



# THE DISPATCH

Nov/Dec 2020, Vol. 59, Issue 11

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## MEETING NOTICE

**Due to the Covid-19 outbreak the NCMSS is currently holding meetings online. Check your e-mail inbox for the next meeting date & time.**



## COMMANDER'S CALL

**Happy New Year** to the entire NCMSS Team. Welcome to yet another issue of *The Dispatch* and yes, we are catching up with the help of this dual issue for the months of November and December. Hope you are all enjoying *The Dispatch*, the Hoffman duo does an incredible job putting it together, a labor of love. Thanks to all of you for the great content, keep it coming!

We continue like clockwork with our monthly meetings, thanks to all those that participate and please feel free to join us and send your pictures to Dave for the Pa-

**rade Ground.**

Planning for our 59th Annual "virtual" Show on 13 March 2021 is in full steam ahead mode. Visit our club website at [NCMSSClub.org](http://NCMSSClub.org) for more information on how to enter... and oh, by the way, the show is **free** to all participants! Get your entries in as soon as you can! Reach out to Dave if you want to be a part of the fun and please help get the word out to your networks.

The past year has been a crazy one, but I am hoping we can get back to our in-person meetings in 2021 and pull off

an in-person Show! Until then, please take care of yourselves and check in on one another.

Share the hobby and paint on!



**Burt**  
NCMSS Commander

## ONCE AGAIN IT'S TIME TO RE-ENLIST!

It's that time of year again to renew your NCMSS Club membership. These dues help make what we do possible. Your dues pay for club activities, state fees, yearly insurance costs, printing & mailing expenses, maintenance of our website, sponsorships of awards at figure competitions, promoting and executing our own yearly show, funding special projects, and overall promotion of our beloved hobby.

We can't do any of these things without your continued support! Renew or join by using the form in *The Dispatch* or use [PayPal on our club's website](https://www.paypal.com).

Thank you for helping to keep our club marching ahead into the future!

*Darci Hoffman*  
NCMSS Paymaster

**THE CALL TO DUTY**

**JOIN THE NCMSS**

**HONORING HISTORY THROUGH ART**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR CLUB WEBSITE AT:  
**NCMSSCLUB.ORG**

ADAPTED FROM THE SCULPTURE BY EDUARDO CAMILLI



**November  
MOTM  
“Mug-of-the-Month”**



**Happy Birthday  
U. S. Marine Corps**



**December  
MOTM  
“Mug-of-the-Month”**



Photograph of Major Dick Winters taken in 1945.

**Major Dick Winters**

# CLUB NEWS

The NCMSS held its 10th and 11th “Virtual” Club Meetings on November 18th and December 23rd, respectively. Regular “in person” meetings continue to be on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks to Nick Strocchia for hosting our meetings on Zoom.



## MEETING MINUTES — November 18, 2020

**Call to Order  
[19:40]**

After some informal discussions on tanks & figures with Scott (a guest attendee from AMPS) Adjutant David Hoffman started the meeting.

**New/Old Business  
[19:40-20:10]**

- 1) Dave thanked Mike Thomas for his *Dispatch* contributions. Excellent work!
- 2) Dave discussed planning for the Virtual Show. Mike Dutcher mentioned advertising possibilities.
- 3) Kudos to Nick Strocchia for developing the show platform and structure. Test volunteers are welcome.
- 4) Dave H. noted the Atlanta Show was still going forward. Other major shows have been postponed.
- 5) Members are invited to post their work in the Members Gallery on our club website. Send Mike Fleckenstein

- your photos. Dave also gave a shoutout to Nick’s Macho Modelz & Mike Dutcher’s Listening to Paint Dry, encouraging folks to check them out.
- 6) Darci noted our live show venue for Sept 2021 is still reserved. In the never-ending saga of our t-shirts, we’ve confirmed prices with the vendor.
  - 7) Rick Sanders mentioned two books he translated for Zeughaus Verlag, one on the Venetian War 1487 and one on Prussian Army Uniforms. Rick said the should be available for ordering in December. Rick noted that he makes no royalties from the book sales.
  - 8) Mike Pierce said the grand opening of the field hospital exhibit at Elmwood Manor at the Battle of the Wilderness. was postponed until next year. The [Lake of the Woods study group](#) is holding an

online presentation about the exhibit at Elmwood Manor.

9) Robert H. shared a link to the new U.S. Army Museum saying many exhibits are “absolutely fantastic.” Visit the museum’s website for tickets/entry times. Robert suggested NCMSS should set up displays at the museum.

**Parade Ground  
[19:57-20:10]**

David Hoffman presented a Parade Ground Power-Point.

**Conclusion  
[21:05]**

**Attendees**  
Mike Thomas, Dave Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Bob Prokop, Rick Sanders, Jim Richey, Mike Dutcher, Brian Ford, Nick Strocchia, Dick Perry, Michael Pierce, Zach Becker, Tim Stormer, Scott Sheltz

## MEETING MINUTES — December 23, 2020

**Call to Order  
[19:40]**

After some informal discussions, Adjutant David Hoffman started the meeting.

**New/Old Business  
[19:40-19:55]**

- 1) Nick S. discussed his setup for the virtual show. (Excellent work Nick!) About 2.5 hours of content will be scheduled. Mike Fleckenstein will keep our schedule updated as we notify him of changes.
- 2) Dave discussed show judging. Contact him if you would like to be a judge. Bob P is working on sponsorships.
- 3) Mike Fleckenstein provided some feedback on virtual show judging from his past

- experience. Mike offered to put his presentation on “How to Photograph Models” on our website for people to use as a reference. Thank you Mike!
- 4) Dave reiterated the show to be a low-pressure fun opportunity for people to get together and share their work. Burt thanked everyone for the great job they were doing. (Burt deserves thanks, too!)
  - 5) David H. reminded everyone that they need to spread the word about the show!

**Parade Ground  
[19:55-20:30]**

David H. presented the Parade Ground Powerpoint.

**Monthly Presentation  
[20:30-20:45]**

David Hoffman shared a throw-back video and a figure slideshow.

**Conclusion  
[21:00]**

**Attendees**  
Mike Thomas, Dave Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Bob Prokop, Rick Sanders, Jim Richey, Burt Thompson, Brian Ford, Nick Strocchia, Dick Perry, Michael Pierce, Darla Yaun, Warren Yaun, James Pratt, Mike Fleckenstein

Both November & December minutes submitted by David Hoffman, NCMSS Adjutant <[bpchasseur@comcast.net](mailto:bpchasseur@comcast.net)> (240) 912-6499



It's so easy!

You now can join or renew your NCMSS membership with



Enter for FREE BEFORE FEBRUARY 27

**Highlights Include**

- ◆ Online Gallery of your Entries
- ◆ Awards
- ◆ Raffles
- ◆ Modeling and Painting Seminars

For more info visit our website at:

**[NCMSSclub.org](http://NCMSSclub.org)**

# Special Thanks

to the Sponsors that have made our 59<sup>th</sup> Annual "Virtual" Show possible



**Birch Tree Enterprises**

Your First Choice for Display Bases

John has been a long-time supporter of the NCMSS. If you're looking for a base for your display, John has what you need!

Contact John Jefferies via Email: [birchtreejohn@aol.com](mailto:birchtreejohn@aol.com), Phone: (516) 662-5281



**Evan Designs**

A Leader in LED Hobby Lights

"We take pride in our quality products for modelers and hobby enthusiasts..."

Visit their website at [Evandesigns.com](http://Evandesigns.com)



**ETA Diorama Accessories**

The Detail Makes the Difference

"We design and produce diorama accessories with extreme detail, using high quality digital printing materials, emphasizing historical accuracy."

Visit their website at [ETA-diorama.com](http://ETA-diorama.com)



**Fallout Hobbies**

"Fallout Hobbies Produces Vinyl Airbrush Stencils and Waterside Decals for Sci-Fi and Tabletop Wargame Model Enthusiasts."

Visit their website at [FalloutHobbies.com](http://FalloutHobbies.com)



**Jeffshiu's Miniatures**

Jeff has graciously sent three of his AMAZING kits to be given as awards at the show. Thank you, Jeff!

Visit Jeff's website at [Jeffshiu.lsft.com](http://Jeffshiu.lsft.com)



**HobbySense**

**Hobby Sense**

The Premier Hobby Store for all your needs - online and in-person.

"We pride ourselves on our incredible collection of Plastic Model Kits, Puzzles, Embroidery Kits, Wood Kits, and Tools & Supplies."

Visit their website at [HobbySense.ca](http://HobbySense.ca)



**Monument Hobbies**

"...the best paints, brushes, and accessories at the best value for your hobby buck."

Visit their website at [MonumentHobbies.com](http://MonumentHobbies.com)



**Black Heart Enterprises**

"Black Heart Models is a collaboration of artists and artisans working together to create horror/sci-fi/fantasy products for collectors, hobbyists, miniaturists and other fans of beautiful, spooky, fantastic, and/or weird stuff.

Our focus is always on quality and customer service. We guarantee satisfaction. "

Visit their website at [BlackHeartModels.com](http://BlackHeartModels.com)

# CLUB NEWS



*Order your stylish NCMSS shirt today!*

The club is happy to announce that we are currently accepting orders for our very own personalized NCMSS embroidered shirts. The shirts will be ordered from Sports Plus in Fredericksburg, VA and should be available within the next month. Since this is our first order, it may take a little longer for the shirts to arrive. Once they arrive, we'll be happy to ship your shirt to you in the mail.

If you have any questions about shirt styles and/or materials, send us an E-mail at [dkdickens-h@comcast.net](mailto:dkdickens-h@comcast.net)

Description	Size		Color	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount
	Men's or Women's	S/M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL				
T-Shirt, short sleeve					\$25.00	
T-Shirt, long sleeve					\$25.00	
Polo shirt					\$35.00	
Button down, short sleeve					\$45.00	
Button down, long sleeve					\$45.00	

NOTE: If you would like a different color than the examples shown above, check out the selections at [SPORTS PLUS](#) and let us know!

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print legibly)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Make your check payable to **NCMSS** and send it to: **NCMSS % D. Hoffman**  
 17720 Mill Creek Dr  
 Derwood, MD 20855



## The National Capital Model Soldier Society

Member benefits include:

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

What are you waiting for?

**Welcome to the club!**



## EVENTS AND PLACES

It won't be long until we're out there visiting our favorite museums and historic sites. Until then, all we need is a PC or smartphone to see the world!

**STAY AT HOME EDITION**

### National Model Railroad Association Potomac Div.

Thanks to long-time NCMSS club member **Darla Y.** for telling us about the NMRA Mid-eastern Region Potomac Division's clinics page! The Potomac Division has documented dozens of written "how to" modeling instructions along with a number of video clinics. Check out [Using Styrofoam As A Base for Scenery by Tim Barr - Virtual Clinic 6 - December 7, 2020](#)

The Potomac Division holds Virtual Clinics on the



third Sunday of each month which start at 3:00 P.M. and run until they are completed. All Virtual clinics are presented using the Zoom video plat-

form which will allows attendees to have video and audio, video only, or just listen access. Click here for Information on how to use Zoom. An email with information on how to access the on-line clinic will be sent to the PD membership prior to two weeks prior to the clinic and reminder emails will be sent one week prior and the day of the clinic. Visit the Potomac Division's website for the calendar of upcoming clinics and club events!



### AMFS Figure Show 2021 Marietta Conference Center/Atlanta Hilton, February 19, 20, 21

The AMFS is busily preparing for the event to make it as enjoyable as possible for those of y'all who make it the Marietta Conference Center/Atlanta Hilton. The show will open at 7:00 PM on Friday and conclude Sunday morning.

This years version of the show will look a bit different than in years past. They've made various changes that will help insure safety while maintaining their usual quality show experience. Currently they have a full slate of vendors committed to attend.

For details visit the AMFS website at [AtlantaFigures.org](http://AtlantaFigures.org)

### National Capital Model Soldier Society 59th Annual "Virtual" Show

March 13, 2021

We missed the fun of hosting our in-person event last year, so we decided instead to bring the National Capital Model Soldier Society Annual Show to a computer near you!

Entering the "virtual" competition is easy and **FREE!**

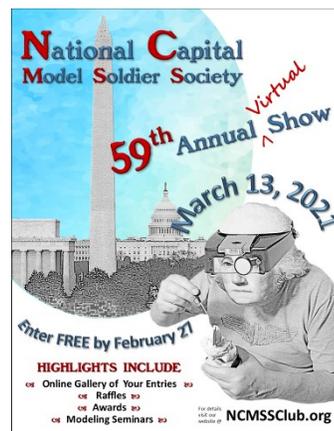
1. Visit the [NCMSSClub.org](http://NCMSSClub.org) [show page](#)
2. Download & review the PDF of the show categories and rules.
3. Click on the **"Submit your entries here"** to upload pictures of your work

**Entries must be submitted by February 27.** Then join us on **March 13, 2021** (the day of the show) when we announce the winners and awards, followed by an afternoon of informative workshops and seminars.

Hosting an on-line show is new to many of us, but the club promises to do out best

to make this both a fun and fair experience.

Awards will be in a virtual format, but we will mail certificates to the winners as long as your mailing information is provided. Gold, Silver, and Bronze awards will be given according to the "Chicago" or "Open" system selected by judging teams. New this year will be the opportunity for all entrants to vote for the best entry in each category, along with the "People's Choice Best of Show".



# EVENTS AND PLACES (Continued...)



## Annual Gift Man Figure - The Simpsons (click to watch)

"A brief look at my journey to commission a Simpsons, Annual Gift Man figure from "Homer's Phobia," season 8, episode 15 guest starring John Waters! These figures and the print file are for sale and with any luck, I'll learn to cast and make more! I'm hoping to make back a bit of my development costs and thanks in advance!

The figure is approximately 50mm tall, prices below do not include shipping:  
 FDM/PLA Print: \$5  
 FDM/PLA Print & File: \$10  
 Resin Print: \$20  
 Resin Print & File: \$25

See more of Donny's work and 3D prints here:  
<https://www.instagram.com/artincbydb/> —Nick S.

Join the **Macho Modelz** community: [Patreon](#), [Instagram](#), & [Facebook](#)

Sponsored by [Spray Gunner](#) where you will always find the lowest prices anywhere and fastest shipping for all your hobby supplies!



## Listening to Paint Dry with Mike & Dan Podcast



### EPISODE 20: An Interview with David Soper

"Our international art party continues with a wonderful conversation with the very talented and award winning David Soper. Check out his work (on blogspot) at [Sprocket's Small World](#) and you can follow him on Instagram at [davidr.soper](#). David, thank you so much for sharing your hobby journey with us. It was an honor having you on the show.

Follow us on Instagram, YouTube and Facebook at Listening To Paint Dry. We are on Twitter @DryPainting. Drop us an email at [listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com](mailto:listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you.

Please like, subscribe, or follow us wherever you get your podcasts. If you could leave us a positive review that would be much appreciated.

If you're going to fail, fail fantastically on your way to become a Better, Braver, Happier Painter. Until next time."

—Mike D.



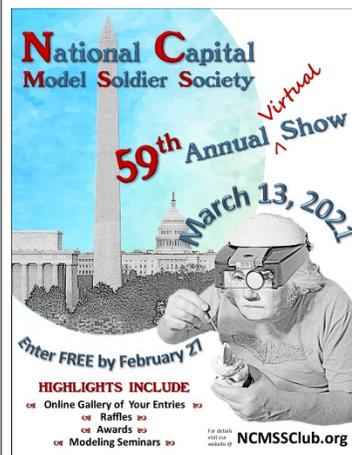
# MFCA

**SHOW and MART**  
**April 30—May 1, 2021**

## HOBBY CALENDAR 2021

- FEB**
  - Feb 3—March 6 — [Winter Hobby Fest](#), *Fallout Hobbies*
  - Feb 19-21 — [2021 AMFS Atlanta Show](#) Atlanta Military Figure Society, Marietta, GA
- MAR**
  - Mar 13 — [National Capital Model Soldier Society 59th Annual "VIRTUAL" Show](#)
  - Mar 20 — [AtlantaCon2021](#), IPMS Atlanta & IPMS Marietta, Marietta, GA
- APR**
  - Apr 8-11 — [Cold Wars 2021](#), HMGS, Lancaster, PA
  - Apr 10 — [MosquitoCon 29](#) New Jersey IPMS, Wayne, NJ
  - Apr 17 (tentative) — [NoVa IPMS Modelers Model Classic 2021](#), Fairfax, VA
  - Apr 29—May 1 [AMPS 2021 International Show](#) Newport News, VA
  - Apr 30—May 1 [MFCA 2021 Show](#) MFCA \*In-person show Cancelled, ONLINE DATE TBD\*
- MAY**
  - May 8 — [The Mid-Atlantic NNL Model Car Show](#), MAMA, Havre de Grace, MD
  - May 8-9 — [Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show](#), Timonium, MD
  - May 21-22 — [NorEastCon49](#) IPMS Rochester, Batavia, NY

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



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆ VIRTUAL STAY-AT-HOME EDITION



## November "Mug-of-the-Month" WINNER



### November 2020 Parade Ground Participants

Michael Dutcher,  
Michael Pierce, Mike Thomas,  
Robert Huettner, Rick Sanders,  
Peter Espada, Brian Ford,  
David Hoffman, Jim Richey

### United States Marine Corps

On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress meeting in Philadelphia passed a resolution stating that "two Battalions of Marines be raised" for service as landing forces with the fleet. This resolution established the Continental Marines and marked the birth date of the United States Marine Corps.

### Available to order...



### Continental Marines 1775 & 1795

Manufacturer: Art Girona  
Scale: 1/32 Scale (54mm or 2 1/4 inches)  
Material: Metal  
MSRP: \$38.99  
**With 20% discount: \$31.19**

Per Michigan Toy Soldier Co.: These items are not part of our regular inventory but are available to order. Allow 2-3 weeks for item to arrive at MichToy. Because you are so patient you will automatically receive this item at a 20% discount.



Continental Marine 1775



Continental Marine 1795

# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MICHAEL DUTCHER

**Furries Rule, Zombies Drool (WIP)**  
 Black Scorpion Miniatures  
 28MM

“The mascot with a gun was a freebie mini that was thrown in with my order from Black Scorpion. I decided I wanted to try doing a specific light situation. I’m still in the process of getting the sketch right before I start to blend and highlight. It’s a fun little mini to paint.”



**The Puppeteer (WIP)**  
 Mindwork Games  
 54ish MM

“This is a Christmas present for one of my niece’s who loves creepy stuff. This was one of the first 2 resin minis I bought 5 years ago.

The stage is scratch built using coffee stirrers (thanks Peets) and I cut up a paintable coffin I found at Michaels for the platform. The curtain is made with Greenstuff.”

# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MICHAEL DUTCHER (CONT...)



### The Highlander (WIP)

Nocturna  
54MM

“This guy was a Kickstarter exclusive for backing their paint campaign. I wanted to try my hand at Tartan so that will be the next step after I finish laying down all of the base coats.

I also wanted to paint the mini and the base totally connected. I have never done that for a display piece. The plinth is a cut of leopard wood I found at Total Woodcraft”

## JIM RICHEY

### “The Good” Custom Dioramics Legends & Lore

1/10th scale (Clint Eastwood) all acrylics. Jim mentioned probably from a collection of movies from Sergio Leon. In “A Fistful of Dollars” he was actually holding a rifle along with the watch. He also said Clint wears the same vest and blue shirt throughout all of them. He decided not to do a pattern on the pancho.

### Shoretrooper, Bandai

1/12th scale. Nick mentioned it was from the *Rogue One* movie.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MICHAEL PIERCE



“Oak Leaf Pattern starting to be roughed in. It looks easy enough, but I find it difficult even with consulting Calvin Tan Resources and actual color uniform photos. I wanted to show both innocence, ruddy complexion and bigger eyes, and defiance which I feel I did not achieve.”

*Editor’s Note:* Looks good to me! A very creative project coming to fruition.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MIKE THOMAS



“This Roman soldier bust is by Young. I've included back and front views because there are some issues with this model.”

As some of you know Mike is an expert on Roman Armor and has studied along with contributed to the archaeology of the Roman Segmentata Lorica armor. He noted some minor issues with this version (fasteners a little off, shoulder guards, etc.) and we will have a full review in our January issue.

Editor's Note: Great rendition and nice job with the rust, which Mike said he found a container of powdered rust which he directly applied.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MIKE THOMAS (CONT...)

“The Vexillifer is by Laruccia (of course) and comes through Art Girona. Late 4th Century AD, reign of Constantine. The mounted figures are Historex kits that I finished off only recently. Again, they were started a fair while back but got put aside until I was ready to tackle them again.”

Mike said he painted some of the horses years ago but had a good time completing them recently. Imperial Guard Chasseur a Cheval, Polish Legion Lancer, Imperial Guard Polish Lancer, and 6th Hussar.

He added a cape to the Chasseur with miliput and bent the accoutrements to the Colpack to simulate a windy day. He used milliput on The manes/tails and harnessing was from insulation tape.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MIKE THOMAS (CONT...)



“The flat is one I've had for many years but never finished it off - until now. I found this brass frame and it seemed the perfect one for this figure. It's a large flat, about 3 ins tall.”

Mike said he found a large brass ring in a box to frame it. Rick said he would research who made the Majaraja/elephant figure.”



## DAVID HOFFMAN

On the bench: Genghis Khan, new 200mm Pegaso sculpted by Viktor Konnov.

Can't wait to start painting!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## DAVID HOFFMAN (CONT...)

Finished: "Retreat, 1812"

Andrea 90mm. An older classic figure that I had a lot of fun finally painting. Painted in oils with snow from AK Interactive and Hudson Akllen snow crystals.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## ROBERT HUETTNER



“Currently working on a M4A376w from Meng. Going to put it in a small diorama using the figures from the kit along as some civilians.

The kit included the loader and female figures, a ton of photo etched parts, and a turned gun tube.”

Robert also said this was limited edition kit and a pleasure to build. The Sherman suspension was one of the best he has seen with accurate separate coils, etc. along with the individual track links provided. Lots of extra parts (two suspensions, roadwheels, to name a few). The loader is about to kiss the French woman that came with the kit. The commander comes from Warriors.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## BRIAN FORD

54mm Lassets, all painted in oils. A French Hussar de la Mort or "Death Hussar with Mirliton from 1796 and a British cavalryman from the Sudan, 1898.

Below is a British cavalryman on foot and a Revolutionary war infantryman from a New York Regiment. Nicely done!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

BRIAN FORD (CONT...)



## RICK SANDERS

“First photo is of some of the Burgundian War flats the I recently completed while the second photo is of those nearing completion. In addition, there are three foot soldiers. All represent members of the Duke of Burgundy Charles the Bold’s so-called Ordinance Companies. The halved white and blue surcoats with the red Burgundian cross were relatively standardized as precursor to uniforms.



All the figures are 30mm flats produced by Sixtus Maier and engraved by Ludwig Frank probably in the late 1940s to mid-1950s, painted in oils.”

# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## PETER ESPADA

“Here’s a work in progress—CANT Z.1007Bis 3-engine WW II Italian bomber. I’m about to apply the rather complicated camo scheme.” Gerry Joria our Italian specialist, would love this one! We will have finished pictures soon.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## VIRTUAL STAY-AT-HOME EDITION



### December "Mug-of-the-Month" WINNER



Photograph of Major Dick Winters taken in 1945.

### December 2020 Parade Ground Participants

Mike Thomas, David Hoffman,  
Rick Sanders, Jim Richey,  
Michael Pierce, James Pratt,  
Robert Huettner, Tim Stormer,  
Brian Ford, Burt Thompson

### Major Dick Winters

Commanded Easy Company of the 2nd Battalion, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment,  
part of the 101st Airborne Division, during World War II.  
In honor of the anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge.

### Available to order...

The first picture on the right is the classic Pony Soldier bust of Major Dick Winters painted by our own **Jim Richey**. (This bust is now only available from resellers, if you can find it.) In the center is a restored and colorized photo of Winters used as a reference for the "Band of Brothers" series. On the far right is the **Scale 75** "Lt. Winters—June 1944" 75mm white metal figure which is currently available from [Last Cavalry](#) priced at \$56 (not including shipping).



## ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MIKE THOMAS

This is a Roman cavalryman, dressed for the Hippika gymnasia (cavalry training games). He doesn't carry a spear but a padded stick. The idea was that one 'team' would gallop by the other team, throwing the padded javelins as they raced past. Points were given for 'hits'. Great fun!

Mike told us that this was from two different kits, the horse was from a Soldiers 20th anniversary kit and the figure he adapted from another kit. The fit of horse to rider was not great so he used some straps to hide any gaps. The beautifully rendered shield design was based on a depiction on Trajan's column.

The feathers on the helmet were sculpted by Mike from Milliput. Very nice and great painting on the horse, too.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## RICK SANDERS



The four flats to the left are works in progress (except for the warrior with the purple shield.) 1240 Russian warriors, 30mm flats, painted in oils, produced in 1988 by Russian Historical Miniatures of St. Petersburg.

Also WIP, 1380 Russian warriors (below left), 30mm flats, painted in oils, produced in 1989 by Russian Historical Miniatures of St. Petersburg.

Below right, 1600 Russian standard bearer, 8th "Timofi Poltev" Strelzi (musketeer) Regiment, 30mm flat, painted in oils, produced by H. Tappert.



These are made from plaster molds rather than the usual slate and very rare as the plaster deteriorates with use.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## RICK SANDERS (CONT...)

Completed 1600 Turkish light cavalryman, 30mm flats, painted in oils, produced by Sixtus Maier, engraved by Ludwig Frank. [both sides]



And of what would Christmas be without Old St. Nick?



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY

Pony Soldier's Lt. W.W. Cooke, US 7th Cavalry 1876. Jim said that this is another figure he got from the Red Lancer Auction.

Tim said the sculpt was maybe wasn't the best but was fun to paint and "something to do"!



DAVID HOFFMAN

Alexander and Foot Companion, Battle of Issus, Pegaso 90mm. This is an older figure that consists of two kits that were made to go together, Painted in oils with a scratch built Persian shield and arrows on the base. I did an article for Historical Miniatures on this and will re-publish soon, as these are great figures.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MICHAEL PIERCE



Mike is almost done, with his Hitler Youth project based on the Osprey Print. The jacket is purposely oversized.

The Volksturm figure (below) based on an Osprey Print will be standing on an abandoned Nazi flag yet to be painted. The sign next to the poster say "Looters will be shot".

Mike re-did his Bucks of Massachusetts Revolutionary War figure (bottom). The figure on the right is his original effort. The new pose on the left is more animated and based on a statue he liked in front of a Texas medical center called "Prometheus Unbound". The flag I am sure will be very impressive!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## TIM STORMER



Tim shared his latest project that he built for his granddaughter Freya, naming it “Freya’s Dollhouse.” His wife Sandy did the window trim; Tim did the rest of the painting [Freya loves PINK]; He did all the house body construction; furniture is both kit-assembled and a few store-bought. The roof shingles were glued one-at-a-time. This will be a “Play-Toy”; so, he minimized “super-detailing of fragile items.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## ROBERT HUETTNER

Bob is currently working on his Meng's M4A376w in 1/35 scale as described in the previous month. The 2 figures seen come with the kit and he is waiting on a couple of more figures to come in to make a small diorama (see upcoming January issue).

Bob described some of the other contents of this well stocked kit, including a case of Jack Daniels for stowage, wine, etc. He also talked of the challenge of the many photo etched parts, including rear view mirrors, the 50 cal., and applying the many wingnuts.

Another great touch is that the bumper numbers are of the 2nd Armored division, 66th Regiment, the same Regiment he served in along with his uncle in WWII. The vehicle number is the same as the vehicle he commanded in the Gulf War.



Bob is also getting ready to start on Lily Litvyak- a female Russian pilot in WW2. Bust by Red Pilot. He is doing this on commission and is one of his first female figures.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## BRIAN FORD



Brian sent two Sovereign Figures from their Lassets range, sculpted by the master John Tassel. Painted in oils.

Great work on the Celt and Scythian Archer!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## BRIAN FORD (CONT...)



More Tassetts, this time a Revolutionary War NCO and a French Infantryman with pack both on and off.



## ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## BURT THOMPSON

WWII SAS Jeep and figures. 1:35th scale. Trees scratch built as well as terrain. Burt's focus of this project was to combine water with palms and desert terrain. Also, it was a break from doing just figures. He has blocked in base colors on the figures, and now time for the painting. Burt considers the terrain and jeep complete, all that remains is painting the figures and mounting everything to base, blending and touch ups.

Burt hand made his trees and water effects in his usual manner (check previous newsletters). He described his use of electrical tape for various straps, cutting it up to size after using acetone to remove the adhesive. Getting close to done!



## ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

BURT THOMPSON (CONT...)



WWII Russian Jeep and figures. 1:48 scale. Burt is still working on the jeep and figures, there are two figures, driver and officer passenger. Other than the final touch ups to the tree, some highlights and blending remaining, the base is done. "This was a fun little project as I do not do a lot of 1:48 scale subjects. I wanted to work on a diorama with color, trees, terrain and a building with stressed, weathered wood."

Burt talked about the "three tiered approach" to a diorama, both vertical and horizontal, along with his various hand made approach to the vegetation and barn using common household products. Amazing results! Good photography too.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## JAMES PRATT

“I sculpted and painted a figure!”

Jim painted a masterful full-scale rendition of “Bumbles” the Abominable Snowman of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* fame. He made one for a Christmas light decoration display and then made a few more for friends and neighbors. Made from plywood and assorted paints, Jim said the cost actually approximated what he would pay for figure.

Glad to see that Jim is sharing the Christmas spirit!



We hope you had a great holiday season and we look forward to seeing you in 2021.

—Dave & the Dispatch Staff



# DISPATCHES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Courtesy of Robin J. Howard

## The Daily Telegraph

LONDON, FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1919

### VICEROY'S TERMS FOR AFGHAN ARMISTICE WITHDRAWAL DEMANDED

From an authoritative source we have received the following: As is known, the Amir has written to the Viceroy of India asking for a cessation of hostilities and a further discussion of terms by representatives of both sides, either at Landi Kotal or Peshawur. The Afghanistan government has been made acquainted with the following armistice terms, which must be carried out before the Indian Government can enter into further discussions:

- (1) The Afghans shall withdraw twenty miles from our present positions.
- (2) We shall maintain our present positions.
- (3) Our aeroplanes shall be allowed to reconnoitre over the Afghan lines, but not to bomb.
- (4) The frontier troops shall be discouraged from carrying on active hostilities by the Afghan Government.

No reply to these conditions has been received as yet from the Afghan Government.

During the past week there has been some movement in Afghanistan. Probably owing to a large concentration of Afghans, under General Nadir Khan, in Khost, we have evacuated our advanced posts in the Upper Tochi Valley and in Waziristan. These have been occupied by the Wazirs and the Mahsuds, who have burnt the majority. The town of Thal has been gutted by them, but the fort has resisted all efforts upon it. There are signs that the Bolshevik propaganda in Afghanistan and India is continuing. A small Afghan force from Herat has arrived on the Persian frontier. The Afghan commanding officer at Herat received orders to send six battalions to Kabul, but was unable to do so, as he knew that his troops would not obey, and it appears that the natives in this neighborhood are not anxious for war. The Amir, it is stated, is endeavouring to buoy his troops with hopes of help from Russia.

### TIME LIMIT FOR RETREAT

Last night the India Office issued the following: Information received from the Government of India, dated June 3 and 4, shows that an enemy position on the low hills two miles northwest of Thal was attacked and captured by our troops on Jun 2, and the General Nadir Khan, commanding the Afghan forces operating round Thal, has applied for a cessation of hostilities under orders received by him from the Amir. He has been given certain periods of time in which to start withdrawing his force to Afghan territory, and within which to complete it.

There is no change in the situation to the north of the Kabul river or in Tirah. Some portions of the Orakzai and Zaimukht tribes have joined the Afghans, but the bulk of these two tribes have not committed themselves. It is reported that there is now no enemy east of the Kurram river. The situation in the Tochi Valley is now quieter, owing to the successful action of our troops near Miramshah on June 1, but tribal lashkars are still reported to be active in the Jandola Murtaza area.

**Secret diary of Battle of Britain pilot George Barclay, who died commanding a Hurricane squadron at El Alamein in July 1942, has been published with the help of his younger brother Richard from Minchinhampton**

By Ian Craig, Published: 16 December 2012

**THE dramatic first-hand story of a Battle of Britain pilot who defied his superiors by keeping a diary of his exploits has been published – more than 70 years after his death.**

The diary of George Barclay, who was 22 when he was killed in action as he commanded a Hurricane squadron at El Alamein in July 1942, has been published with the help of his younger brother Richard, who lives in Minchinhampton.

Richard, 86, said his brother's account of the conflict was unique as pilots were forbidden from keeping diaries in case they fell into enemy hands. "It tells of squadron life and the numerous pressures and battles which demonstrate the extraordinary dedication and self-sacrifice of all the young men in the country," he said. "George recognized the danger we were in and he gave it his all. He said that unless everyone put their absolute best in, the Germans would succeed. He wrote his diary in such a straight forward way – you really feel as if you are sat next to him on the plane."

The book was discovered a few years after George's death when his parents moved house and were asked to pick up a parcel held at the bank.

Inside was his diary and the Distinguished Flying Cross he was awarded in November 1940. The diary tells of an extraordinary range of fascinating exploits, including being shot down three times – which he modestly describes as a "most novel experience" – and escaping from occupied France by turning his uniform inside out and pretending to be a farmer. The final entry in the diary made on September 26 1941 describes how, while travelling through the French countryside he was helped by a number of civilians, including a French woman called Madame Salingue. "I was given a very friendly welcome," it reads. "Immediately we arrived Madame cooked us two eggs and chips each. Apparently that is what the troops asked for before Dunkirk. "Burbare had quite a large number of British troops billeted there and wherever I went I was shown photos of them. "The French liked them very much."

The book's editor, Ministry of Defense Air Historical Branch historian Humphrey Wynn, described George's account of the conflict as "incomparable". "As a document, it is as important as a personal account of any other great battle such as the diary of an Elizabethan seaman in the Armada or one of Nelson's officers at Trafalgar," he said. *Battle of Britain Pilot: The Self Portrait of an RAF Fighter Pilot and Escaper* is available now from Haynes priced £25.

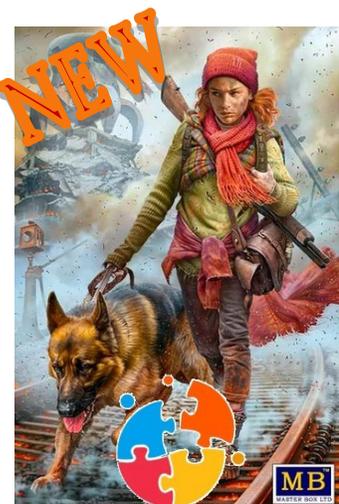
Wilts and Gloucestershire  
**Standard**



Battle of Britain pilot George Barclay with his Hurricane Mk1



Battle of Britain pilot George Barclay in the cockpit. He flew Hurricanes and Spitfires in the Battle of Britain, the Sweeps over France and the North African campaign - and survived being shot down three times



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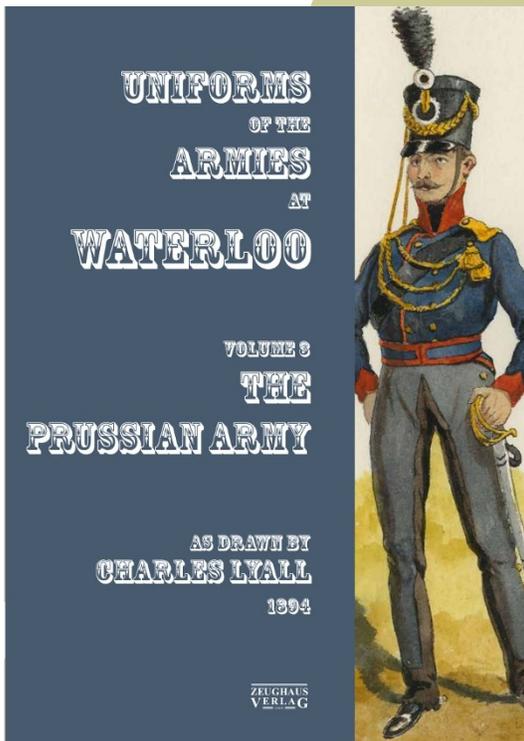
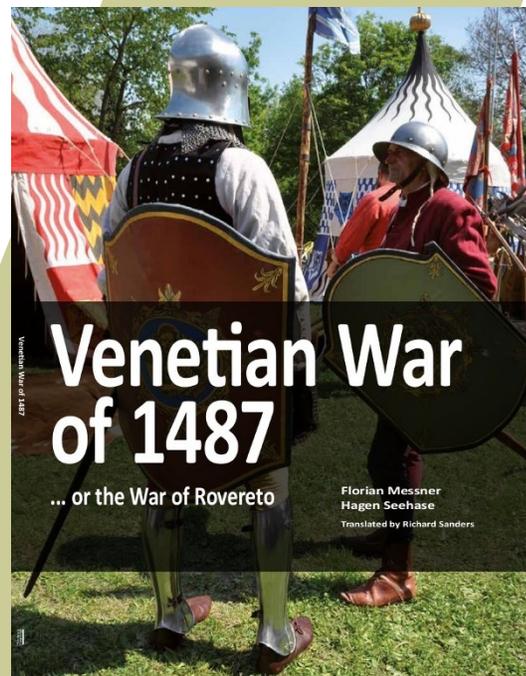
Translated by our NCMSS Member Rick Sanders

## "The Venetian War of 1487 ... or the War of Rovereto"

by Florian Messner and Hagen Seehase

This book addresses the 1487 Venetian War between the maritime, major power Venice and the alpine Archduchy of Tirol. The conflict began from insignificant events and led to considerable political disruptions – especially in Tirol. The war was closely tied to Archduke Sigismund of Tirol's partially tragic, partially odd biography.

This book came about in close cooperation with reenactment groups from Italy, Austria and Germany. It contains, along with detailed depictions of weapons, numerous color photos and illustrations and some excellent reconstruction drawings by Wolfgang Braun. Softbound, 99 pages.



## "Uniforms of the Armies at Waterloo, Vol. 3, the Prussian Army"

by Markus Gaertner and Markus Stein

This volume contains 39 color plates of soldiers and officers of the Prussian Army of 1815 as well as a description of the 16 June 1815 Battle of Ligny that was fought at the same time as the Battle of Quatre Bras (see Volume 2 of the series).

Like in the two previous volumes (British Army; Allied Armies), the plates by the 19th century artist Charles Lyall are critiqued based on current knowledge of the uniforms, equipment and weapons. A detailed description of the Prussian forces' organization and uniforms supplements Lyall's illustrations. This volume fills a long-standing gap of a comprehensive work on the Prussian Army of 1815. Softbound, 88 pages.

**Pre-Ordering Now Available**  
**“Medieval Flat Figures by Hans Mueller, Erfurt”**  
 (Zinnfiguren der Ritterzeit von Hans Müller, Erfurt)

by Richard L. Sanders, et al.

This special publication on Hans Mueller’s medieval and Saracen/Ottoman flat figures is expected to be published in June 2021. Starting then, people who pre-order it can have it mailed or can pick it up at the 2021 Börse in Kulmbach, if the event is held. Due to printing and mailing costs, the quantity of books published will be limited and scaled to the number of pre-orders.

Those pre-ordering will receive a €5.00 discount, but unfortunately due to the mailing costs, the publishers cannot waive the entire mailing cost outside Germany (see below). The publication will be 180 pages, DIN A4 (8¼ x 11¾ in.), softcover format, and contain about 600 illustrations including colour photos of all of Hans Mueller’s medieval, Saracen and Ottoman figures that have been painted by 34 collectors from Germany, Europe and the U.S. It also contains all of the additional, attachable flags for the 1410 Battle of Tannenberg/Grunwald that Mueller produced. All 460-plus figures are presented in their original 30mm scale, many depicting both sides. Additionally, the photo montages depicting all of the unpainted figures and the tables describing them, which appeared the Nov 2019-Jun 2020 articles in the *Die Zinnfigur* magazine have been updated, have English descriptions and other additional information. The publication also has chapters written by Gernot Schlager, Henry Schmidt und Hans Schwahn – experts on the development of medieval armour and the Mueller figures - and an English language synopsis for those who cannot read German.

Purchasers will also be able to request an English “companion” document which translates all of the texts and the substantive parts of the captions; it will be emailed as a “pdf” file upon request. This book is a valuable reference work for every collector and provides a unique view of some of the most beautiful flats ever produced, and then painted by, impressive artists.



**Pre-ordering period: until 15 May 2021\***

Pre-ordering in English: Rick Sanders  
 31 Silver Darter Lane  
 Candler, NC 28715 USA

Email: [ricksanderszf@gmail.com](mailto:ricksanderszf@gmail.com) and copy (cc) [Manfred.Levac@t-online.de](mailto:Manfred.Levac@t-online.de)

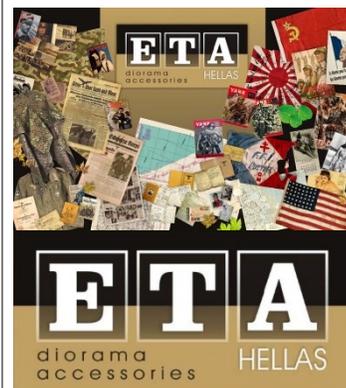
**NOTE:** Please include Mr. Levec’s email address ([Manfred.Levac@t-online.de](mailto:Manfred.Levac@t-online.de)) when pre-ordering.

NOTE: Pre-ordering instructions are also available in German in *Die Zinnfigur* and some other German-language hobby-related publications.

**Preorder cost:** Germany: €35,- including domestic mailing  
 E.U.: €38,- including international mailing  
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\*Price after pre-ordering period ends 15 May 2021: €40, /~\$50.00 plus shipping

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# WORTHY READS

BOOK REVIEWS BY DR. MICHAEL D. THOMAS

## Roman Fortresses and their Legions

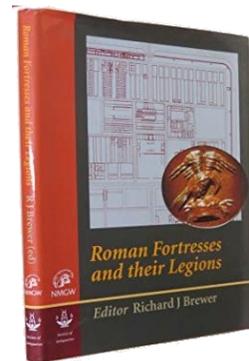
Edited by **Richard J. Brewer**, 187 pps, Society of Antiquaries & National Museums and Galleries of Wales, 2000

This is an academic work, but please, don't be put off by that. The book is a collection of essays produced in honour of the late G.C. Boon, one of the foremost Roman archaeologists of the latter half of the 20th century, who died in 1994. Richard Brewer is the Keeper of Antiquities at the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff, and is himself an authority on Roman Britain, having been the chief excavator of Caerwent for the past 10 to 15 years. Other noteworthy contributors include Bill Manning (who excavated Usk) and Lawrence Keppie (an authority on the Roman occupation of Scot-

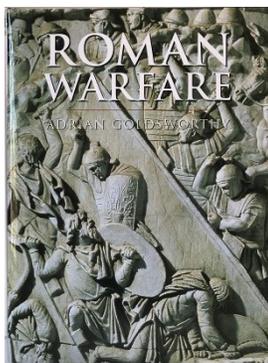
land and the author of many books himself).

There are 13 chapters in all; two are concerned with George Boon's career and his contribution to Roman archaeology, the remainder deal with various aspects of Roman military history. To give a flavour of what is on offer, these include a detailed analysis of pre-Hadrianic legionary dispositions in Britain, a description of the fortresses occupied by legio XX, the Roman legionary fortresses in the east of the Empire, the legions of the late Empire, and the Roman legions and their fortresses in the Danube lands.

Although all the contributions are of a high academic standard, and include a full bibliography in every case, they all read very easily. They provide an excellent 'snap-



shot' of what the current thinking is regarding legionary dispositions and the fortresses that the legions occupied for a period of about two hundred years. If you really want to find out what happened to legio VIII Hispana, it's all here! This is by no means a cheap tome (at £30), but if you are interested in the army of the Roman Empire, this is one that should be on your shelf. —MDT.



## Roman Warfare

by **Adrian Goldsworthy**, 224 pps, Cassell & Co, London, April 1, 2000

This is a very good treatment of the history of the development of the Roman Army from the 3rd century BC to the end of the 4th century AD. Adrian Goldsworthy is an academic whose specialty is the Roman military system. He belongs to what one might term 'the new breed' of Roman military historians whose aim is to set the development of the Roman military system

into its social context as well as examining the material things.

The book contains seven chapters, comprising an introduction, early Rome and the conquest of Italy, the wars with Carthage and the Hellenistic kingdoms, the expansion to empire to the end of the reign of Augustus, the Empire between AD 14-193, the 3rd century crisis and necessary reforms and finally the collapse in the west and the recovery in the east. In addition, there are some 20 maps. These last are extremely useful, as they give a 'snapshot' of the position of the Roman state at intervals throughout the period studied. They also provide a very good overview of the course of several important battles, such as Cannae (216 BC), Alesia (52 BC) and Strasbourg (AD 357). There is also a very detailed chronology at the start of the introductory chapter, which goes from the 'foundation' date of Rome

(traditionally, 753 BC) to the last attempt made to reconquer Italy from the 'barbarian' Goths and Franks (AD 535-4).

The book is profusely illustrated with some high-quality photographs. A particularly interesting feature includes several pictures taken of Roman structures, as they appear today, some of them in very great detail. One example of this is the sculptures appearing on the triumphal arch at Orange. I have only ever seen these before as detailed drawings in an academic work, published in France. There are also several good sequences of drawings showing, for example, the development of the Roman helmet and weaponry.

For anyone who would like a no-nonsense introduction to the history of the Roman army, this book would be a very good buy. It is well written, well-illustrated and does exactly what it sets out to do (as it says on the tin). —MDT

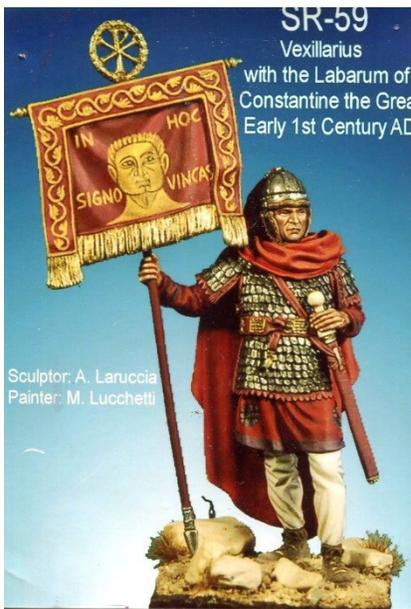
# KIT INSPECTION

Review by Mike Thomas

This is a remarkably interesting kit, because it hails from a period that we do not often find being modelled. “Constantine the Great” (as he is usually known) reigned between 307 and 337 A.D., which makes him one of the most long-serving of emperors. The early 4th century was a turbulent period in the history of the Roman state. The emperor Diocletian had established what became known as the “tetrarchy”. The empire was divided into western and eastern halves, each ruled by an “Augustus”, each with a deputy, the “Caesar”. The idea was that when the Augustus died, he would be succeeded by his Caesar, who himself became the Augustus. He then selected his own Caesar in his turn, and so on. This sounds fine but it depended on everyone agreeing to follow the pattern.

Constantine did not agree. He wanted to be the sole ruler of the empire, with his capital established at the city he founded – Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). This he achieved when he defeated his ‘opposite number’, Maxentius, at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, just outside Rome. Constantine claimed just before the battle that he had a vision of the “chi rho” (that looks like an “X” with a “P” superimposed, the first two letters of the Greek for Christ – “Christos”), with the words “In hoc signo vincit” (In this sign you shall conquer). He ordered his soldiers to paint the chi-rho on their shields and duly went on to win the decisive battle when Maxentius tried to pull a fast one by booby-trapping the bridge and then forgetting that he had – not the sharpest tool in the box! The bridge duly collapsed with him on it, and he was drowned. Constantine therefore became the first Christian emperor and Christianity became the official religion of the empire. There is some uncertainty as to whether he embraced Christianity then and there. He may have had a deathbed conversion, but who can tell.

So, what do we have here in the kit? As with many of Laruccia’s figures, the pose is



Sculptor: A. Laruccia  
Painter: M. Lucchetti

### Vexillifer with the Labarum of Constantine

Manufacturer: Soldiers  
Order code: SR-59  
Scale/Size: 54mm  
Material: metal  
Designer: A. Laruccia

somewhat static. One oddity is that the figure is modelled as though it is standing on a slope. This isn’t a problem if you use the base as supplied with the kit, but it’s a non-descript item and is you want to do your own groundwork, this is something that will have to be considered. The figure is depicted wearing armour of the lorica squamata type (scale armour), which is perfectly correct for this period. The iron helmet is of a type known as a “Spangenhelm”. These were made of between four and six roughly triangular (though curved) plates, gripped together by being riveted to bronze panels. For senior officers, these could be gilded. The stand-out item for this kit, however, is the so-called “Labarum”. This took the form of a vexillum standard – although somewhat larger than the usual infantry type. According to

records, it was made of purple cloth with gilt fringes and gold designs. It carried the likeness of the emperor as well as the famous inscription described above. Above the ‘flag’ there is a gilt version of the chi-rho. This, I found, was something of a problem. The standard is a large and quite heavy piece of metal. After several tries with epoxy and ‘instant’ glues, I gave up and drilled two small holes near the top in a position either side of the staff. Some fine cotton thread was then used to hold this in place.

Again, as with many other offerings from Laruccia, the figure is shown wearing a heavy cloak. Therefore, the inside of the cloak and the rear of the figure will have to be painted before assembly. Also, the head needs to be added after the main figure is finished because the cloak will not go over the head otherwise.

As I said at the start of this review, an unusual subject and one which I do not think anyone else has attempted. The sculpting and casting are first class, and this will make up into an eye-catching addition to any collection of Roman types. It could also be combined with the figure of Constantine himself.

Recommended!

—MT



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# THE BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ: THE MARCH OF III CORPS

By Kevin Bukowski  
(from [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#), December 1, 2020)

A special thanks to **Bob Huettnner** for suggesting we feature his friend Kevin Bukowski, who has graciously allowed us to reprint his writings.

**Please note:** The following text is reprinted here in full with no additions or corrections. Any questions or comments should be directed to Mr. Bukowski on his blog [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#).

Additional photos and artwork added by Dispatch staff.

On the night of 29 November 1805, Louis Davout, Marshal of France, commander of the La Grande Armée III Corps, and current occupier of Vienna, received a dispatch from Napoleon that he was abandoning the Pratzen Heights and Davout should prepare to hand over the city to the Austrians. But Davout knew it was bullshit, the letter was only in the event the courier was captured. It was just a week before when Napoleon chose the Pratzen Heights as the place where he was going to destroy the Austrian and Russian armies.

The Prince of Burgundy once said, "When a d'Avout is born, a sabre is unsheathed." This was never so true as for Louis Nicholas Davout, who was the son of a minor aristocrat but survived the French Revolution despite his upbringing. He was almost universally disliked by everyone whom he worked with: his officers for his cold and aloof demeanor, his soldiers because of his uncompromising stance on readiness, training and discipline, and his peers because he was the youngest and most active of Napoleon's marshals. Nevertheless, the "Iron Marshal" was respected by all for his reasoned tenacity, undisputed competence, and most importantly, Davout earned the absolute unquestioned trust of Napoleon.

That trust was not misplaced. It was not a question



"Portrait of Louis Nicolas Davout (1770-1823), Duke of Auerstaedt, Prince of Eckmühl, Marshal of the Empire." by Tito Marzocchi de Bellucci, 1852, oil on canvas

of whether III Corps would show up to the battle but when. Austerlitz was 80 miles away (eighty, eight - zero) and Napoleon planned to attack in two days. The planning factor for a march was 20 miles a day, and a forced march was 25 miles a day. Davout planned to do 40 miles a day for the next two days.

On the night of the 29th, he bade his officers to mingle with the crème of Viennese

society so as to not rouse Austrian suspicions but stipulated that they needed to return by 0300 the next morning. At 0330 on 30 NOV 1805, the III Corps struck camp and, at dawn, began their march. With 681b packs they marched for 32 hours over the next 48.

And then they immediately fought a battle in which they bore the brunt of the Allied attack.

—KB



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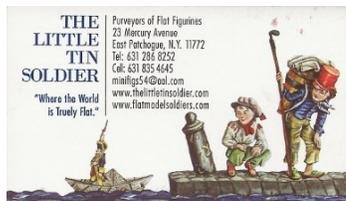
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# THE BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ: THE BATTLE OF THE THREE EMPERORS

By Kevin Bukowski (from [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#), December 2, 2020)

Around midnight prior to the battle on 2 December 1805, French Marshal Davout arrived at Emperor Napoleon's headquarters ahead of his corps. His advance guard was four hours behind him. His corps would cut it close, by minutes in some cases, but they had made it to the battle in time. Napoleon had just returned from visiting the campfires of his men and was elated to see him. Without Davout, the upcoming Battle of Austerlitz was a gamble; with Davout victory was all but assured. The Holy Roman Emperor Francis of Austria and Tsar Alexander of Russia were convinced Napoleon's army was understrength, disorganized, and out maneuvered. All day, cavalry skirmished in order to identify enemy dispositions and they found that the French right was held by but a single division. That was exactly what Napoleon wanted them to see. He had no doubt the Allied emperors would force Marshal Kutuzov, the capable commander of the Allied armies, to attack the supposed-ly weakened French right.

Once the Allies attacked, the hard part was over. The



Detail "Destruction of Retreating Russians at Satschan Lake, 1805" typogravure after the aquarelle by F De Myrbach, 1896

French plan for the rest of the battle was simplicity itself: Davout would delay then block the Allies on the right, Lannes and Bernadotte would fix the Russians on the left, and Soult with the main effort would attack the weakened center and break the line. The Imperial Guard, in reserve, would handle any unexpected difficulties. After that, Murat with the cavalry would rout the Allies.

And that's exactly what happened.

After some initial success

on the French right, the Allies were surprised to find Davout's III Corps steadily reinforcing the fortified village of Tellnitz and the stout walls of Sokowitz Castle. The Allies would go no further. When Soult's 16,000 men stepped out of the late autumn Bohemian morning mist and advanced up the Pratzen Heights, the battle was essentially over. The Allied center was too weak, and their command and control too cumbersome to react.

It would just take some hard fighting, and about five hours, for the Allied emperors to realize it. The Russian Imperial Guard made a valiant counterattack in order to try and stop Soult, but it was in vain. By 4pm, the Allied army was routed. As the Allies routed in all directions, thousands of troops drowned when a French bombardment broke the ice on the Satschan ponds.

The Battle of Austerlitz is probably the only time in history a commander could legitimately say, "I love it when a plan comes together." —KB



Detail "Destruction of Retreating Russians at Satschan Lake, 1805" typogravure after the aquarelle by F De Myrbach, 1896



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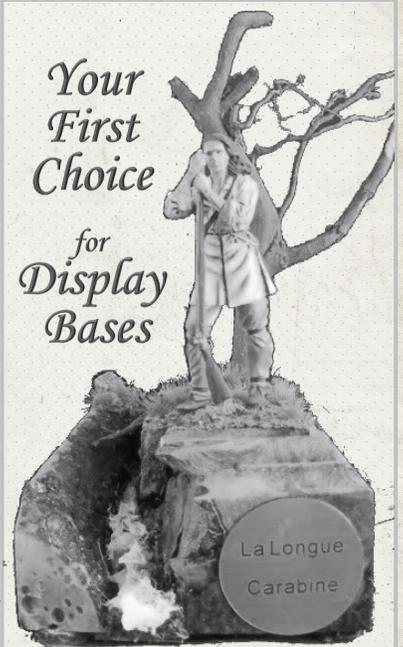
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