



# THE DISPATCH

April 2022, Vol. 61,  
Issue 4

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## MEETING NOTICE

Every Fourth Wednesday  
**May 25, 2022**  
7:30-10:00 PM

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

# COMMANDER'S CALL

## Greetings to our growing and extended NCMSS team!

Happy Spring to you all. I love the Springtime as it represents to me a season of renewal and rebirth. It's a time when tree buds become leaves or beautiful flowers, when the healing rains soften the hard ground beneath our feet allowing new life to emerge. And yes, there is of course, lots of pollen and resulting allergies as well. ☺

Spring is also a time for cleaning out and making way for fresh possibilities and new commitments. Of course, for the hobbyists it is also a time for organizing your gray army and starting a new kit or figure, or perhaps attending one of the many in-person shows that are returning. Or even better yet, attend one of our monthly club meetings!

As always thanks to Dave and Darci, and to the many

content contributors who make our *Dispatch* possible, it is truly a first-class product! As you all start to paint your new figures or start your next build consider writing a "how-to" or take a few snaps to share. And since we honor history through art, when you are out there visiting historical sites take photos and consider writing a short summary or doing a short presentation during one of our monthly meetings. Dave has the process down and can assist if you have questions.

As many of you know we are on our preparation journey for the 61st Annual Washington Show on 1 October, 0900-1700 at the Springfield, VA Hilton. Highlights include trophies, sponsored awards, ship/train/auto car club displays, raffle, hobby vendors, and much more. Thanks to Bob Prokop, we also have a

show figure you can purchase, paint, and enter in the show – thanks Bob! Please reach out to Dave or Darci with any questions, suggestions and most importantly to volunteer – we need volunteers to pull off a quality event. More to follow from Dave.

I hope to see you all at one of our monthly meetings or better yet at one of the model shows out there. Until then stay healthy, get outdoors, stay happy, and...

*Paint On!*



**Burt**  
The Commander



## WE'RE BRINGING BACK THE SHOW FIGURE!

In years past the NCMSS had commissioned unique figures for our annual shows. Thanks to the resourcefulness, skill, and generosity of our master modeler & 3D printing expert Bob Prokop, the club can once again offer a special show figure to you.

The figure is based on a famous Associated Press photo of a US Army infantryman on guard duty on Grassy Knoll in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands during WWII on Jan 26, 1943. (The soldier in the photo has often been mistaken as a Marine.)

At our **61st Annual Washington Show** on **October 1** you can enter this figure in competition for a special prize commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Guadalcanal Campaign. Two sizes, 75mm and 100mm, are now available. [Visit our website for more info.](#) Help us honor the heroes of the Guadalcanal Campaign and start painting today. Bayonets are optional!

David H.  
NCMSS Adjutant



## April MOTM “Mugs-of-the-Month”



Luis Fernando Andres



Zacharia Becker

# CLUB NEWS

## ZOOM MEETING MINUTES — April 9, 2022

### Pre-meeting “chit-chat” [14:00-14:20]

### Call to Order & Club Business [14:20-14:48]

Dave officially started the meeting.

- 1.) Updated club on current status and Washington Show dates, website has been updated with room reservation information, exhibit registration forms, PayPal payment options, rules, categories, etc.
- 2.) Discussed that early setup on Friday for vendors won't be until after 7pm due to Amazon having the room during the day. The hotel's restaurant will not be operating so will look at catering lunches again.
- 3.) Bob Petrillo is moving out of state so will need volun-

teers to operate the admissions desk.

- 4.) Discussed ideas for the show and that everyone can come to our future online planning meetings, will need “all hands on deck” for this year's show.
- 5.) Bob P. proposed doing a Show Figure produced by and sold by the club for competition instead of doing a raffle. The figure is a Guadalcanal soldier to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the campaign. Bob suggested two sizes 75mm and 100mm to be sold for \$20 and \$30 each. Bob can print the figures as needed.
- 6.) If we do a hospitality suite we will need volunteers to manage it.



### Parade Ground [15:00-16:12]

Presented last in person Parade ground, then did the new on-line Parade Ground. As usual, great submissions which took up the rest of the meeting. Some great tips were shared by John Jeffries, also below.

### Meeting Adjourned [16:20]

### Attendees

David Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Michael Pierce, Robert Huettner, Brian Ford, Rick Sanders, Jack Thompson, Gerry Joria

## IN-PERSON MEETING MINUTES — April 27, 2022

### Pre-meeting “chit-chat” [19:00-19:40]

Lightly attended meeting this month due to conflicts but everyone had a great time.

### Call to Order & Club Business [19:40-20:10]

Dave officially started the meeting. Topics paralleled the Zoom meeting (see above minutes for April 9).

- 1.) Updated club on current status and Washington Show dates, changes. Recapped club news from past meet-

ings, both on Zoom and in-person.

- 3.) Discussed ideas for the show and that everyone can come to our future online planning meetings, will need “all hands on deck” for this years show.

### Parade Ground [20:10-20:45]

A nice Parade Ground although only four participants.

### Presentation [20:45-21:30]

Dave showed highlights from the Atlanta, Richmond and IPMS NoVA Model Classic shows.

### Meeting Adjourned [21:40]

### Attendees

Jim Richey, David Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Jenny Young, James Pratt, Luis Fernando Andres, Zach Becker

## TIP OF THE MONTH

### Making Buttons by John Jefferies

Mike Pierce had asked about the best way to add buttons to a figure as all the methods he tried proved unsatisfactory. John Jeffries mentioned that he uses brass rod, where he thins the top, cuts it with wire cutters and inserts it into the soft putty of the figure. You can then take an X-Acto knife to create folds and creases, and the insertion can create a slight “billowing” effect around it similar to real clothing. John also said that you can create the hole and folds first, then insert the button after the putty has hardened. Brass rod comes in many diameters for different sizes of buttons. He said he learned this technique from Mike Blank and Bill Mirklein. Using imprints from brass rod can also be used to represent mail armor.

Thanks for the tips John! Much appreciated.





## National Capital Model Soldier Society

### Member benefits include:

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

What are you waiting for?

**Welcome to the club!**



# EVENTS AND PLACES

## 2022 Museum Weekend of the American Revolution Exhibit June 18 - 19, 2022

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY - NO FEE TO EXHIBIT  
MUSEUM TICKET FEE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

### Painting Class by Scale 75 and Julio Cabose - June 16-17

The event will coincide with a year long exhibit of original work by Don Troiani.

Although really more of an exhibition, this event will also be very much like a show. We will have at least twelve special awards and due to space limitations just a few vendors. Our goal is to have a minimum of 300 pieces on display focusing on the American Revolution. However, there is a very good chance we will open it up to American History as we determine space availability. The mission of this event is to display our interpretation of our history through the art of miniatures and give more exposure of the hobby to the public. And what better place to do than one of the premiere museums in the country, if not the world.

Visit the [Artist Preservation Group](http://ArtistPreservationGroup.com) website for more info



60th Rifles by Matt Wellhauser



60th Foot bust by Rick Taylor



## Kulmbach Zinnfigurenbörse - Flat Figures Show

August 12–14, 2022

Stadt Kulmbach  
Deutsches Zinnfigurenmuseum Plassenburg  
95326 KULMBACH

Opening: Friday and Saturday from 0900 to 1800 Hr  
Sunday 0900 to 1200 Hr

Visit [Chevalier de l'Enfance](http://ChevalierdeL'Enfance.com) for more information

# EVENTS AND PLACES (Continued...)



## Beyond the Civil War: Buffalo Soldiers on the American Frontier and Overseas, 1866-1916

June 08 @ 10:00 am  
10:00 am - 10:45 am  
Live Stream, Virtual  
Megan Hunter, Tracy Bradford

Generations of African Americans have fought for the protection of the United States, but it would not be until the Civil War that they would serve in an official capacity. Due to their exemplary service, a Congressional Act passed on July 28, 1866 that created six new regiments

comprised of all black enlisted men with predominately white officers. Later condensed to four regiments, they would come to be known as the "Buffalo Soldiers."

These Soldiers played a decisive role in the U.S. Army on the western frontier and overseas operations. The courage and determination of the Soldiers in spite of segregation at home would pave the way towards achieving integration and full civil rights in the future.

In this Virtual Field Trip, examine the commitment, challenges, and sacrifices of Buffalo Soldiers immediately following the Civil War and continuing through the Spanish American War. This Virtual Field Trip is supported by the U.S. Army Women's Museum and the Frontier Army Museum.

Register for this free Virtual Field Trip here

## Listening to Paint Dry with Mike & Dan Podcast



### Episode 46: Bookclub with Dave Taylor

"We're back, finally. We know it's been a while and for that we're sorry. To make it up to all of our loyal listeners, we have a fantastic conversation with Dave Taylor, artist, teacher, author and publicist. He's here to talk to us about his hobby journey and fill us in on all the details of his Kickstarter that launches tomorrow, May 10, 2022 for the next installment of the 'In the Art of' series."



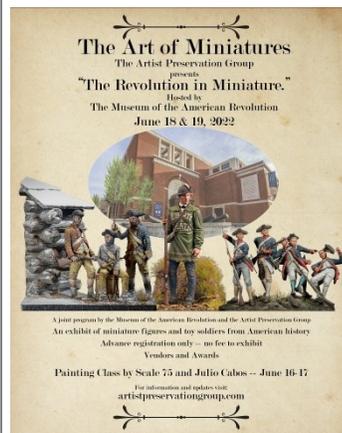
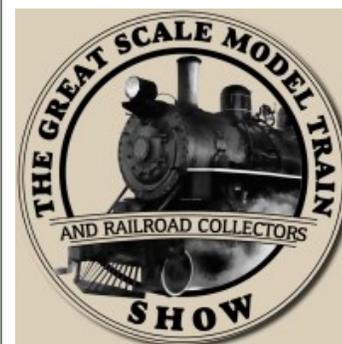
Follow us on: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), and [Twitter](#)  
Drop us an email at: [listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com](mailto:listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com)

"The journey to becoming a Better, Braver, Happier Painter is a gift. Enjoy unwrapping it every day. Until next time." —Mike D.



# HOBBY CALENDAR 2022

- JUN**
  - Jun 4-5 — [Wonderfest '22](#), Crown Plaza, Louisville, KY
  - Jun 18-19 — [Museum of the American Revolution Exhibit](#), APG, Philadelphia, PA
- JUL**
  - Jul 1-3 — [World Model Expo 2022](#), Veldhoven, The Netherlands
  - Jul 20-23 — [2022 IPMS/USA National Convention](#), La Vista, Nebraska
- AUG**
  - Aug 12-14 — [Kulmbach Zinnfigurenbörse - Flat Figures Show](#), Plassenburg, Kulmbach
  - Aug 31 - Sept 4 — [NOVA Open](#), Arlington, VA
- SEP**
  - Sept 23-24 — [Barrage 2022](#), Harford Area Weekly Kriegspielers, Havre de Grace, MD
- OCT**
  - Oct 1 — [NCMSS 61st Annual Washington Show](#), Springfield, VA
  - Oct 15-16 — [The Great Scale Model Train and RR Collectors Show](#), Timonium, MD
  - Oct 21-22 — [2022 Chicago Show](#), Military Miniature Society of Illinois, Schaumburg, IL



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

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



April "Mug-of-the-Month"

WINNERS

April 27, 2022  
Parade Ground Participants

*Jim Richey  
Zacharia Becker  
Luis Fernando Andres  
David Hoffman*



**Luis Fernando Andres & Zachariah Becker**  
for their fantasy figures

DAVID HOFFMAN

Work in progress. Light 6 Pounder from the American Revolutionary War, a limited edition 75mm kit by Mike Stetzel, formerly of Michael Roberts Ltd. He also produced a crew to go with it, a limited run of 25 kits from his Olde Salem Miniatures.

The gun is painted in Light Blue Grey, as many pieces were captured from the British, such as the 49 brought south by Col. Knox from the captured Ft. Ticonderoga. The Bronze gun tube is painted with Mr. Metal buffable Bronze, then stained with Sepia. The wheel rims were painted with Mr. Metal Stainless Steel and then stained as well. Oil washes were used throughout.

Jenny Young recounted her experience as an artillery re-enactor and gave good insight in how the gun was operated, including that the ready ammunition boxes were kept closed when firing and the positioning of the hand of the gunner to smother the vent when loading.



## ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## LUIS FERNANDO ANDRES

Luis brought in something a bit different for him, a fantasy piece instead of his usual historical subjects. While still very small scale in 28mm, Luis did his usual fine detail work. He was not sure of the manufacturers, but all three were from different companies and are basically “Dungeons & Dragons” type figures. He did not know what to title the piece, but Zach suggested “Skeleton warriors” which stuck...for now, anyway.

Luis did a great job creating the birch trees, but he said the snow was a challenge. He first used baking soda, but was unsatisfied with the results. A friend gave him some Hudson and Allen snow which turned out much better. He was going for a gritty, wet snow look, which all agreed he had accomplished. Nice work!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## ZACHARIAH BECKER

From Kimera Models, Zach obtained this figure for a recent painting class he attended with Erik Swinson, and brought it in as an unfinished WiP, but posted the finished figure on the NCMSS Facebook page (lower right). Zach did this figure in acrylics and inks, along with further perfecting his non metallic metal technique (NMM). Another superb piece!



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY

Jim had his work in progress of a Phoenix or Firebird, a 3D printout that Bob Prokop did for him after Jim admired the one he did at Bob's presentation at the last meeting. The figure's feathers are very delicate and Jim has had some unfortunate occasional breakage to repair. The kit came with two heads, one with the beak open and one closed. Painted by airbrush so far, Jim intends to brush on some shading and do more yellow highlights.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



**Virtual Meeting  
April 9, 2022  
Parade Ground Participants**

*Jack Thompson, Michael Pierce,  
David Hoffman, Robert Huettnner,  
Rick Sanders, John Jeffries*

## JACK THOMPSON

“A model railroader friend needed some people to sit in the seats of his G-scale (1:20.3) passenger cars. He bought up all those he could find in a seated pose and asked me to paint them for him. Here are the results.”

Jack mentioned they were from different sculptors with varying degrees of quality, but sitting inside a railroad car it wouldn't make much difference. The period is 1880s to 18190s. He thought he done about 22, quite the production line and nicely done!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## MICHAEL PIERCE



“Figures for a Molly Pitcher Diorama. I was inspired by Doug Cohen's piece of the same subject. The figure, Molly's husband, sitting down is passing the linstock, that ignites the cannon's charge, to Molly. The diorama's title is “Passing the Torch”. The other two figures has one holding a sponge/ramrod and the gun captain. First time I have sculpted four figures for a diorama. They will be positioned around the cannon.” Mike said he used a lot of techniques described by Mike Blank in his recent figure book (previously reviewed). He also took “selfies” around cannon at the battlefield where he works to get an idea for the animation. He said he did not wear a skirt though! Stay tuned for the final diorama. Member James Pratt furnished the cannon to Michael.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## DAVID HOFFMAN

Dave is working on an American Revolution Six Pounder Artillery piece with Crew. Both are 75mm limited editions sculpted and sold by Mike Stetzel of the Artist Preservation Group. This gun was used by Doug Cohen in his Molly Pitcher Diorama seen at the Atlanta Show. More information is in the previous Parade Ground.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## ROBERT HUETTNER

“Not a figure, but something completely out of my comfort zone- USS Arizona in 1/350 scale. Just about everything from the deck up (including the deck) has been replaced or modified. It has given me a healthy respect for ship builders. As soon as I get this done, I'm going back to figures and armor!”

Robert used photoetched parts for his replacements which corrects mistakes in the original model, including better portholes. He plans to have it in water underway, another challenge!



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## ROBERT HUETTNER (CONTINUED)

Some more pictures of Robert's Work in Progress. Nice work area too, actually tidier than my own and better organized! A few members were a bit jealous.



# ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



## RICK SANDERS

Some of the 30mm figures Rick is working on for his upcoming book on the standards of the Teutonic Order's army and the Polish-Lithuanian Army at the 1410 Battle of Tannenberg/Grunwald. Rick mentioned that he wanted to expand on his original work focused on the Teutonic knights and focus on others from the battle, which he classifies as Ruthenians (Poles, Lithuanians, Tartars, Ukrainians, Belarusians, etc.). He has about 70 of these and 70 from the Teutonic order. He hopes to release the book in July prior to the Kulmbach show in Germany. All are painted with oils and the figures are produced by Hans Jörg Stoll.



## ☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

## JOHN JEFFRIES

Another great sculpt from John Jeffries, this time of a Medieval Venetian Handgunner. John has become very interested in the Venetian medieval period, and had done an admiral bust at last year's show. This is scratch built except for the head, which is a Sabot Academy head in 1/6 scale. John was very pleased with the sculpting and character of the head. He also enjoys recreating the flamboyant headgear of the period, although a lot of the embroidery on the figures can be a challenge. This was made with Magic Sculpt and Plumber's Putty/Seal. John finds that the Plumber's Putty has a nice hard finish that sands very well, which is very conducive to painting metallic armor surfaces. He did a demonstration regarding this bust at a recent Long Island club meeting and has since shortened the arm and added a sword. Can't wait to see this painted!



# FROM THE WORKBENCH OF

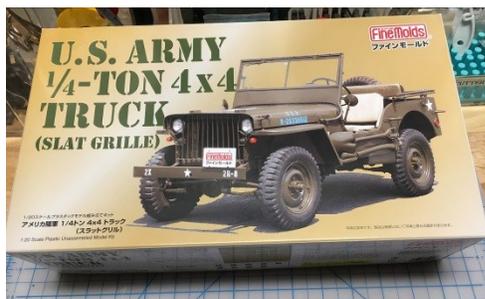
# Nicholas Kalis

## Project - Chassis and Tools Used To Assemble 1:20 Scale FineMolds Jeep By Nicholas Kalis

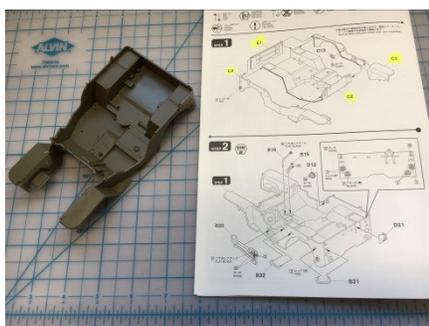
Assembled the jeep is approximately 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch in length and 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inch in width.

Interestingly, **Finemolds** offers a photo etched detail fret as Item No. 82101. I passed on this since the kit's original 114 parts are challenge enough for me.

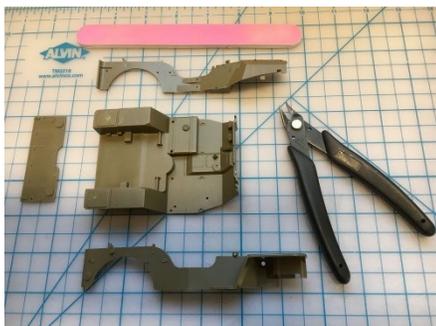
(You can visit Nicholas's helpful blog [Modeling Hints and Reviews for Large Scale Modelers and Others](#) by clicking the link.)



Brand: **FineMolds** (Japan)  
Title: *US Army 1/4-ton 4x4 Truck (Slat Grille)*  
Number: 82001, Scale: 1:20  
114 parts, full kit released: 2011



Sharpie Medium Point Silver/Argent  
Used to paint the headlights



Body before assembly



Panavise® and clamp in use. I eventually screwed the vise into my bench.



### Almost finished!

It awaits a few more parts and decaling.

# DISPATCHES FROM ACROSS THE POND

Courtesy of Robin J. Howard

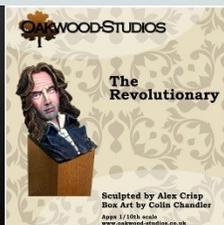
Robin Recommends...



[Oakwood-Studios](#) has been involved in the making of quality wooden bases for over 25 years. "We specialize in creating the perfect wooden base to compliment your finished

figure. Plinths, round, square, flat and shapes of all sizes. Our tailor-made bases are available via [our web site](#) and you can contact us to discuss exact wood types and measurements." Contact [Richard Wharton](#) for any enquiries.

[Oakwood is now carrying figures!](#)



Special thanks to Robin for sending us a 1/10th scale bust from Oakwood entitled "The Revolutionary" sculpted by Alex Crisp. Look for an upcoming review of the kit in a future *Dispatch!*



## Royal History's Biggest Fibs

With Lucy Worsley

### Royal History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley

History teaches us Marie Antoinette's 'Let them eat cake' remark sparked the French Revolution and led to her grisly downfall, but Lucy Worsley brands it a big, fat lie in this returning series, which wrestles the truth from past cover-ups.

"It's still taught to school kids and seen as the catalyst that started the whole thing, but it's a revolutionary fib," says the historian in the three-parter, which kicks off in 185h century France before exploring truth-bending involving Georgian England and the Russian Revolution.

he learned to walk on prosthetic legs and marched into a parade ground to receive his campaign medal just five months after the explosion. He went on to win awards at the Invictus games and was described by Prince Harry as "Britain's answer to Superman".



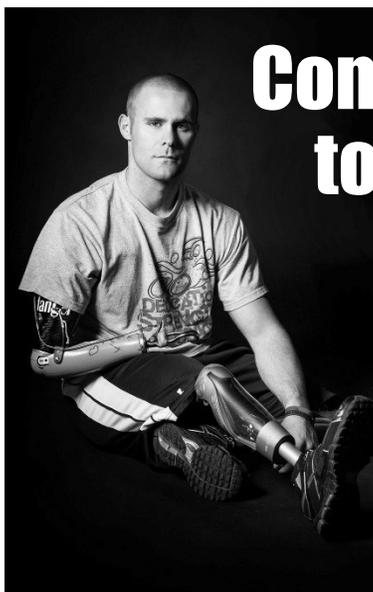
**UK companies** Fred Films and Powder Keg Pictures have bought the rights to produce a feature film about the former British Army **Captain Sir Thomas Moore**. Moore rose to prominence during lockdown when he raised £39m for the National Health Service by walking laps of his garden. He achieved the feat as he approached his 100th birthday, and has since been labelled a "national treasure".

The as-yet-untitled film will focus on the veteran's relationship with his family. The picture will also draw on his military career and show how the horrors of war shaped his life and inspired him to keep walking, despite having endured a long battle with skin cancer and a broken hip.



**Horace 'Harry' Billinge** was a Royal Marine who landed on Gold Beach on D-Day — he was 18. He spent around 50 years raising money for the Royal British Legion and then raised £50k for a memorial for the Britishmen who fell on D-Day.

Harry is featured in the documentary "Last Call to Normandy" which is currently available on DVD. You can view a trailer for the documentary [HERE](#).



## Coming Soon to a Screen Near You

Movies featuring these British heroes are reportedly in the works

A **FILM** company in Bournemouth is to bring to the screen the story of the UK's first triple amputee to survive the Afghanistan conflict.

**Royal Marine Commando Mark Ormrod** (above) was on a routine foot patrol on Christmas Eve, 2007, when he stepped on an improvised explosive device. After losing his legs and one arm,



Painted by Peter De Hann from Nederland



## Preserving the Past for the Future



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

For more information visit

**ARTIST PRESERVATION GROUP**

# WORTHY READS

FROM THE HOFFMAN FAMILY LIBRARY

## Goodbye, Darkness — A Memoir of the Pacific War

by William Manchester, 460pp, Dell Publishing Company, 1980

Manchester's obituary, published on June 2, 2004 in the *New York Times* stated:

'William Manchester, a biographer who used his novelist's eye to fashion meticulously researched portraits of power, among them Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Winston Churchill and, perhaps most famously, John F. Kennedy, died yesterday at his home in Middletown, Conn. He was 82.'

The obit went on to say, 'His experiences as a sergeant in the Marines is the subject of "Goodbye Darkness: A Memoir of the Pacific War" (1980), in which he meditated on why he left a hospital where he was recovering from a superficial gunshot wound to return to combat, where he was again wounded, this time so severely that he almost died. He concluded that he returned as an act of solidarity with his comrades, because he wanted to uphold his family's military traditions, and as an act of love for his country -- values that he believed had diminished in postwar America.

Reviewing the memoir in The New York Times Book Review, Ted Morgan said, "Manchester's combat writing is one of his book's strengths

and stands comparison with the best" writing about war.'

### From the Cover

"The most moving memoir of combat in World War II that I have read...a testimony to the fortitude of man...A gripping, haunting book."

—William L. Shirer

"Belongs with the best war memoirs ever written...Tumultuous, powerful, shocking, unabashedly emotional, tough, contentious, compassionate... Never have fighting men been better caught in their talk, action, fear, pride, misery, pain, anguish, Never have the savagery, madness, ferocity, violence, guts, crud, gristle, and gore of war been better put down on paper.

—The Los Angeles Times

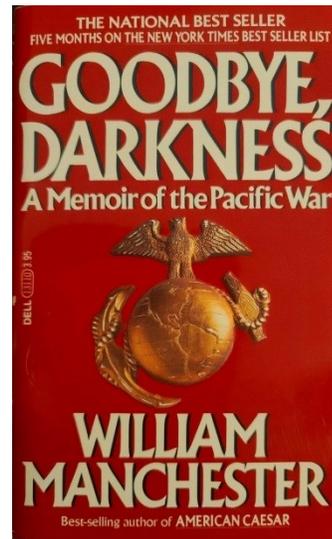
"Compelling...vivid...No other living writer could have gotten it all down so well...It succeeds superlatively."

—Daily News

### Impressions

Since the club will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Guadalcanal Campaign at our 61st Annual Washington Show on October 1, I thought reviewing a classic book that included the campaign would be appropriate.

I read "Goodbye Darkness" not long after I read Manchester's groundbreaking biography of Douglas MacArthur "American Caesar". Both are excellent books and as stated above, he was a historian with profound insights and experience having served in Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Okinawa where he received the purple heart. "Goodbye, Darkness" has some of the best descriptions of his personal combat experiences and subjective impressions of the war that I have read. It only adds to his

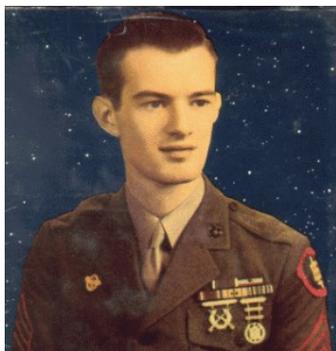


credibility as a historian of the period.

On a personal note, my favorite high school history teacher and personal mentor Jack Bradford was also a Marine veteran who fought and was wounded on Iwo Jima with the 4th Marine Division. He stimulated my love of history and interest in the Pacific campaign.

Other books that I have read that are great resources for understanding this campaign are James Jones' novelized memoir "The Thin Red Line", Ian Toll's first and second volumes of his great Pacific War trilogy and "The Cactus Air Force" by Thomas Miller. Other books I could recommend include "Midnight in the Pacific: Guadalcanal—The World War II Battle That Turned the Tide of War" by Joseph Wheelan and "Guadalcanal: The Definitive Account of the Landmark Battle" by Richard Frank.

There are so many great and informative WWII books in print. No one can read them all, but if you're looking for a memorable memoir from one of the Greatest Generation, Manchester's "Goodbye, Darkness" is well worth your time, —Dave H.





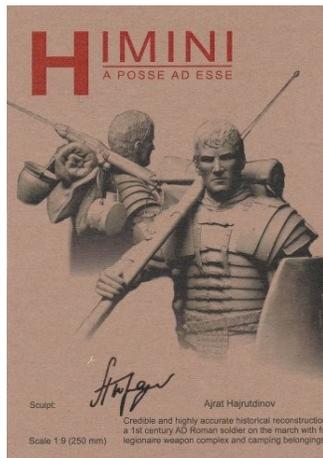
*New Release!*



**The Lost Battalion  
History in Miniatures**

# KIT INSPECTION

by Dr. Mike Thomas



**Roman march (sic)  
1st Century A.D.**  
**Manufacturer:** Himini  
**Order code:** HI-B-003  
**Scale/Size:** 1/9th (250mm)  
**Material:** Resin  
**Designer:** Airat Khairutdinov

This is not a manufacturer that I have come across before. Let me say at the outset that this is a remarkable figurine. There are 26 parts in this kit, many of which are exceedingly small. They are cast in a light grey resin material. The subject here shows a Roman legionary soldier in full 'marching order', carrying his shield, helmet, a pair of pila and his pack. The latter includes cooking utensils, a blanket roll, a satchel for his personal effects (e.g., a change of clothes) and a metal water bottle. All the various components are very sharply cast, with the usual casting lugs having to be removed. I will say that all the various component castings attach by means of large lugs that usually fit into square holes. The only poor part of the kit is the pair of pila. These are quite bent and distorted. No amount of bending (carefully) made any difference and I think that I will dispense with the kit parts and use a couple of lengths of brass rod instead. There are even castings of the handles of the

cooking pots, which are very delicate and thin.

Our man here is wearing the lorica segmentata form of the banded steel/iron plate armour. In this case it is the earliest "Kalkriese" variant. This is distinguished by the fact that the various leather straps were directly riveted to the metal plates and the girdle plates were buckled together. Also, the hinges for the upper shoulder guards are of an earlier form, known as 'sub-lobate'. These only had three rivets to each leaf, rather than the five rivets of the later lobate hinges on the Corbridge forms of this armour. To see this form of the armour in models is very unusual. Most offerings are of the later 'Corbridge' types. A part of the reason for this is that until recently there were no known complete examples of the Kalkriese armour sets. However, such a one was recently unearthed at the site of Kalkriese itself and which showed that the girdle plates were indeed buckled together and not tied around hooks.

The two sets of shoulder plates are separately cast and are quite thin. Usually, though not always, sculptors model these as being on the body, which tends to make them look over scale. However, there are (as is often the case) errors; the central plate of the upper shoulder guard is shown the wrong way around, i.e., the plate should be turned through 180 degrees. The 'point' of the central pentagonal plate should be shown towards the neck, not away from it, as here. Also, there are no buckles and straps joining the upper girdle plate to the lowest plate of the back armour. There should be four of these (two on each side). Without them, the armour on the back would gape open.

The shield (scutum) is a large casting and is shown

with a leather cover at the top of which is a decorative piece of leather stitched on, with the name of the legion cut out in a fret. This shows that the soldier in this case is in legio XI Claudia Pia Fidelis. This decorative feature is known as a tabula ansata – literally a 'tray with handles'. The shield is of an oval form, with the top and bottom (the latter not visible here) cut off. This is perfectly correct for the early 1st century AD. The sword (gladius) and the dagger (pugio) are beautifully modelled.

The helmet looks to be a Coolus type, and so would be made of copper alloy, not iron. The body armour and the inside of the helmet would need to be painted before bringing these two components together, otherwise there is no way to get the brush in there.

There are no painting instructions. This does not really matter as there is plenty of information out there. This is not really a 'bust' – it is just a figure without legs! It is worth mentioning I think that there is another figure from this firm that shows a Roman soldier wearing lorica hamata armour and where you have the choice of either a helmeted head or a bare head.

One final thing. I do not think that I have ever seen a kit arrive that was so well packaged. Apart from the usual bubble wrap, there was some wood shavings in the box as well. I say 'box', because that was what it is – a small wooden box made of thin plywood! I am now left wondering what I can do with this as it is far too nice to just chuck it away.

Would I recommend this figure? Yes, I would. This is an excellent rendering of a late 1st CBC/early 1st CAD legionary soldier, despite the few caveats that I have mentioned above. —MT

# GUADALCANAL IN FIGURES

HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON  
December 5, 1947



We struck at Guadalcanal to halt the advance of the Japanese. We did not know how strong he was, nor did we know his plans. We knew only that he was moving down the island chain and that he had to be stopped.

We were as well trained and as well armed as time and our peacetime experience allowed us to be. We needed combat to tell us how effective our training, our doctrines, and our weapons had been.

We tested them against the enemy, and we found that they worked. From that moment in 1942, the tide turned, and the Japanese never again advanced.

A.A. Vandegrift  
General U.S. Marine Corps



by Dave Hoffman

**F**ollowing its attack on Pearl Harbor (December 7, 1941), the Japanese Imperial Navy occupied islands throughout the western Pacific Ocean. Japan’s goal was to create a defensive buffer against attack from the United States and its allies—one that would ensure Japan mastery over east Asia and the southwest Pacific. After the US strategic victories at the Battles of the Coral Sea (May 7–8, 1942) and Midway (June 4–7, 1942), the Japanese Imperial Navy was no longer capable of major offensive campaigns, which permitted the Allies to start their own offensive in the Pacific.

In August 1942, America mounted its first major amphibious landing of World War II at Guadalcanal, using innovative landing craft built by Higgins Industries in New Orleans. By seizing a strategic airfield site on the island, the United States halted Japanese efforts to disrupt supply routes to Australia and New Zealand. The invasion ignited a ferocious struggle marked by seven major naval battles, numerous clashes ashore, and almost continuous air combat. For six long months US forces fought to hold the island. In the end they prevailed, and the Allies took the first vital step in driving the Japanese back in the Pacific theater.

—from [The National WWII Museum](#)

This year marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guadalcanal Campaign. In the eighty years since the end of the campaign, there have been countless WWII figure, tank, plane, & ship kits sold to model enthusiasts around the globe. Over the next few pages we’ve shared just a few of the figures we’ve found in circulation from both Guadalcanal and the Pacific Campaign. Where possible we’ve included the manufacturer’s website, rather than select one of multiple retailers. Some kits are no longer produced, but are available from re-sellers.

[Hidalgo-Beneito Miniatures Militares](#)  
**USMC Guadalcanal**  
Product Code: WW 02  
54mm white metal ~ \$23.00

**U.S. MARINES GUADALCANAL 1942**  
1:35 '39-'45 SERIES



**DRAGON**

[Dragon Models Ltd](#)  
**US Marines Guadalcanal 1942**  
Scale: 1/35  
Release Date: Mid Oct., 2015  
List Price: \$16.33

# GUADALCANAL IN FIGURES



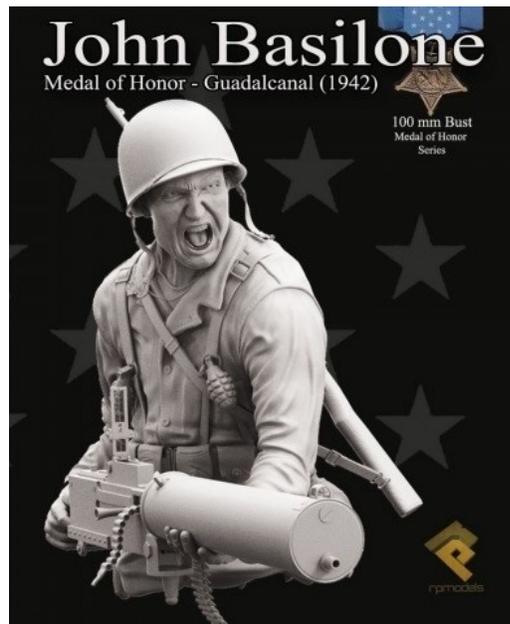
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Life Miniatures  
**USMC 1st Division, Guadalcanal 1942**  
Item Code: LM-B003 \$59.00  
1/10 scale resin bust  
Sculpted and Painted by Sang Eon Lee



RP Models  
**John Basilone**  
Item Code: RPMB-1 (no longer produced)  
100mm resin bust  
Originally released in 2014



Andrea Miniatures  
**Japanese infantryman (1942)**  
Item Code: S5-F30 (custom made only)  
54mm 1/32 scale white metal



Andrea Miniatures  
**Infantry Sergeant Major, 1942**  
Item Code: S8-F55  
90mm 1/18 scale white metal

# GUADALCANAL IN FIGURES



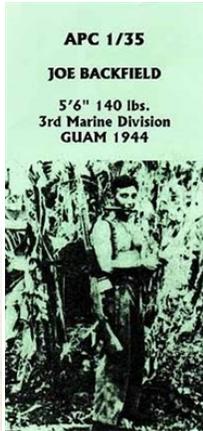
**Pegaso**  
**Kamikaze**  
 SKU: 200-048 ~\$52.00  
 200mm 1/9 scale resin  
 Sculptor: Viktor Konnov



**Hasegawa Hobby Kits**  
**IJA Tank Commander**  
 Item Code: 1005, various \$  
 1/16 scale plastic



**Andrea Models**  
**U.S. Marines pilot & officer deck**  
 Item Code: S5-S04 ~\$50.00  
 54mm 1/32 scale white metal



APC Hobbies (out of business)  
**Joe Backfield 3rd Marine Division, Guam, 1944**  
 Item Code: 3501  
 1/35th scale resin  
 (Backfield was also at Guadalcanal)



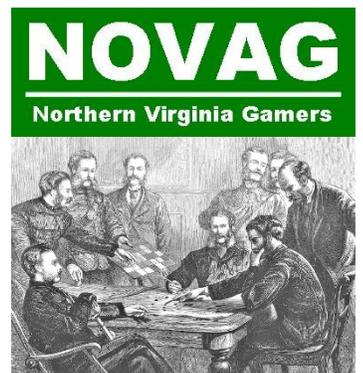
**Series 77**  
**Pvt Robert C. Knee, 7th Marines, Guadalcanal, 1942**  
 Item Code: 908  
 White metal kit (size not listed on box)



**Master Box Ltd**  
**US Marines in Jungle, WWII era**  
 Item Code: WB3589  
 1/35 scale plastic

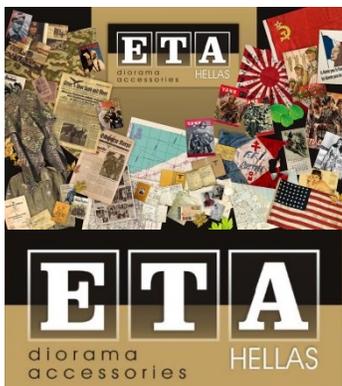


**Andrea Models**  
**Kamikaze**  
 Item Code: S9-B31  
 165mm 1/10 scale white metal

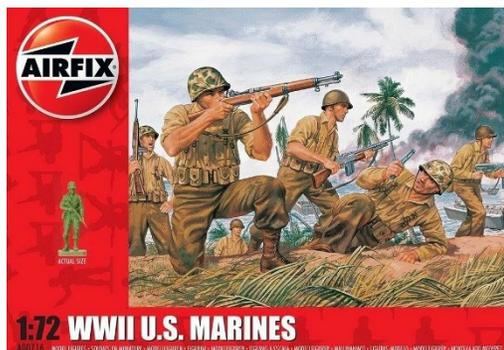


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# GUADALCANAL IN FIGURES



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**USMC, Pacific, WWII**  
Item Code: YM1880  
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**Jeff Shiu's Miniatures**  
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Item Number: JS120096  
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**US Marine, Pacific**  
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**NCMSS Show Figure**  
**U.S. Army Guadalcanal**  
75mm \$20  
100mm \$30

*The club appreciates your support!*

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA MODELERS MODEL CLASSIC

APRIL 16, 2022 — Show Report by D. Hoffman

(Photos by Scott Bricker and Mike Fleckenstein)

After a two year Pandemic hiatus, our friends and partners at NoVA IPMS were able to host the Model Classic on April 16, 2022. A lot of us in NCMSS are active members, and glad to support this show, which is one of the largest in the region. NCMSS again sponsored all of the Figure Award categories and we were also well represented in the exhibits, along with assisting in the judging. The theme this year was the Korean War and the club has transitioned this year with new leadership in key positions. They report that planning and execution of the show went very smoothly, which I can attest to. As with other recent shows, however, recruiting judges from exhibitors can be difficult, as many people may like to display their work but may be reluctant to involve themselves. The awards proceeded almost on time but this is something to keep in mind when our own show comes around.

“618 people consisting of contestants, walk-ins, vendors, and exhibitors attended the show. Vendors purchased a combined total of all 154 tables that were available. Vendors happily reported they did a brisk business. 133 contestants entered over 700 models into competition, a new record by a large margin.”

This year all of the exhibits were photographed and can be found on the NoVA Modelers website [Here](https://www.novaimps.org).



Best Diorama-Mike Trentadue



**Northern Virginia Modelers**  
**Model Classic 2022**  
**THE KOREAN CONFLICT**  
**70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

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Star Design by Mike Fleckenstein



Best of Show Larry Valett

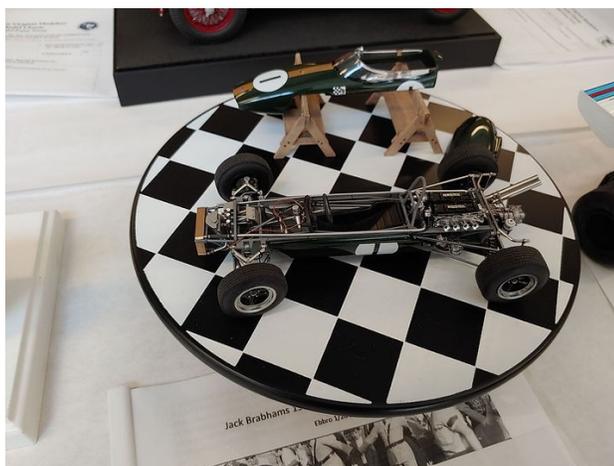
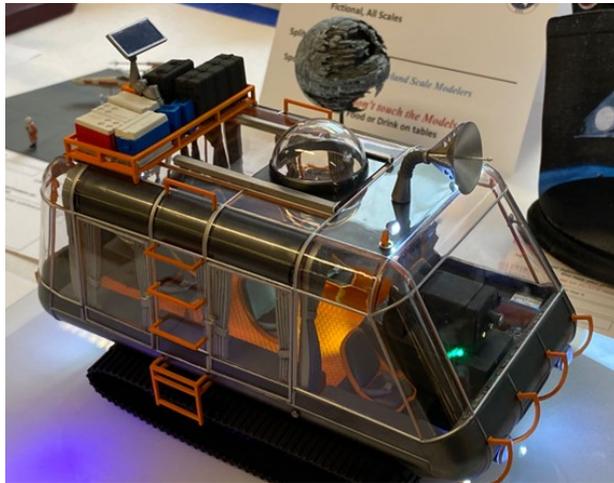


Best Junior-Nalalie Haller



Best Military Vehicle-Caesar Rodriguez

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA MODELERS MODEL CLASSIC (CONTINUED)



Best Civilian Vehicle—Scott Bregi



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# NORTHERN VIRGINIA MODELERS MODEL CLASSIC (CONTINUED)



Best Space/Sci-Fi-Douglas Corp



# NORTHERN VIRGINIA MODELERS MODEL CLASSIC (CONTINUED)



Best Cold War Aircraft Theme-Andrew Frill



Best USAF Aircraft Theme-Andrew Frill



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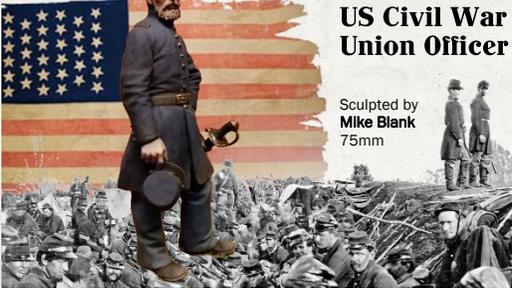
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## THE MODEL CELLAR

Featured...  
**US Civil War  
Union Officer**

Sculpted by  
**Mike Blank**  
75mm

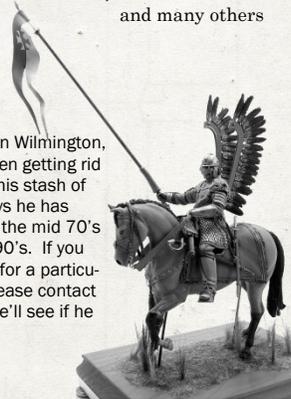


## Poste Militaire & Grieve Kits

Longtime NCMSS member **Bob Backhaus** is selling many of his Poste Militaire and Grieve Kits. A lot of fine classic kits from both lines can be had. Contact Bob for a price list at: [rebackhaus@comcast.net](mailto:rebackhaus@comcast.net)



**Bartons, Almonds, Series 77,  
Poste Militaire, Ceremonial  
and many others**



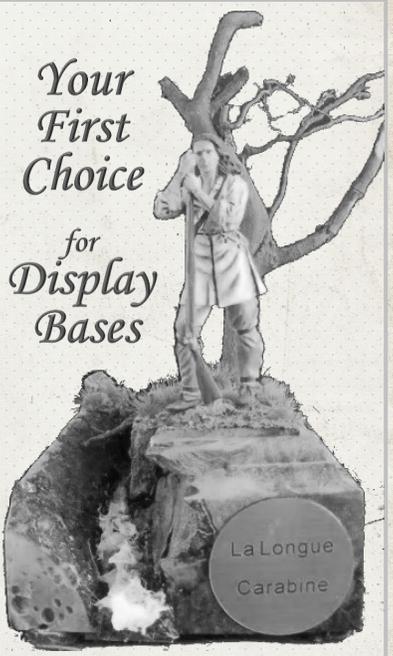
**Brian Ford** in Wilmington, N.C. has been getting rid of some of his stash of kits. He says he has plenty from the mid 70's to the late 90's. If you are looking for a particular kit[s], please contact Brian and he'll see if he has it.

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

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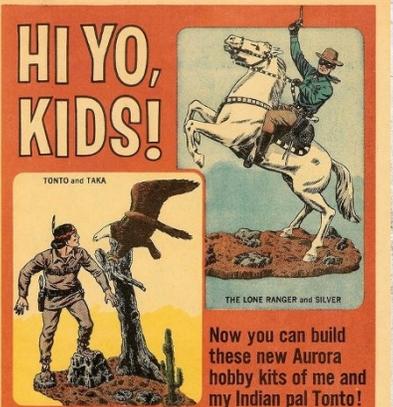
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**Ads for shows must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for a show scheduled for the following month.** Business cards may be submitted for continuous running, subject to space availability. Members may also submit sale/want ads as desired. Ads or business cards in compliance with this policy and printed in *The Dispatch* do not represent an official endorsement by the **NCMSS**; nor does **NCMSS** endorse specific shows or vendors.

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**NOTE:** Newsletter will be provided **ONLY** in electronic digital format as an attachment via email

Figure Modeling Interests: (tell us what historical era -or- special genre you particularly enjoy modeling or collecting)  
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