NATIONAL CAPITAL MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY NCMSS

THE DISPATCH

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September 2020, Vol. 59, Issue 9

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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

Greetings teammates, trust you all are staying healthy and getting plenty of building and painting time in.

Our monthly meeting and virtual Parade Ground is a great opportunity to show off your awesome work. Of course we are always looking for content for our monthly virtual meetings and our Dispatch as well. Let Dave Hoffman know if you have any tips, techniques, and procedures that you are willing to share. It can be a PowerPoint slide show or as simple as a show and tell or short "how-to" article for the newsletter.

I have been spending a lot of time lately reading other club's newsletters and checking out their works. It has been interesting and has given me a lot of ideas for future projects, there are hundreds in my cue!!!

The November 2020 Fine Scale Modeler magazine also has an interesting article that I really enjoyed called "Surface a Sub, Sculpt Sea for a Weathered U-Boat." I will likely break down and get the Scale 75 1:35 kit and give it a go.

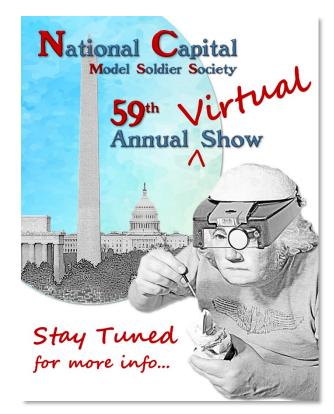
Wishing all of you continued good health and keep checking in on each other.

Paint On!



Burt NCMSS Commander

EDITOR'S CORNER



Another late Dispatch? What's the deal?

Here at the offices of the *Dispatch* we want you to know we're working diligently to catch up. Our all-volunteer staff has enlisted the help of a number of loyal NCMSS members to send in their submissions for articles and ideas. The October issue is well on it's way.

All kidding aside, the last few months have been a distraction, to say the least. We appreciate your patience as we get back on track. Thank you all for your support and continued readership. The feedback you've given us has meant a lot.

Sincerely,



David H. NCMSS Adjutant



September MOTM

"Mug-of-the-Month"



"The U.S. Army" Happy Birthday to the U.S. Army, Officially created by the United States Congress September 29, 1789



CLUB NEWS MEETING MINUTES - September 23, 2020

The NCMSS held its fifth "Virtual" Club Meeting on September 23rd. Regular "in person" meetings continue to be on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. Thanks to Nick Strocchia for hosting our meetings on Zoom. Stay tuned for further information on how the application works. It's fun and easy to use.

Zoom meetings are the "in thing" these days. Join us on October 28th at our next one!

Call to Order [19:45]

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

New/Old Business {19:41-19:56]

1) David Hoffman and Nick Strocchia briefed on the core planning group's preliminary progress regarding the NCMSS Virtual Show.

- a) Nick has set up a "conops" for the planning process, establishing goals and taskings.
- b) Initial show date of November 21 has been moved to early next year.
- c) Using some other virtual shows as a model (such as the NoVA IPMS Club's

monthly contests) the team is working on the web platforms to use, online forms and other initial requirements.

2) Regarding the Virtual Show, Burt had suggested the show should be free to participants, as costs should be minimal. Robert Prokop will be working on establishing a raffle and soliciting sponsors. Burt as Chairman will be doing the programming portion.

- a) It was asked that members submit their ideas/ suggestions to Dave and Nick via e-mail.
- b) Objectives are to expose more people to the club including outside the immediate region, recruit new members, along with promoting the hobby. The thought is to have a relatively short four hour show that includes awards presentation, individual workshops, etc.

More to follow.

3) Some significant changes to the NCMSS Website were announced, thanks to our webmaster Mike Fleckenstein. Mike has added a Member's Gallery tab where the club can display their work. Now the show page will display pictures of some of the past award winners with their names. The member's Gallery will be drawn from our Parade Ground presentations





at first, but members can submit their own pictures, just furnish your name and the name of the kit to Mike.

Monthly Presentation [19:58-20:37]

Mike Fleckenstein, our official photographer for past shows, gave an excellent presentation on photographing models and figures, something very valuable to know in this day of virtual interaction. A summary is in this issue. Many thanks to Mike for sharing his knowledge!

Parade Ground [20:38-21:10]

David Hoffman presented a Parade Ground Power-Point based on the submissions sent to him via e mail and posted on the NCMSS Facebook Page. This was one of the larger on-line Parade Grounds so far.

Conclusion [21:15]

Attendees

Nick Strocchia, Rick Sanders, Zacharia Becker, Darla Yaun, Warren Yaun, David Hoffman, Darci Hofman, Peter Espada, James Richey, Mike Thomas, Brian Ford, Burt Thompson, Mike Fleckenstein, Norb Lustine, Tim Stormer, Dick Perry,Bob Prokop,Gerard, Joria, Mike Pierce, Robert Huettner.

Submitted by David Hoffman, NCMSS Adjutant <<u>bpchasseur@comcast.net</u> > (240) 912-6499



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

Veterans Day Virtual Commemoration—Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Watch Live November 11, 2020 at 1:00 pm ET, Free ONLINE

You are invited to join with us in paying tribute to all of our country's service members on Veterans Day. Though we will be unable to host guests at The Wall for our annual Veterans Day ceremony, you can participate in this virtual patriotic tribute from wherever you live.

The virtual commemoration will begin at 1 p.m. EST on November 11, 2020.

This is a virtual event only. To join the ceremony visit the <u>VVMF Facebook page</u> or the <u>VVMF website</u>.



National Museum of the United States Army–Open November 11, 2020

1775 Liberty Drive Fort Belvoir, VA 22060

The U.S. Army plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army on Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. Building construction and exhibit installations are now complete, and the muse-



um is ready to open its doors to the public for the first time.

The National Museum of the U.S. Army, located on a publicly accessible area of Fort Belvoir, Virginia, will be the first and only museum to tell the entire history of the U.S. Army since its establishment in 1775.

"The U.S. Army and the American Soldier forged the birth of our nation," said Secretary of the Army, Ryan D. McCarthy. "The National Army Museum will be a place for members of the total Army family to gather and share their stories, while also creating an opportunity for visitors to connect with our nation's history through the eyes and voices of individual Soldiers."

The museum's Experiential Learning Center will provide visitors of all ages a unique opportunity to participate in hands-on, educational and team-building activities in the areas of geography, science, technology, engineering and math.

"The museum is stunning, and it is an honor to present this history in a way that shows the connection between the American Soldier, the U.S. Army and the nation," said the museum's director, Ms. Tammy E. Call.

TIMED-ENTRY TICKETING

The Museum will open with enhanced health and safety measures for visitors. Free, timed-entry tickets are required to manage visitor capacity and provide an optimal experience to visitors. Walk-up tickets are not available. All tickets must be reserved in advance online. Click to Request General

Admission Tickets

The opening will be preceded by a small ceremony that will be livestreamed to encourage people around the world to participate in this historic moment. A link to the livestream will be posted on the museum's website and social channels as soon as it's available. For more information, please visit http://www.theNMUSA.org



$EVENTS \ AND \ PLACES \ (\texttt{Continued...})$



Build Vlog Ep 11— Pouring Resin to Make a Sea Diorama (dick to

"X-29 update, my first time pouring resin to make a "raging sea" diorama base. If I had to do it all over again I would not use foam core as a mold. I found out after the fact there's a huge market for silicone molds for this exact same application. Most of the molds I found online come in around \$7.

Here's the Tested video I reference a few times: <u>https://youtu.be/BteSyEo3Gi</u> <u>M</u>" **–Nick S.**

Scale Mates: find out kit release date and details

The Scalemodeling Channel: my favorite video resource for scale car modeling tips and tutorials.

Join the **Macho Modelz** community: <u>Patreon</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, & <u>Facebook</u>

Sponsored by <u>Spray Gunner</u> where you will always find the lowest prices anywhere and fastest shipping for all your hobby supplies!



Listening to Paint Dry with Mike and Dan Podcast

EPISODE 15: Jack the Ripper "We made it and just in

time. Today Mike and Dan talk about 1888 London and the Jack the Ripper murders and how this type of atomosphere can translate to miniature painting. We also delve into miniatures and board games based on Jack the Ripper and other mythos out there.

If you would be so kind, please spread the word about our show. We appreciate anything you can do."

Follow us on Instragram and Facebook at Listening To Paint Dry and on Twitter @DryPainting. Feel free to email us at <u>listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com</u>. Like, subscribe or follow us wherever you get your podcasts from. If you could leave us a positive review that would be incredible.

> "Get out of your own way and you can become a Better, Braver, Happier painter." **—Mike D.**





SAT, OCT 17 AT 1 PM HUZZAH HOBBIES LOUDOUN COUNTY'S TABLETOP GAMING HEADQUARTERS



The Chicago Toy Soldier Show September 26 & 27



FEB • Feb 19, 20, 21 – <u>2021 AMFS Atlanta Show</u>, Atlanta, GA

HOBBY CALENDAR 2021

MAR • Mar 21 – <u>AtlantaCon2021</u>, IPMS Atlanta & IPMS Marietta, Marietta, GA

- APR Apr 10 <u>MosquitoCon 29</u> New Jersey IPMS, Wayne, NJ
 - Apr 17 (tentative) <u>NoVa IPMS Modelers Model Classic 2021</u>, Fairfax, VA
 - Apr 29–May 1 AMPS 2021 International Show Newport News, VA
 - Apr 30–May 1 MFCA 2021 Show Min. Figure Collectors of America, Trevose, PA

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

VIRTUAL STAY-AT-HOME EDITION



September 2020 Parade Ground Participants

Jim Evans, Peter Espada, Mike Thomas, Michael Pierce, Zachariah Becker, Rick Sanders, Bob Huettner, Brian Ford, Dick Perry, Jerry Joria, Robert Prokop, David Hoffman, David Luff



The United States Army

On September 29, 1789, the final day of its very first session, the United States Congress passed "An act to recognize and adapt to the Constitution of the United States, the establishment of the troops raised under the resolves of the United States in Congress assembled" officially creating the military of the United States.

Also in September... A Hero is Honored at the White House



Army Sgt. Maj. Thomas "Patrick" Payne Awarded the Medal Of Honor, 9/11/20

Army Sgt. Maj. Thomas "Patrick" Payne received the Medal of Honor at a White House ceremony today for helping liberate over 70 hostages from an ISIS prison compound in Iraq five years ago.

President Donald Trump draped the nation's highest military award around Payne's neck during a ceremony on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — a day that compelled Payne to enlist.

JIM EVANS

"Captain William Walrus", the backdrop is made from a tea box. "Captain Utt and Grover". From Scalebro Miniatures. As usual, Jim comes up with some unusual and imaginative subjects that are very nicely done and staged.











Brian showed a 75mm Louisiana Tiger Zouave 1861, sculpted by Carl Reid (left). The Zouave trousers with stripes (serouel) were nicely done.

To the right is an Elite 75mm of a Continental Dragoon,1780. Great work on two very nice figures.









<image>



BRIAN FORD (continued)

Brian also showed a French 7th Hussar,1796 period. It's an older Lasset casting. All are in oils over primer and using a variable temp. crockpot for the metals and resin to dry, which helps produce a nice matte finish.



ZACHARIA BECKER

Zach said he wanted a "been in the field a long time" look for this 90mm Pegaso Macedonian Royal Guard. He did an excellent job weathering the bronze and making the shield appear battle worn. Zach created the arrows in the shield using metal wire and card stock. The leaves on small tree are paper. Painted with oils and acrylics. The armor was painted using Army Painter Bronze, which Zach really likes.

This classic kit can be combined with the Pegaso mounted Alexander the Great, where the figure holds the reigns of his rearing horse. Great job on the weathering of the shield and armor. This soldier has seen some action!







MICHAEL PIERCE

Michael has been doing more sculpting and he showed two new figures based on newspaper photos. The first may be Che Guevara, the second is a photo from the Hong Kong riots. Michael said he loves both poses, the first is like a baseball pitcher the second like ballet. He is putting both in a vignette...more to follow!







JERRY JORIA

Jerry put together three Aermacchi MB-339A P.A.N. jets (1/72 scale by Italeri) to creatd this impressive display. The Aermacchi is the same plane used by the Italian Air Force's aerobatic team, Frecce Tricolori Aeronautica Militare. You might have seen videos of them flying over Italy during the pandemic. Rather than make a diorama of entire nine-man team, he felt three planes were enough to represent the group.

For the exhaust he put colored cotton batting over a dowel with stiff wire. He got the planes from E-bay and added the pilots. Nice inspiring creative work yet again.







ROBERT PROKOP

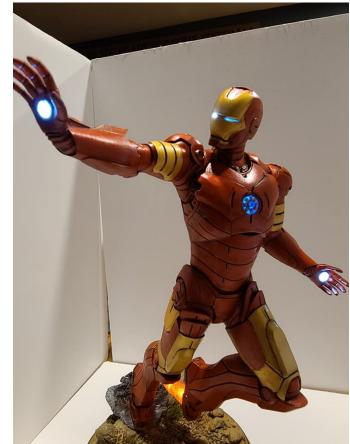
Bob finished his 1/8 scale Iron Man figure by NY3D-Creations. The figure is printed using a 3D printer and requires some light sanding to remove the printers marks.

Bob said, "I opened all of the areas on the figure that projected light and placed a total of 8 miniature lights from <u>Evan Designs</u>. The figure is hollow, so snaking the wiring was relatively easy. All the bulbs were secured with 5 minute epoxy and covered with ZAP Canopy glue to replicate the lenses. The figure was painted with MIGS acrylic Metal paints using an airbrush. The flame coming from the feet of the figure were first sculpted with epoxy putty and the cast in clear resin with the lights inserted inside of each piece. The figure

comes with a plastic base that was attached to a wooden base. The bottom of the wooden base was hollowed out to fit the battery box, on/off switch and excess wire. It was all secured using a hot glue gun."

Bob is always a master at creating spectacular displays with his creative techniques!











*** PARADE GROUND



RICK SANDERS

On the left is Arminius, also known as Herman the German or as Herman the Churusker, who led the Germanic tribes that wiped out three Roman legions plus auxiliaries at the Teutoburger Wald/Forest in 9 AD. It is a 30mm figure by Ernst Heinrichsen produced in 1936. Rick said the piece is historically quite inaccurate. He has not finished painting this figure but mentioned the detail on both sides is always interesting, in this case the tree has mushrooms on the other side.

Below left are German Gothic knight standard bearers ca. 1450-70, produced in the late 1950s by H. Neumeister from drawings prepared for Hans Mueller of Erfurt; again 30mm flats.

Lower right is a 1475 Burgundian mounted bowman, 30mm flat engraved by Ludwig Frank for Sixtus Maier, probably around 1950 or earlier.









$RICK \ SANDERS \ (\text{continued})$

These are also Hans Mueller of Erfurt 30mm figures: The mounted figures are Teutonic Knights suitable for the 1410 Battle of Tannenberg. Lower right is a 14th century knight in scale armor with an East European pavise shield.











DICK PERRY

Dick has been busy! He just finished the Vistula Lancer (below). To the left are a 44th Regiment of Foot (from Historex parts) and below that an Infantry Regiment Nassau.

He's currently working on the Series 77 camel with figures which is an old original Stage figure that has been in his gray army for years. The Regimental Sergeant Major, Scots Guards is from Cheshire which he said has also been in his gray army for years. We look forward to seeing them finished!











DICK PERRY (CONTINUED)

Dick told the club, "The WWI Scots Grays 1915 is believed by Mike Thomas to have been sculpted by Sid Horton years ago for Phoenix," and another one that has been in his gray army for years. Dick said, "The Navy gunner I did for a dear friend 10 years ago as a tribute to him and his service in WW2. He just passed away last month and his wife told me he wanted me to have it back. He was in charge of the radio room aboard the USS Randolph (CV-!5) aircraft carrier, but everyone aboard had a battle station, his battle station was a 20mm Oerlikon antiaircraft gun. This shows "him" off Okinawa in 1945. This kit is an H-R Products. I got this at least 40 years ago from Arlington

Hobby Crafters....been in the gray army forever."

Dick said of The Goat Major, "Mike Thomas sent me this a number of years ago... don't know who made it." The figure to the far right is an Andrea 54mm called "Comrades in Arms" but Dick renamed it "Retreat From Moscow 1812."









MIKE THOMAS

This month Mike shared a nice assortment of flats. Below are some Roman Cavalry and to the right some Napoleonic Cuirassiers and Dragoons. Very nice sets! Mike mentioned that he scanned these rather than using a camera. He could not remember where the last were made, but Rick was pretty sure they were made in France, likely true based on the subject matter!







$MIKE \ THOMAS \ {\tiny (continued)}$

Mike also shared some Indian Army flats. Of course, he included some more Romans. In this case depicting Legionaries of many types, from the Centurion up front, Signifier, Cornicen, etc.







$MIKE \ THOMAS \ {\tiny (CONTINUED)}$

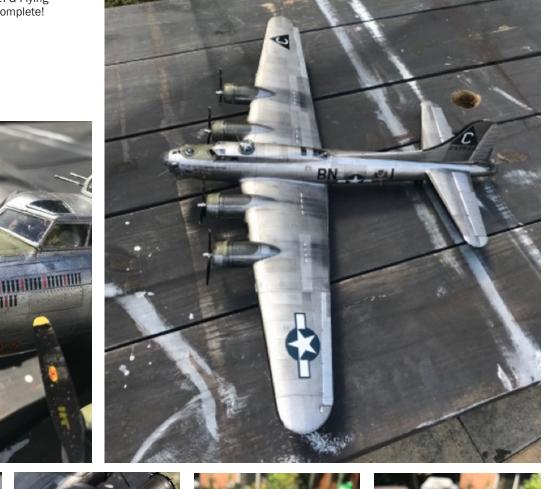
Finally Mike shared this set of gladiators from Pegaso. He noted he painted the North African figure with a base of Brown Madder highlighted with flesh to get the darker skin tones.





ROBERT HUETTNER

The HK Models B-17G Flying Fortress in 1/48 Scale, complete!













ROBERT HUETTNER (CONTINUED)

Bob modified this to depict a later production G from the 303 Bomber Group using aftermarket decals. "I used a bit of aftermarket parts to include Eduard updates for feed chutes (I now have extra for other models), cockpit, nose, and radio compartment updates as well as landing gear (which corrects a huge error as well as adds strength). Tail position was made from parts salvaged years ago from another kit. I used AK's new line of acrylic metallics and am sold on them- air brush easily, dry fast, and stand up to weathering and handling. I used several tones of aluminum- with salt technique used for oxidation effect. Lots of masking, salting, painting, resalting, cleaning and repeating. Plane was given a sludge wash (oil based), let partially dry, and removed with a dampened sock- repeated as required. Engine soot and stains were decanted smoke airbrushed. Decals are aftermarket. Pilot, copilot and radio operator are heavily modified monogram figures."











PETER ESPADA

Me-262 A-1a from the DML/Italeri kit. Peter had always wanted to paint the camouflage pattern used by the National Air and Space Museum nicely captured here. The figures are from the Monogram 262 kit, which he really liked and wanted to use. Nice job and great setting!









DAVID LUFF

"I completed my force of German WWII Fallschirmjagers (Airborne) for the Bolt Action wargaming miniature rules. The force includes an 80mm mortar team, 50mm mortar team, antitank rifle team, sniper team, 4x 10 man squads with a mix of light machine guns, and a platoon leader, a total of 52 figures."

"The miniatures are from Warlord games scaled at 28mm in plastic. I used Vallejo paints and finished with a wash of strong tone quickshade from Army Painter."







DAVID HOFFMAN

Life Miniatures WWII Red Army Sniper, 1/10 Scale, painted in oils. I did a review of this limited edition kit in our April issue and it did not disappoint. Fit and casting were superb. The Moisin-Nagant Sniper Rifle was a kit in itself, and I had to rebuild the scope mount after breaking the very fragile piece. The Red Star on the base is a reproduction hat pin, the same she is wearing, that I found on Amazon.







DISPATCHES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Courtesy of Robin J. Howard



While researching his new book LORD ASHCROFT stumbled on a wartime dispatch from Richard Carr to his family, which so moved him he now asks...

Is this the finest letter ever written from the frontline?

By Lord Ashcroft PUBLISHED: 15:32, Sun, Nov 2, 2014

ONE of the joys of researching a new book based on my collection of gallantry decorations is poring over the memorabilia that often accompanies them: letters, diaries, London Gazette medal citations and even unpublished books.

However I have rarely been so taken aback and indeed moved as I was when I read a letter home from a young officer as part of my research for my latest book Special Ops Heroes, which is published on November 6. Having now read the correspondence from Second Lieutenant Richard Carr to his father time

and time again I pose this question: is it the greatest wartime letter ever sent by a serviceman from the frontline? If there are finer ones then I have yet to read them.

Rather than edit the letter down and thereby fail to do full justice to the author I am going to reproduce it in its entirety but first I will put it in some context. Richard Phillip Carr was the son of a businessman who ran a large biscuit company. Little is known about his early years but at the beginning of the Second World War the young, handsome officer was serving with the Royal Artillery as part of the British Expeditionary Force. Carr, who was 20 at the time, does not provide his exact whereabouts in his letter home presumably for security reasons but it is reasonable to assume the correspondence was written from northern France prior to the Dunkirk evacuations.

The language of the time gives the letter a certain charm. Carr has been

"terrifically busy", the enemy aircraft make a "frightful din" and so on but the appeal of the letter is far more reaching than just the quaintness of his words.

This is clearly a soldier who has seen the horrors of war first hand for the first time but he says nothing in the letter that will alarm his parents or cause them unnecessary anxiety over his safety...

...to read the full article, click HERE



British soldiers evacuating from Dunkirk in 1940 [GETTY]

206/52nd Anti-Tank Regt., R.A., B.E.F. 22.5.40. Dear Father,

I am dreadfully sorry that I have not written before, but we have been terrifically busy. It's extraordinary how used you become to being shot at, bombed by, machine gunned and shelled at by those bloody Germans, but the more they do it the less it worries.

I can't describe the things I've seen because it's all so absolutely amazing, but I am well and feeling in cracking form and I must say we laugh a lot. For instance, the other day 42 German aircraft attacked the building I was in, making the most frightful din but not hurting anyone! Where I am now is like a city of the dead, not a soul about;

Where I am now is like a city of the dead, not a soul about; you just go into any house you want to and take what you want; stray dogs are wandering about; everything half in ruins; it's all so grotesque. But it's such a rest from the last few days that it feels marvellous. A Spitfire is at this moment in the process of bringing down one of those bloody Germans. Ah yes! I can see the smoke going up where he crashed – just one more out of his many hundreds.

Don't worry about this War since I am sure that at the moment it's not as bad as that of 1914. I feel sorry for the German Tanks that come under my gunfire since it will put them straight out! The weather is superb and I am sitting out in the open at 4 a.m. writing this. The War has certainly made me see the dawn!

It would be terrific if you could send me some Bourbon and Chocolate Biscuits as soon as possible since one never seems to have enough food on these occasions. I simply must stop now since I must go on my rounds and see what's going on this morning. You must give my love to Cecil and my salaams to all the Works.

Love, Richard

Partion In a Spanish flea market, the helmet of the Second World War's 'forgotten air ace' who shot down 29 Germans is sold for just £13

By Gerard Couzens and Nick Craven. Published: 12 February 201



The helmet of one of Britain's greatest heroes of the Second World War, who shot down 29 enemy aircraft, has been found in a Spanish flea market

He was one of Britain's greatest heroes of the Second World War – an RAF ace who shot down 29 enemy aircraft, becoming the country's most decorated fighter pilot of the conflict. Group Captain John 'Bob' Braham, who claimed 19 of his 'kills' at night, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Flying Cross – each three times.

Despite his astonishing achievements, Braham is described as 'the forgotten air ace' and now, to add to his mystique, what is believed to be his leather flying helmet has been discovered – on sale in a Spanish flea market.

Antiques collector Jose Fernandez was trawling through a market on the Costa del Sol when a friend snapped up the helmet for ≤ 15 – just under £13. Recognising it as an authentic Second World War relic, Mr Fernandez, 43, persuaded his friend to part with it for ≤ 60 , or about £50.

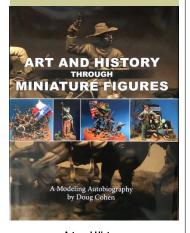


TOP GUN: Group Captain John 'Bob' Braham (right), who claimed 19 of his 'kills' at night, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order and the Distinguished Flying Cross – each three times. Pictured, Group Capt Braham with navigator Bill 'Sticks' Gregory (left)

But it was only when he got home and found an original document listing campaign medals with the initials of Group Capt Braham tucked inside the helmet that he realised who its original owner could be. to read the full article, click <u>HERE</u>



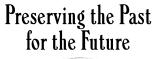
Notables...



Art and History Through Miniature Figures: A Modeling Autobiography Written by Doug Cohen available from the

ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP online, Reaper Miniatures, or from your

local favorite bookseller!





"The Artist Preservation Group is a gathering of like-minded historical artists whose mission is to...aide in the preservation and restoration of threatened historical sites and/or artifacts."

For more information on how you can help, make a donation, or become a member, visit **ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP**

WORTHY **R**EADS

FROM THE HOFFMAN FAMILY LIBRARY

Lancaster: The Forging of a Very British Legend By John Nichol, 448 pps, Simon & Schuster UK Ltd, London, 2020

This month's book review was made possible by long-time NCMSS member Robin Howard who graciously sent us a copy of *Lancaster* via the Royal Mail. **Thank you Robin!**

"The epic story of an iconic aircraft and the breathtaking courage of those who flew her" — Andy McNab, bestselling author of Bravo Two Zero

"Compelling, thrilling and rooted in quite extraordinary human drama" — James Holland, author of Normandy 44

About the Book (from the publisher)

From John Nichol, the Sunday Times bestselling author of Spitfire, comes a passionate and profoundly moving tribute to the Lancaster bomber, its heroic crews and the men and women who kept her airborne during the country's greatest hour of need.

The Avro Lancaster is an aviation icon; revered, romanticised, loved. Without her, and the bravery of those who flew her, the freedom we enjoy today would not exist.

Sir Arthur Harris, the controversial chief of Royal Air Force Bomber Command, described the Lancaster as his 'shining sword' and the 'greatest single factor in winning the war'. RAF bomber squadrons carried out offensive operations from the first day of the Second World War until the very last, more than five and a half years later. They flew nearly 300,000 sorties and dropped around a million tons of explosives, as well as life-saving supplies. Over 10,000 of their aircraft never returned. Of the 7,377

Lancasters built during the conflict, more than half were lost to enemy action or training accidents.

Critical Reception

Clive Rowley, Squadron Leader (Ret) and Former Officer Commanding, RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, called *Lancaster* "A completely wonderful, brilliant book; surely Nichol's best yet! I was continuously drawn into the personal stories; it's an emotional roller coaster of a read and a brilliant tribute to the men who flew the Lancaster."

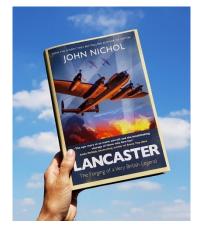
Rowland White, author of *Vulcan* 607 described *Lancaster* as "A rich and heartfelt tribute to this most iconic British machine. Focusing on the men (and women) who flew the Spitfire, John Nichol has brought a fresh and powerful perspective to the story. By recording their bravery, humility, camaraderie, tragedy and sheer joy in

"Dave is patiently waiting for his chance to read it!"

flying their beloved Spits he has done them, and us, a valuable service."

Mail on Sunday noted, As the RAF marks its centenary, Nichol has created a thrilling and often moving tribute to some of its greatest heroes."

RAF News (an organization that should be able to speak with some authority) called *Lancaster* "A stirring portrait of a piece of aviation art in motion flown by the bravest of the brave. Nichol's Spitfire is still a sky-borne prima ballerina that kicks like



Bruce Lee.'

I did find one particularly critical review. Leo McKinstry (author of Lancaster: the Second World War's Greatest Bomber) wrote in his Spectator review, "But for all the power of Nichol's prose, I found this an unsatisfactory, unbalanced book. It is more a collection of personal reminiscences than a coherent narrative about the plane. Having written my own history of the Lancaster a decade ago, I am naturally wary of making such a judgment. But there are too many holes to be ignored." McKinstry ended his review saving, "With his readable style and impressive credentials, Nichol is certain to have another winner with this book. But it provides only a partial picture."

Perhaps Lancaster has some flaws, but I don't believe the author intended his work to be a complete history and nose to tail schematic of every nut & bolt on the plane. Rather, it's an homage to the bravery of the men who lived and died aboard "a very British Legend". I have not yet finished the book, but so far I'm enjoying what I've read. In closing, again I would like to thank Robin Howard for sending us a copy of Lancaster. Dave is patiently waiting for his chance to read it!

-Darci H.

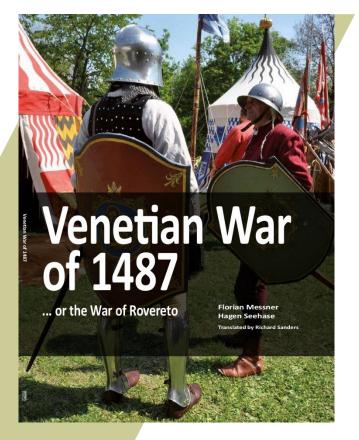
Coming soon from Zeughaus Verlag!

"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} <u>ARMIES</u> M WATERLOO

volume s T<u>ME</u> PRUSSIAN ARMY

> as drawn eu C<u>hlarles Lyall</u> 1394

> > ZEUGHAUS VERLAG



"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 longstanding gap of a comprehensive work on the Prussian Army of 1815. Softbound, 88 pages.

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September 2020, Vol. 59, Issue 9

PHOTOGRAPHING SCALE MODELS Meeting Presentation by Mike Fleckenstein

Members attending our September Zoom meeting were treated to a thorough and informative talk on photographing our collections by friend of the club Mike Fleckenstein. The following article is a summary of Mike's presentation with selected texts from his PowerPoint (PPT). Any errors of omission or transcription are entirely the fault of the editors.

"So...What am I going to do with all these photos anyway?"

- Progressive or post build photos
- Perhaps for a magazine article
- A slide show of my work for a web page or portable device
- A record of shows I attend
- · Because I just like to look at them!

What makes a good model photo?

- Composition
- Focus
- White Balance
- Correct Lighting

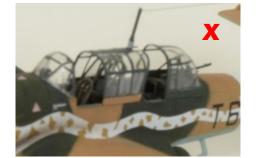
These elements are important to ALL genres of photography, whether the subject is a scale model, a portrait, a landscape, an event or abstract.

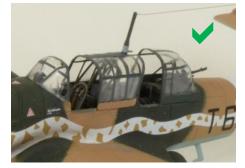
1. Keeping your composure

When you are photographing scale models, a central composition works best but that does not always apply to landscapes and portraits.

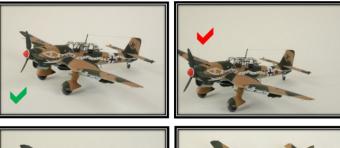
Although there are no hard coded rules as to what looks best in a given image, usually the "Rule of Thirds" applies. Imagine a Tic-Tac-Toe board and try to locate the major points of interest in the image where the lines cross. Usually, this looks good, but you should always let your eye be the judge. If you are undecided, it doesn't hurt to have someone else look at the composition and give you their opinion.

The PPT slide "Under controlled conditions" (left) illustrates how point of view and framing effect picture quality of a scale model.





Under controlled conditions





2. Keeping it in focus

You can use graphics programs to fix a lot of issues with your photos, but be aware the only thing you can't fix digitally is an out of focus image. The most important element of focus is **Depth of Field**. Here are some tips for achieving the best focus.

- Always use the smallest (largest number) aperture for the deepest Depth of Field.
- Remember that the smaller the aperture, the longer the shutter speed because it will take longer for the required amount of light to get through the smaller aperture.
- Unless your camera is on a tripod, a shutter speed longer that 1/60 second will likely cause blur due to hand/camera shake.
- If you use a flash, the shutter speed is not an issue because the flash sync is usually 1/60 or 1/250 of a second. You don't need a tripod.
- If you are on a tripod, use a cable or IR shutter release.
- Be sure to use spot (single point) focus setting. If you use Autofocus, the camera may not pick the correct point to focus on.
- Set your focus point 1/3 into the depth of the subject. (not the backdrop)
- When using spot focus, the focus point also (usually) becomes the metering point so you will be measuring for exposure on the subject rather then the backdrop.



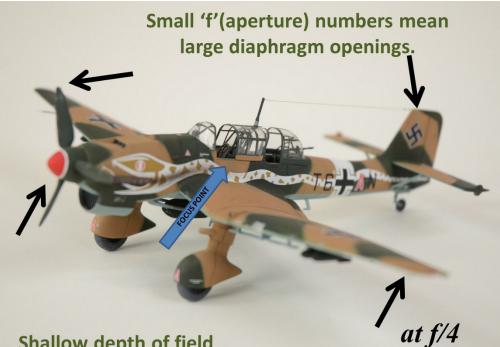
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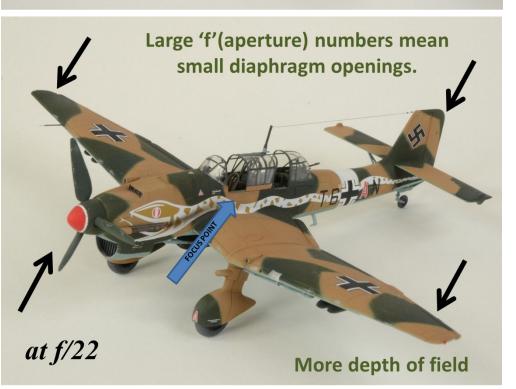


YOUNG miniatures

PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS (cont...)



Shallow depth of field



A note on backdrops: A backdrop can be almost anything that gives the subject a clean, uncluttered background (if the subject is a model that is!)

- Small light box
- Solid color sheet
- Can hang from wall onto a table top or use a dedicated backdrop support
- If using a black backdrop be sure to use velvet. Regular black cloth will still reflect light and appear dark grey instead of dead black

PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS (cont...)

3. Enlighten Me!

If the color background of your picture doesn't match reality, check the **White Balance setting** on your camera.

- White Balance refers to the proper rendering of White under different lighting conditions (i.e) Daylight, Flourescent, Tungsten, Incandescent etc.)
- 5500° K (Kelvin) is the color temperature of Daylight. As the color temperature rises, the image becomes more toward blue (cooler). As it falls, the image becomes more toward red (hotter)
- Cameras have pre-determined settings for each type of lighting or you can create a pre-set manually. (See your camera manual for instructions.)
- Usually you create a custom white balance by metering on a solid White or Neutral Gray card. (available at camera shops or online). Once this is recorded in the camera, every time you are under the same lighting conditions, White, and all other colors will be rendered correctly.









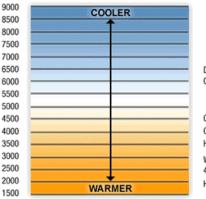




Color Temperature Chart

Sunrise

Candle



Daylight fluorescent Clear mercury vapor

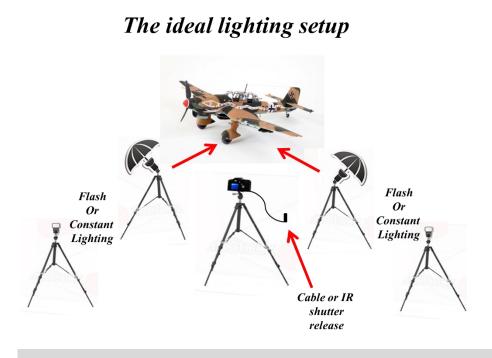
Clear metal halide Cool white fluorescent Halogen lamp Warm white fluorescent 40W incandescent High pressure sodium

4. Dancing in the Shadows

If you are at a show you may be able to use a tripod. In this case ambient light will be OK and you probably will not have a shadow problem. If you are forced to use a flash, you might have to live with the resulting shadows.

If you can control the conditions you can use multiple flashes or daylight balanced constant lights to create the optimum image.

PHOTOGRAPHING MODELS (cont...)



There are two ways multiple flashes can be triggered by the camera shutter button:

- **Optical** (i.e. *Nikon Creative Lighting System*). The main flash on the camera triggers the slave flashes when it fires. The flash on the camera does not necessarily affect the exposure. It depends on how you have set it up. As long as the slave flashes can "see" the main flash, they will fire. The advantage of this system is that you typically have full adjustment control over all the flashes from the main flash on the camera.
- **RF** (i.e. *Pocket Wizard*) Doesn't matter if the main flash can "see" the slave flashes. They will fire when the controller sends out a radio signal. Disadvantage is that you typically cannot control the slaves from a central location.

Can my camera do all this?

• These days, even simple point & shoot digital cameras and even some phone cameras allow you use most of the settings described.

• Some point & shoot cameras may not allow use of a cable release. You can use the self-timer instead.

Pros & Cons of different camera types*

Cardboard box camera	Fuhgettaboutit
Point & Shoot	Non-removable lens, Easily transported
Pro-sumer or bridge	Non removable lens Lots of functions
CSC (Compact System camera)	Interchangeable lens Lots of functions No mirror (composition on screen only) Easily damaged sensor (when changing lenses)
SLR (Single lens reflex)	Interchangeable lens Mirror (composition through eyepiece or screen) Maximum functionality Harder to transport

*Update for using Mobile Phone cameras

Since this presentation was written the quality of images that can be made using the built in camera in your phone have seen huge improvements. This varies by phone so only you can make the call whether your phone can produce the results you want.

Some phones allow the full range of settings (aperture, focus point, shutter speed, flash contol etc.), while others are more limited.



Good Luck and Good Shooting!

Any questions feel free to e-mail me at <u>modlrfleck@yahoo.com</u> Or see my web page at (shameless plug) <u>mikefphoto.com</u>

KIT INSPECTION

Review by Mike Thomas



Flavio Beliasio Reconquista de Roma, 536

Manufacturer:	Art Girona
Order code:	H-13
Scale/Size:	54mm
Material:	white metal
Designer:	Adriano Laruccia

Available at www.art-girona.com

It is not often that one comes across a "personality" figure like this, or from this historical period come to that. Flavius Belisarius was an extremely able general who served under the Emperor Justinian in the first half of the 6th century AD. Although he was badly treated by his jealous master he apparently never wavered in his loyalty. He was responsible for the reconquest of Rome and Italy from the Ostrogoths and the defeat of the Vandals in North Africa. He also operated in the east against the Sasanid Persian empire, that perpetual thorn in Rome's flesh, with some success. There are seven parts to the kit (one being the simple base), which displays all of Laruccia's flare for excellent sculpture, mould engineering and attention to detail. Fit of the various parts is firm with good, large lugs and there is little cleaning up that has to be done. The figure, helmetless, is portrayed waving – presumably to the liberated city. He wears a scale cuirass (lorica squamata) over a leather subarmilis with the lower legs bound in cloth strips, rather like puttees. Draped over the left shoulder and arm is a cloak. The face is full of character and will repay careful painting.

Some care will be necessary with the assembly and painting sequence. Either the upper body and legs can be joined or, alternatively, the torso and arm/cloak can be attached. However, all three components cannot be assembled at once because this will create insoluble difficulties in terms of painting access.

I offer only two criticisms. Firstly, the base is nondescript. A marble pavement would have set the figure off much better. Secondly, the painting instructions are all in Spanish, with no English translation, although there is a colour photo of the painted model.

An unusual subject and an interesting contrast with this firm's earlier release of the Emperor Hadrian. One final thing – the base, column and vase are not a part of this kit but came from my 'spares' box. . -MT

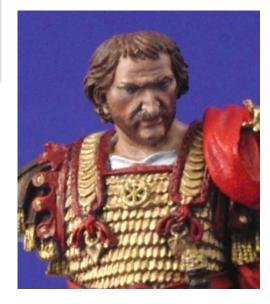




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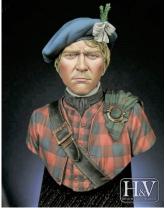
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The Lost Battalion History in Miniatures

Heroes & Villains Miniatures







THE BATTLE OF BLUE SAVANNAH By Kevin Bukowski (from <u>Buk's Historical Ad Hockery</u>, September 8, 2020)

A special thanks to **Bob Huettner** 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 <u>Buk's Historical Ad Hockery</u>.

Horatio Gates' loss at Camden and Thomas Sumter's defeat at Fishing Creek were body blows to the Patriot cause in the South in the late summer of 1780. Despite his victory at Musgrove's Mill, Isaac Shelby was run out of South Carolina and sought refuge with the Overmountain Men beyond the Blue Ridge. To capitalize on the British momentum, Major Patrick Ferguson sought to mass his Loyalist militia, then training in disparate camps across Georgia and the Carolinas, and strike the Overmountain mustering camps ending their threat once and for all.

But Sumter, Shelby and Gates weren't the last organized Patriots in the South. Southern partisans under Lt Col Francis Marion were dispatched by Gates just prior the Battle of Camden to seize and destroy bridges and ferries to prevent Cornwallis' escape. Gates' catastrophic loss left Marion and his 70 odd horsemen deep in the swampy wilderness northeast of the Santee River.

The diminutive Marion (he was only 5 ft tall) was one of America's most talented and aggressive partisan leaders in the South during the American Revolution. In the beginning of September 1780, Marion's men rescued 250 Maryland and Delaware Continentals taken prisoner at Camden. Believing the war lost most declined to join Marion, and went north. The rescue though got back to the loyalists then marching to join Ferguson.

On 4 September, Mari-



"The Swamp Fox" original painting in oils by Robert W. Wilson, Sr.

on's advanced guard met and charged a patrol of Loyalists on a road along the Little Pee Dee River. One of the captured Loyalists told Marion that Major Micajah Gainey's force of 400 militia was camped three miles down the road. They were camped at a small loyalist settlement for the night.

Despite the overwhelming odds, Marion decided to attack. But the loyalist lied: Gainey' men men weren't camped, but on the march. Furthermore, Gainey was with the men the patriots just attacked, who were not a patrol, but the advanced guard; the advanced guard of a force dispatched specifically the recapture the prisoners and defeat Marion. Gainey had escaped the attack and warned his main body. When Marion charged down the road hoping to catch the Loyalists at breakfast, he ran straight into Gainey's men in battle line blocking the road. Not wishing to push an attack against a far superior adversary prepared for him, Marion and his men fled back up the road.

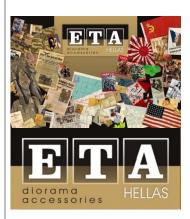
Gainey could not pursue because he had few horses remaining after the loss of his advanced guard, but he took up the chase at the double. However, Marion did not flee far. He set up an ambush at Blue Savannah, a few miles down road. The open sandy fields punctuated by scrub pines and small lakes (made by meteor strikes in the distant past. These sandy depressions are filled with water and are known locally as "Savannahs") meant little cover for the loyalists on the road. Gainey's men, led by Captain Barefield, marched right into the ambush. Marion's men let out a devastating volley then charged the confused loyalist mass. Barefield's men got off one volley before they broke and ran into the swamp.

For just three men wounded. Marion inflicted 30 killed and twice as many wounded on a enemy almost five times his force's size. The Battle of Blue Savannah was Francis Marion's first battle, and first victory of many, in the American Revolution against the British and Loyalists in the South. Effectively alone. Marion carried the Patriot cause in South Carolina while other American forces reorganized or continued to muster. Dubbed the "Swamp Fox" by Banastre Tarelton, Marion roused the entire Pee Dee and Santee river basins against the British. More immediately, Marion prevented many loyalist bands from eastern South Carolina from joining Ferguson's expedition against the Overmountain men.--KB

MORE ERNST HEINRICHSEN "GROUP" FLAT FIGURES by Rick Sanders

In part one of this article, which appeared in the February 2020 Dispatch, I explained that I was inspired by a book entitled "Aus einem Guss - Zinnfiguren-Gruppen von Ernst Heinrichsen Nürnberg" and culled my collection and found the "group figures" I had from the firm and got some of them painted. Since then I have had the opportunity to finish more of them and also expand by collection of ones to be painted. What follows are primarily ancients, but I hope to present more from the Seven Years War, Napoleonic Wars and later periods in the coming months.

In 2019 the Heinrichsen firm celebrated the 180th anniversary of its founding and for more than 40 years, six generations of the family have been marketing figures to collectors. If you are interested in Heinrichsen figures, the firm's web site is excellent and features color photos of its figures, order forms, etc. It's located at <u>Heinrichsen.de</u>. Currently it is only in German, but the proprietor, Frau Dr. Brigitte Grobe (a Heinrichsen descendent) will be presenting an English option for the site in the future. The site has order forms and the firm accepts payment by PayPal.





Persians fighting Spartans at Thermopylae, 480 BC

The Battle of Thermopylae, remembered by the stand of 300 Spartan hoplites, is rendered in this figure. While the depicted soldiers may have been considered accurate historically more than a century ago, neither the Persians nor the Spartans correspond to present day knowledge about their attire or equipment. This figure 30mm flat's mold was engraved in 1905.



Combined Greek forces (hoplites) defeat the remaining Persians at Plataea, 479 BC

Plataea was the final land battle during the second Persian invasion of Greece in which the combined Greek army defeated the Persian forces that Xerxes had left in in Boeotia.

30mm flat, mold engraved in 1906.





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Mike Fleckenstein Photographer <u>mikefphoto.com</u>





amand P. Bayardi HELPING YOU SET THE SCENE SINCE 1992

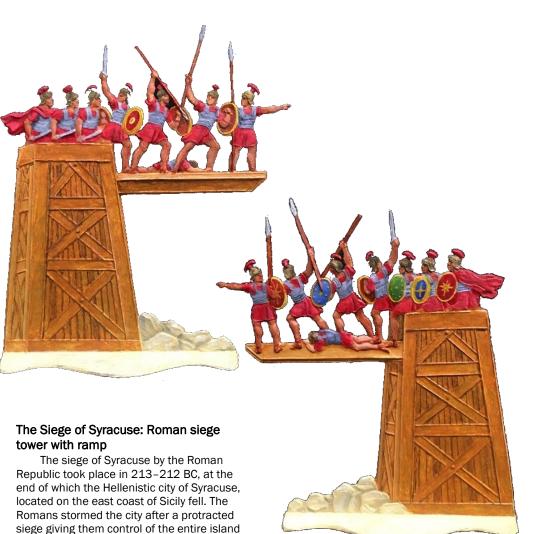


MORE ERNST HEINRICHSEN (CONT...)



Greek cavalrymen cross the River Granicus

The Battle of the Granicus River in May 334 BC was the first of Alexander the Great's three major battles against the Persian Empire. It fought in northwestern Asia Minor, near the site of Troy, and Alexander defeated the forces of the Persian satraps of Asia Minor. This 28mm flat's mold was engraved in 1908.



of Sicily. This flat figure is 20mm scale and

was engraved in 1902

MORE ERNST HEINRICHSEN (CONT...)



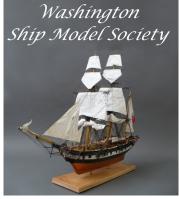
Arminius at the Battle of Teutoburger Wald, 9 AD

This group figure ostensibly depicts Arminius, also known in German as Hermann, from the Cherusker Germanic tribe, at the Battle of the Teutoburger Wald (Tueutoburg Forest), in which an army of combined German tribes annihilated three Roman legions plus their auxiliaries under the Roman general Varus. The mold for this figure, a modified re-release of an earlier version, was made in 1936, and typifies the romanticized view of that era, looking more like characters from Wagner's operas than historically accurate renderings. In all likelihood, Arminius, as a former Roman auxiliary officer, would have worn some Roman armor, and certainly not a winged helmet and not have an animal pelt as a saddlecloth. As a note, in recent years, based on extensive archaeological finds, the location of the Teutoburger Wald debacle has been pretty definitely identified as near present day Kalkriese, a village in the Osnabrück district in Lower Saxony, Germany.



A Frank captures a Roman standard at the Battle of Soissons, 486 AD

These figures were intended to represent the Battle of Soissons, which was fought in 486 between Frankish forces under Clovis I and the Gallo-Roman domain of Soissons under Syagrius. The battle was a victory for the Franks and led to the conquest of the Roman rump state of Soissons. However, the figures are more appropriate to a much earlier era. - 30mm flat engraved in 1905.



Founded in 1929, WSMS is the oldest continuously active ship model club in the United States. DCShipModelSociety.org

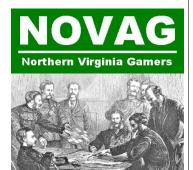


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MORE ERNST HEINRICHSEN (CONT...)



Russian infantry captures a French cannon at the Battle of Lützen (2 May 1813)

This battle, known in German as Großgörschen, was actually not very successful for the allies (Russia and Prussia), and they were lucky that Napoleon's forces did not choose to pursue them when they retreated.

This mold for this 28mm flat group was engraved in 1903



Theodor Körner is killed at the Battle of Gadebusch (27 Aug. 1813)

Carl Theodor Körner (1791-1813) was a well-known German poet from Dresden (Saxony) who joined the Prussia's Lützow Volunteer Corps in the uprising against Napoleon.

30mm flat, produced in 1912



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Prussian General von Bülow with Prussian Landwehr at the Battle of Dennewitz (6 Sep. 1813)

General Friedrich Wilhelm Freiherr von Bülow commanded the Prussian III Corps at the battle which occurred in Dennewitz, a village in the Prussian province of Brandenburg, 25 miles southwest of Berlin. Among his troops were a number of Landwehr (militia) regiments. The Allied victory over Marshal Ney's French forces at the battle ended Napoleon's hopes of capturing Berlin and knocking Prussia out of the war. The French defeat was also the catalyst for the defection of Napoleon's primary German ally Bavaria and the erosion of fidelity in the Saxon Army toward Napoleon's cause. The mold for this 28mm flat group was engraved in 1913.





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