was later sent to the Far East where he helped liberate Singapore in September 1945.

Following the end of the Second World War he worked for the Admiralty. Later he joined its underwater Weapons Establishment unit in Portland, Dorset.

South London-born Ron married Eileen and they had two children Pauline and Barry, with the family settling in Bradpole, Dorset.

Ron met Queen Elizabeth when he was made an MBE in 1980 and he retired four years later. He died on July 1 and his son Barry, 70, said: “My father was very well decorated. The Royal Navy have recognized his

contribution and agreed to give him a good send-off.

“The night before [he died] he was watching the cricket, had a cup of tea and went to bed and the next day he suddenly passed away.” Barry added: “It was very sad and took us all by surprise. He would not want all of this fuss, but I think he deserves it. He did a lot for his country and was fighting for our freedom. He put his life on the line in the event that he might not survive, but he did it to protect the United Kingdom. They were the greatest generation and the Merlin flypast will be a fitting send-off.”

The family includes four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Ron’s funeral is being held at Bradpole’s Holy Trinity Church. Tributes were paid to him on social media. Members of the Bublin branch of the Royal British Legion posted the message: “Thank you for your service, Ronald. May you rest in peace.”

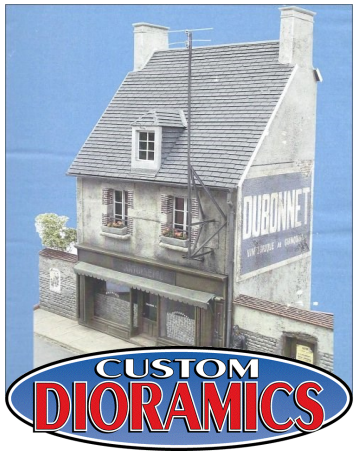
Keith Ohlson added: “RIP great man, your service is now completed and thank you for our freedom. Lest we forget.” 🇺🇦



Greatest Generation — Ron Murphy, circled, with his Navy comrades



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WORTHY READS

BOOK REVIEW BY DAVID HOFFMAN

Bakumatsu: Volume III, From Samurai to Soldiers – Japan in the 1860s

by **Till Weber**, illustrated by **Sascha Lunyakov**
168pp, Zeughaus Verlag GmbH, Berlin, Germany, 2023

Last year in our [July 2022 issue](#) of *The Dispatch* (see page 14) we reviewed volumes I and II of Till Weber's *Samurai Armies of the Late Sengoku Period*. *Bakumatsu* is the third volume in Weber's high-quality paperback series on the Samurai. Like the first two volumes, it is well written and profusely illustrated.

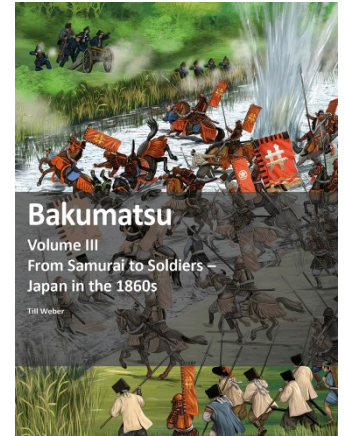
Bakumatsu is concise yet comprehensive in approach and focuses on an important period of Japanese military history that is perhaps underrepresented in historical references. It has over 270 illustrations which include contemporary artwork, photographs, detailed drawings of symbols, flags, uniforms, armor, equipment, maps, etc., as well as 12 full- or double-page color plates. From the standpoint of a figure painter, the figure studies are every bit as detailed as you might

find in a very good Osprey book.

The target audience for all three volumes, according to the publisher, is the general military history reader, samurai enthusiasts as well as figure modelers, painters, and wargamers for whom much detailed information is provided, some of which has never before been published in Western languages. The author himself is a lifelong collector and painter of Zinnfiguren and other model figures.

Till Weber has lived for 27 years in Japan. Currently he is a professor at Ryukyu University in Okinawa. He has researched the samurai since the mid-1980's and has written a number of publications on the history of Japan.

According to Weber the topic of this third volume is "the end of the samurai as a military force (and a class indeed) in the 1860's." He makes particular mention of the book's "nice original plates" by Sasha Lunyakov. Weber also says that much information in the book is from Japanese sources, noting "This time, there is more about general 19th c. war-



fare, weapons and tactics which did globalize much more than around 1600. Actually, the Japanese bought a lot of surplus equipment from the ACW. The Boshin War started in early 1868, so enough time for scores of ashigaru to walk about in Union army trousers and wielding Springfield rifles!"

A Brief Synopsis

From the early 17th century until the 1860s, Japan was ruled by samurai led by the Shoguns of the powerful Tokugawa dynasty. The long period of peace following almost incessant civil war had negative effects on the proficiency of these feudal warri-



...the 17th century had been established by the...
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BAKUMATSU REVIEW (CONTINUED)



ors. When industrialized Western powers whose armies and navies were equipped with the most modern weapons began to take interest in Japan in the 1850s, a tumultuous period of reforms and radical changes ensued – Bakumatsu [the final years of the Edo period when the Tokugawa shogunate ended, between 1853 and 1868]. Modern rifles and artillery produced new tactics, while modern uniforms replaced the samurai’s former splendor in arms. Now even non-samurai could become fighting men. By the 1870s, the Emperor Meiji ruled over a new Japan which no longer had any use for its ancient warrior élite. The arms, clothing and equipment are presented in detail. The author describes the campaigns and battles which changed the country’s face between 1866 and 1869, and introduces the



protagonists of the struggle which culminated in modern Japan’s entrance onto the world stage.

Overall Impressions

Weber’s third samurai volume gives you a wealth of information and dispels some popular misconceptions about the period still in the literature. Like volumes I and II, it is nicely footnoted with comprehensive sources and references listed.

As in the development of any modern army, the creation of doctrine, tactics and standardized training play a vital role. Professor Weber covers these aspects very well, including the acquisition of modern armaments, often more suitable to the limited logistic capabilities in Japan. The adaptability of the Japanese and their relatively quick transition to modern warfare and tactics is fascinating.

Descriptions and qualities of opposing combatants are provided along with the military reforms that were being introduced. For example, the arquebus, still in use with formalized training, was replaced by modern percussion firearms such as the Springfield and Chassepot. Old muzzle loading artillery were replaced with breach loading Armstrongs and Gatling guns. Some of the artifacts from Japanese museums would be just as at

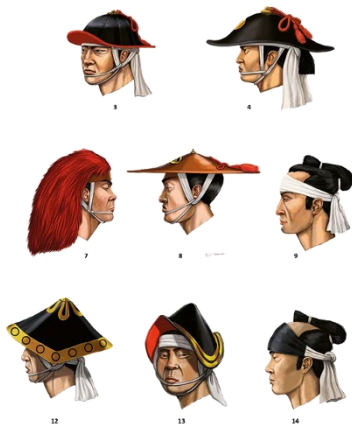
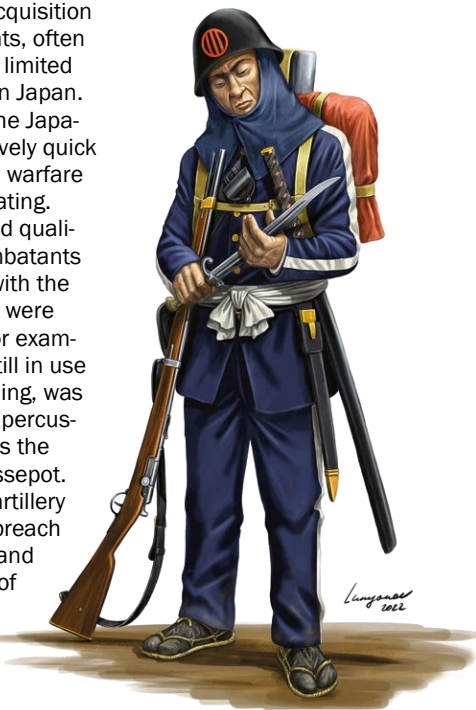
home in a Gettysburg museum.

The contrast and conflict between modern and traditional or at times feudal approaches is well described with newly formed militias defeating traditional samurai fighting for their overlords. This is evident in the examples of smaller, well trained modern equipped forces defeating vast numbers of traditional troops, such as in 1863 when an army of 150,000 could not defeat a modern militia with artillery of 4,500.

The author also examines some of the important personalities of the era. For example, take the the story of an officer with the French military mission stationed in Japan who had an influence on events and even became the character in a Tom Cruise movie. (No doubt most of you have seen “The Last Samurai.”)

Overall, *Bakumatsu* is a welcome addition to my library, not only because it’s a great reference for figure painting. It’s a “must read” book about an interesting and important period.

—David Hoffman



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Go for it!! 301sq

GAEL HOBBIES

The Little Tin Soldier

Purveyors of Flat Figurines
TheLittleTinSoldier.com

RECOMMENDED READING
FROM
Nicholas Kalis

Allied Military Model Making during World War II

By Alastair W. Pearson

Editor's Note: *Cartography and Geographic Information Science* is an academic journal about cartography and geographic information science published by Taylor & Francis on behalf of the U.S. Cartography and Geographic Information Society, in affiliation with the International Cartographic Association. This article originally appeared in [*Cartography and Geographic Information Science*, Vol. 29, No. 3, 2002, pp. 227-241.](#)

ABSTRACT: It is generally accepted that the three-dimensional nature of the digital terrain model enhances our visualization of surfaces. Modern techniques enable a detailed landscape to be constructed as a facsimile of reality that provides an opportunity to move through or fly over the landscape. Given these benefits, it is little surprise that simulations using digital terrain models are employed as essential visual aids for briefing and training military personnel prior to land, air, and sea operations. Though these capabilities are significant, they are not necessarily, in the basic sense, new. This paper traces the development and examines the role of terrain models made by the Allies during World War II, a period prior to the development of computer-based modeling. Though made from basic materials, these sophisticated terrain models were hand crafted by enlisted sculptors, architects, stage designers, and artists, who carefully modeled a sculpture of the landscape to be an invaluable aid during key military operations of World War II.

Introduction

Use of terrain models to support military operations has a long history and is by no means purely an artifact of the twentieth century. According to Isabell Warmoes (1999), the production of scale models of fortified towns is a European tradition dating from the early sixteenth century. The *Musée des plans-reliefs* in Paris holds a collection of one hundred models of fortified towns situated along former French frontiers or subject to French rule that represent “portraits in relief” of towns and their surrounding countryside within range of artillery fire and enemy approach works, such as trenches, in case of siege. The levels of craftsmanship and attention to detail have seldom been exceeded.

During the twentieth century the three-dimensional terrain model played a significant role in many theatres of both world wars. According to Archibald Clough (1952), the static nature of World War I (1914-1918) demanded relief models of enemy defense positions for planning offensive assault operations. Campaign maps at a scale of 1:20,000 were made of the Western Front by a new model-making subdivision of the Ordnance Survey for General Headquarters in France.

Layers of cardboard were cut to the shape of the contour, then pasted together and covered by a map sheet of the area printed on special paper, with the latest positions of the trenches marked. According to Peter Chasseaud (1999), models were sent to France between December 1916 and April 1917 at a rate of 36 per week. Indeed, by the end of the war, the Ordnance Survey had produced approximately one thousand of these models (War Office 1920).

A model of Zeebrugge, Belgium, at a scale of 1:2,500, made in 1918 by the Royal Navy, marked both a change in the nature of warfare and, as a consequence, a change in the requirements for terrain models. The famous Zeebrugge Raid of April 23,

1918, a daring attempt to destroy a U-boat base (Keegan 1998), required careful planning and briefing. Use of the terrain model during the preparation and planning stages of the Zeebrugge raid pointed to the future role of models during World War II for combined operations.

Between the wars, however, the utility of models to aid in terrain visualization was not entirely forgotten and was alive immediately prior to World War II. In the second edition of *A Key to Maps* (1939), Harold Winterbotham added an entire chapter on model making to his earlier edition of 1937. Winterbotham, a brigadier and ex-Director General of the Ordnance Survey, had extensive combat experience in the Boer War and World War I, and had made models himself. Similarly, Frank Debenham's *Exercises in Cartography*, published in 1937, devotes a chapter to the subject.

Development of Anglo-American Model Making

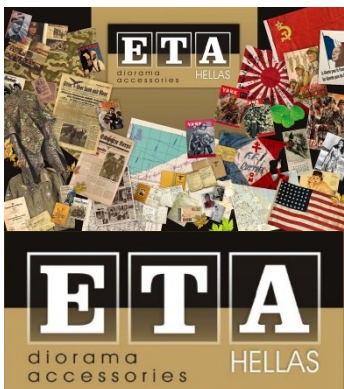
Establishing the Model-making Section

Though the British Army was not prepared for the demand for model-making at the onset of World War II, a model-making section was formed as early as mid-1940 (Abrams 1991), after representatives of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force (RAF), and the Army met to discuss intelligence gathering for the Commandos. Commando operations relied on military personnel acting with a high degree of initiative. This new notion meant officers at all levels had to know exactly what they were doing and be able to pass this information on to their men accurately. Clearly, the success of Commando operations was going to rely heavily on thorough briefings with first-rate intelligence materials presented, so that all personnel would have a clear image of the target and its topographic context.

In this new type of assault, military training and courage alone would not do. Use of military intelligence had changed dramatically, as it was no longer solely the generals who were making tactical decisions in the field. Many assaults were combined operations of land, sea, and air forces. Coordination of

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E-mail: alastair.pearson@port.ac.uk

ALLIED MODEL MAKING (CONTINUED)



THE MODEL CELLAR

We produce a range of figures, busts, and accessories with a special interest in The Great War, 1914-1918

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such complex operations required detailed and reliable intelligence that could be effectively passed along to those involved in its planning and execution.

The significance of aerial photography as a source for military intelligence was becoming more fully appreciated. As early as 1940 the British had established the Central Interpretation Unit (CIU), and by 1942 the unit had amassed over three million photographs that covered most of Europe (Reed 1946). The Royal Air Force files also contained invaluable information on tides, geology, and photographs of installations and cities collected from newspapers and periodicals. Furthermore, the RAF also had facilities for enlarging contour maps, aerial photographs, and mosaics to the exact size of the proposed terrain models. Aerial photography and terrain modeling were to prove an effective combination later in the war.

The idea of using relief models initially met with some skepticism by military commanders. According to Spooner (1953), the problem of training military personnel to comprehend strategic and tactical briefings through reading topographic maps was both monumental and vital. Officer experience with terrain models was limited to what were called the *sand table*, basically a table with a raised rim containing a bed of coarse sand used during military training at Sandhurst Military Academy since the beginning of the nineteenth century. Despite this skepticism, a model-making group was formed under the Director of Inspection of Camouflage at the Royal Aeronautical Establishment, Farnborough. Clearly, the group needed skilled model makers with art training and experience. Professional and commercial artists, sculptors, architects, and architectural model makers were invited to volunteer for service within the unit as “Aircrafthands, General Duties.” After training in air photo interpretation, work began on making models of airfields in Brittany near Lorient and Vannes, Brest Harbour, Cherbourg Peninsular, Guernsey, and places farther away such as Dakar and Tobruk. Models continued to be made to support combined operations (mainly by the Commandos for targets in Italy and Norway) and, gradually, the significance of the model makers’ efforts became more widely recognized. In January 1941, model makers were re-mustered to a new trade as “Pattern-Makers, Architectural.”

The model shop now became known as V-Section and was transferred to the RAF’s Central Interpretation Unit at Medmenham,

Buckinghamshire. The basement of Danesfield House at Medmenham was set aside for model making. All personnel, except one officer, lived in a hut within the grounds of Danesfield (Scott, personal communication 2002). Models were made of Bruneval and St Nazaire—significant combined operations that further proved the worth of the model-making section. As with all model-making activities, the Bruneval raid demanded the creation of a highly accurate and realistic three-dimensional model of the site. The success of the operation was timely, as the Allies had recently suffered several severe setbacks, notably the sinking of H.M.S. Prince of Wales and H.M.S. Repulse, the surrender of Singapore, and the embarrassing escape of the heavy cruisers Prince Eugen, Scharnhorst, and Gneisenau through the English Channel. According to Reginald (R.V.) Jones (1998), Assistant Director of Intelligence, few

other raids had such clear objectives and benefited from such detailed intelligence. Indeed, the success of the Bruneval raid clinched the future of paratroops in Britain when the First Airborne Division and the First Parachute Brigade were formed immediately afterward.

The planning of the Allied raid on the French port of Dieppe presented a major model-making effort. The importance of accurate models was brought home to the section after the raid. The model makers were told that the sea wall, shown on the model as being high enough to provide cover for the tanks on the beach, did not provide cover, thereby leaving tanks and other armor exposed to German artillery fire (Abrams 1991). But few tanks made it that far, and the sea wall was the only known error in the entire model, which saved many lives.

The work of the model-making section began to gain recognition by all three services. V-Section gained a reputation for integrity and worthwhile contributions to intelligence gathering and use. Consequently the workload in the model-making section increased, and more personnel were required.

Expansion of V-Section

Representatives of the Combined Chiefs of Staff decided as early as February 1942 that terrain models should be employed in the planning and briefing of major operations. When the U.S. Eighth Army Air Force came to Britain, the Air Ministry looked to the Americans to provide additional model-making capacity. An Engineer Model-Making Detach-

“Clearly, the group needed skilled model makers with art training and experience.”

ALLIED MODEL MAKING (CONTINUED)

ment, which arrived in July 1942 with one officer and twenty men, increased by the end of the year to three officers and 85 men. Shortly after they arrived, the Americans were moved to Henley-on-Thames, just beside the river a few miles away, to what had been an exclusive private club called Phyllis Court (Abrams 1991). Royal Air Force personnel remained at Danesfield and were transported to Phyllis Court by truck or made their own way there by bicycle. Phyllis Court, a regency country house with fine views of the River Thames through its large French windows, was a pleasant place to work. Spacious and well lit, it was conducive to model making (Scott, personal communication 2002).

After a short training course at Nuneham Harcourt, south of Oxford, the Americans joined up with the RAF model-making team to form a “powerful allied group which, during the course of the war, turned out a remarkably fine series of models in wide variety” (Clough 1952, p. 556). Oddly, the Americans were hitherto unfamiliar with the interpretation of air photography, particularly the use of photogrammetry for intelligence gathering (Reed 1946). A great many of the American generals required much convincing and training about the uses of air photos for gathering intelligence. In Britain, by contrast, aerial photograph interpretation had become a basic source of intelligence, and the use of air photography represented a major British contribution to the Allied intelligence effort.

V-Section moved from Henley back to Danesfield House, Medmenham, Buckinghamshire, in the summer of 1943, apparently due to the increased demand for models. Invasion plans for the Sicilian and Normandy coasts dominated the work of the Model-Making Detachment. A model of the island of Pantelleria, near Sicily, was made in the United States and sent over in October 1942. Models were also prepared for air attacks on the dams at Eder, Sorpe, Möhne, and Bisorte, the ball-bearing works at Schweinfurt, the viaducts at Bielefeld and Neuenbecke, oil refineries at Ploesti, the ship lift at Magdeburg, and many others, plus various targets for South East Asia Command. Later on, the unit supplied models of the experimental V-weapon sites at Peenemünde and launching sites at Bois Carré, Watten, Siracourt, and Wizernes.

American model-making detachments worked in North Africa and Italy, under the control of the Director of Survey at Allied Forces Headquarters. Although the effort focused on the preparation of models for the assault on the south coast of France, a model-making detachment served in Italy with the U.S. Fifth Army, and a model-making section was at-

tached to the Middle East Interpretation Unit in Cairo. In May 1943, another British detachment accompanied the Mediterranean Allied Photo Reconnaissance Wing to La Marsa, Tunisia, where models of the Italian beach-heads were made, and then proceeded to San Severo, Italy, in December of the same year. Models were made of areas of eastern Italy, including those used for the crossing of the River Sangro by the British Eighth Army under Montgomery (Scott, personal communication 2002).

The Allied team at Medmenham broke up in August 1944 when the Americans decided to send their personnel overseas to be closer to the actual operations. The Model-Making Detachment moved to Paris, where it was set up as an independent unit under the control of the Engineer Intelligence Division. Models were produced for assisting in the assault on the Siegfried Line, the crossing of the Rhine, and the thrust into Germany. Models of the forts at Metz, which held out for some time after the town had fallen to the Allies, were apparently very useful in the forts' final capture.

Model Construction Techniques

There were two main methods of model construction: the photo-skinned method and the egg-crate method. Both methods are described in detail by Harrison Reed (1946) and by the Air Ministry in its *Handbook on Models and Model-making*, first published in May 1943.

The Photo-skinned Method

British and Americans worked closely to meet very tight deadlines. As a rule, two British “Pattern Makers, Architectural” worked side by side with two U.S. Army “Model Makers” on the same shift and on the same part of the construction. The basement at Medmenham must have echoed to the sound of fret saws and hammers as the contours that had been traced from enlarged maps were cut out of hardboard and then mounted and nailed into position. After the contours were smoothed by electric chisel, the landform was given an unbroken surface by the application with spatulas of Watertex, a mixture of plaster of Paris, glue size, and wood pulp. Frequent and careful reference to the original maps was an essential part of the process. Rescaled photographs were then dampened so that they could be stretched and placed carefully over the model. Then the model was painted to match the colors of the landscape, and miniature buildings, trees, and fences were added. Color tones were transparent so that the field patterns and texture of the terrain surface as revealed by the photo-skin



ALLIED MODEL MAKING (CONTINUED)



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LOUDBON COUNTY'S TABLETOP GAMING HEADQUARTERS

could show through. Hedging, an important feature in the European landscape, was added using a green paste mixture forced through a nozzle by controlled air pressure. For large-scale models, buildings were crafted in linoleum, which was cut to shape with razor blades. When the model makers were finished, planners could study the model and prepare for their assault or bombing raid.

Photographs of a method of production similar to that described above survive from the model making units based at Medmenham and at Heliopolis, near Cairo. The latter unit operated as part of the Middle East Intelligence Unit and provided a portfolio of photographs and captions to assist in training model makers. Figure 1 shows the hardboard contours nailed together and mounted in position. Clearly, model-making materials varied according to the specific location. The model makers in Cairo used “mangarieh,” a mixture of minced newspaper, local plaster, and glue (Figure 2). A photo-skin was created by mosaicking re-scaled photographs of the area and pasting the photo-skin to the model, using road intersections or other common reference points for registration. The availability and close scrutiny of aerial photography using stereoscopes was an essential part of the more detailed stages in the modeling process (Figure 3). Maps were used for reference to locate airfields, railways, and roads (Figure 4) before the model was finished (Figure 5).

In order to promote realism and provide personnel with portable visual references while conducting operations, the terrain models were sometimes illuminated and then photographed to replicate as closely as possible the light that would exist at the time of the planned operation. Aircrews could thus be briefed with photographs taken from above the model, whereas Commandos would be shown photographs of the model as if viewed from the sea.

The Egg-Crate Method

During the work on Sicily, the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy demanded that the model-making section not only work faster but also produce smaller, lighter models. Pilots needed models of the Norwegian fjords to hold in their laps while searching for the German battleship Tirpitz. In order to meet this demand, Captain Theodore Fletcher, an American within the model-making section, introduced a new method (Abrams 1991). Vertical sets of cardboard were cut to the shape of vertical profiles running north-south and east-west as taken from the available topographic maps. The combination of both sets of profiles gave the method its distinctive egg-crate type of construction. Though the



Figure 1. Hardboard contours nailed together and mounted in position at MEIU, Cairo. [Reproduced with kind permission of the Public Record Office.]



Figure 2. The model makers in Cairo used ‘mangarieh’, a mixture of minced newspaper, local plaster and glue. [Reproduced with kind permission of the Public Record Office.]



Figure 3. The availability and close scrutiny of aerial photography was an essential part of the more detailed stages in the modeling process. MEIU, Cairo. (Reproduced with kind permission of the Public Record Office.)

ALLIED MODEL MAKING (CONTINUED)



Figure 4. Maps were used for reference to locate airfields, railways, and roads. [Reproduced with kind permission of the Public Record Office.]



Figure 5. The finished model. [Reproduced with kind permission of the Public Record Office.]



Figure 6. A typical egg-crate model of Sword Beach used for planning the assault landing on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

egg-crates could provide only minimum detail and were fragile, they were constructed quickly and easily. Typically, six men could complete a panel in twenty-four hours (Reed 1946). This method provided a wider distribution of information than practical with the more detailed photo-skinned models. Egg-crate models were later constructed by sec-

tions accompanying army units for briefing sessions at or near the front.

Although hastily constructed, egg-crate models of the Norwegian fjords of Bogen, Alten, and Trondheim played a part in the eventual sinking of the German battleship Tirpitz. During the last months before the invasion of Normandy, formations of the 21st Army Group were asking for larger-scale models at 1:1,000 and 1:500. According to Clough (1952), representatives from British, Canadian, and American corps and divisions serving under the 21st Army Group Command completed over 700 egg-crate models during the planning period, and many more were made in the field during actual operations. Figure 6 shows a typical egg-crate model of Sword Beach, which was used to plan the D-day landing on June 6, 1944. Careful study of the model reveals the egg-crate construction showing through the surface of the model, a feature made more obvious because the material covering the crate has shrunk with time.

The simplicity of the egg-crate construction meant that many other branches of the Allied forces could begin building terrain models. The Canadian Army made a number of models during the operations to liberate The Netherlands. Officers in the Royal Navy were also trained in their construction.

Terrain Model Examples

Relief models were used in most theatres of World War II. For example, the Russian attack on the Mannerheim Line and the detailed model of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese played important roles in planning offensives (Ristow 1964). Nevertheless, it was in Europe that the most sophisticated terrain models were made.

Clough (1952) and the Department of the Army (1956) provide sufficient detail for a broad classification of terrain models (Table 1). Models were made at a variety of scales, depending on their use and available source materials. Models ranged from 1:500,000 scale for strategic planning to large-scale models for air-bombing targets and commando raids. Level of detail and vertical exaggeration also varied with the scale and purpose of the model. The vertical scale varied inversely with plan scale in order to maintain a three-dimensional human view of the terrain...

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*Allied Military Model Making during
 World War II,*
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BACK TO GETTYSBURG

ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP EXHIBITION

During the weekend of August 17-20 a number of NCMSS members had the opportunity to attend the Artist Preservation Group's Historical Miniature Exhibition in the Gettysburg Battlefield Visitor's Center. The exhibit was held in cooperation with the National Park Service. The funds raised by the APG will allow for exhibition of the 2nd North Carolina Infantry flag in the park's museum galleries. The Museum curator explained that a new conservation treatment will include unmounting the flag from its current support, removal of old encapsulation and underlays, documentation, custom dying of new underlays/overlays for improved appearance and protection, prepare a new mount and re-frame – all of which will allow the public to better view and understand the events surrounding the Battle of Gettysburg, along with researcher's understanding the typology of Army of Northern Virginia's battle flags.

The Scale 75 Painting Class by Julio Cabos had as the subject a special release of a copy of Bill Horan's Berdan's Sharpshooter. The first day had a private showing of a Berdan's uniform, double trigger Sharps rifle used by the Berdan's Sharpshooters, Kepi and a calf skin knapsack compliments of Greg Goodell the Gettysburg Museum Curator.

On Sunday Scott Hartwig, battlefield guide and renowned author led APG members on a terrain walk following the trace of Pickett's division on the third day of Gettysburg.

Below we've shared a few pictures from the show. Many more pics are available to view on our [NCMSS Facebook site](#).



BACK TO GETTYSBURG (CONTINUED)



"Old Pete"
Gen. James Longstreet, CSA
First Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

"The Gray Ghost"
Maj. John Singleton Mosby
43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry



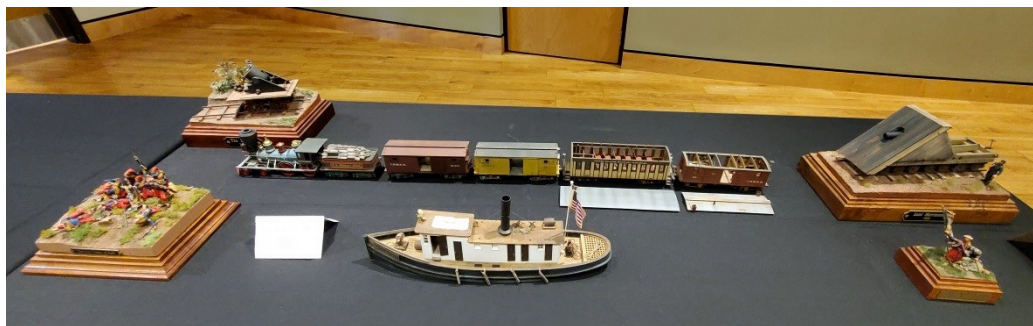
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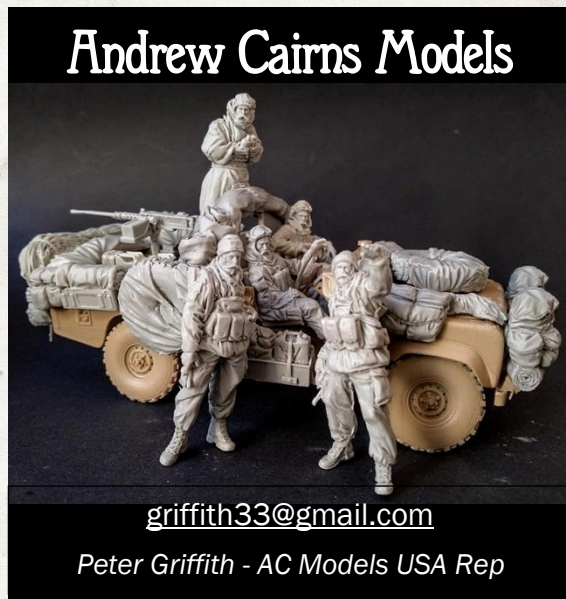
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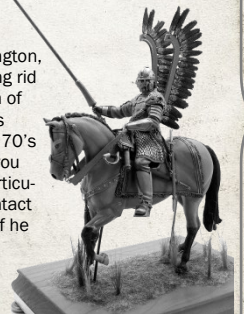
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Brian has Bartons, Almonds, Poste Militaire, Series 77, Ceremonial, and many others. Contact him at: aford1@ec.rr.com



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