



THE DISPATCH

October/November 2021,
Vol. 60, Issue 10

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Special Thanks to Our 60th Annual Show Sponsors!</i>	2
<i>October/November Meeting Minutes</i>	3
<i>Events and Places</i>	4
<i>October Parade Ground</i>	6
<i>November Parade Ground</i>	12
<i>Worthy Reads — The Greatest Beer Run Ever</i>	18
<i>Miniature Brushes for Maximum Benefit — Interview with Rick Sanders</i>	19
<i>Operation Attleboro by K. Bukowski</i>	22
<i>MMSI Chicago Show</i>	24
<i>NCMSS Swap Meet / Classifieds</i>	36

MEETING NOTICE

Every Fourth Wednesday
January 26, 2022
7:30-10:00 PM

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

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the combined October/November 2021 issue of *The Dispatch*. Due to family events at the end of 2021 we had difficulty giving our newsletter the time it deserved. Thank you everyone for your patience as we work furiously to once again get caught up.

As we head into 2022 we plan on featuring more “How To” articles in *The Dispatch* written by your fellow members. Thanks to our former editor Tim Stormer most of our club’s *Dispatches* and *Videttes* were digitized. This means we’ll be able to share club knowledge from days gone by that many of our newer members might appreciate.

Thanks to our stalwart

British members Mike Thomas and Robin Howard we have at least a year’s worth of articles and ideas to share. They both make our job at the *Dispatch* easier! On this side of the pond Rick Sanders has been busy and we’ll be featuring several of his excellent articles on flats. Thank you Rick!

In the past we featured articles of individual members and their workbenches. Don’t be surprised if you receive a request for photos of your “man cave” along with photos of your collections, both gray and painted.

As noted above, this issue of *The Dispatch* combines October and November of last year to help us get

caught up. December is in the works and we’ve already received some great content for January’s issue. It’s good to be back on track.

Happy Reading!



David Hoffman
Editor and NCMSS Adjutant
bpchasseur@comcast.net

It’s That Time Again!

It’s that time of year again to renew your NCMSS Club membership. These dues help make what we do possible. Dues pay for club activities, state fees, yearly insurance costs, printing & mailing expenses, maintenance of our website, sponsorships of awards at figure competitions, promoting and executing our own yearly show, funding special projects, and overall promotion of our beloved hobby. We can’t do any of these things without your continued support!

Renew or join the club by using the form in *The Dispatch* or use [PayPal on our club’s website](#). Thank you for helping to keep our club charging on!

Darci Hoffman
NCMSS Paymaster

CHARGE INTO HISTORY

My good brush paints the likeness of them,
My hands work steady and sure,
My visor is set at the power of ten,
Because my love of history is pure.
— Not Tennyson

PUT YOUR FAITH IN THE NCMSS

WE CAN HONOR HISTORY THROUGH ART TOGETHER

The National Capital Model Soldier Society

gives

SPECIAL THANKS

to the following Sponsors for making our

60th Annual Washington Show *possible...*



The Future of Data-Driven Decision Making



Protecting The Past For The Future



HUZZAH HOBBIES

LOUDOUN COUNTY'S TABLETOP GAMING HEADQUARTERS



...and to the NCMSS friends and members who have generously donated their time and/or funds to the cause...

The Young Marines, Michael Pierce, Jim Richey, Bob Prokop, Grant Berry, Bob Petrillo, Nick Strocchia, Joe Bles, Burt Thompson, James Pratt, Jennifer Young, Scott Sheltz, Mike Dutcher, David & Darci Hoffman



October MOTM

“Mug-of-the-Month”



Gerald Joria
Balbo at the Fair



November MOTM

“Mug-of-the-Month”



Mike Dutcher
Smaug

CLUB NEWS

MEETING MINUTES — October 27, 2021

Pre-meeting chit-chat [19:20-19:40]

It was great seeing some of our local members LIVE and IN THE FLESH at our first in-person meeting at Thomas Edison High since February 2020.

Call to Order & Club Business [19:40-20:00]

Dave officially started the meeting.

1.) **Burt** said a few words of appreciation for all the work everyone put in to running the 60th Annual Show. Even with the uncertainty of Covid, we were able to pull off another good show.

2.) **Darci** handed out an initial draft of our financial audit from the show. (The audit is available for any member who would like a copy. E-mail Darci and she'll send it to you.) While some areas brought in less funds, others brought in

more. Overall the club finances are slightly better than they were after our 2019 show. Good news!

3.) **Dave** talked about judging at the show and will be re-designing how awards are recorded/announced.

4.) **Dave** mentioned several people that he wanted to thank for all their help during the show judging, especially Jim Richey,

Parade Ground [20:00-20:30]

Dave noted there weren't as many entries as last month.

Presentation [20:30-20:59]

Dave gave a slideshow of exhibits from the MMSI Chicago Show that happened the previous week.

Conclusion [21:00-21:10]



At the end of the meeting our good friend Bob Huettner rose to thank the NCMSS for helping him to become a better painter/modeler. Bob is moving out of state and will no longer be able to attend in-person meetings, although he promised to keep in touch and drop in to our online meetings. All of us who have had the privilege of spending time with Bob will sincerely miss him!

Attendees

Jim Richey, David Hoffman, Darci Hoffman, Burt Thompson, James Pratt, Mike Dutcher, Robert Prokop, Tim Stormer, Norb Lustine, Gerard Joria, Greg Paspatis, Robert Huettner, Nick Strocchia.

MEETING MINUTES — November 17, 2021

Pre-meeting chit-chat [19:00-19:45]

The meeting was held one week earlier than usual due to the Thanksgiving Holiday. Turnout was lighter this month.

Call to Order & Club Business [19:45-20:15]

Burt officially started the meeting.

1.) Discussion again centered on the September Show and ideas for the next one. This included bringing back some features that had to be dropped due to the tentative nature of our first post covid show and other uncertainties. This included a Hospitality Suite, Seminars, Photography Station.

2.) New member **Bernard** suggested getting with Fine Scale Modeler as they provide photography at some shows.

Show and club publicity was also discussed. **Burt** mentioned the concern that we need to involve more people in preparation, planning, and especially execution.

3.) **Burt** talked about the Long Island Miniature Model Show coming up that weekend. Many members planned to participate and a report will be in the next newsletter.

4.) We discussed the upcoming APG Exhibition in June at the Museum of the American Revolution and the club's participation. **Jim Richey** talked about how in the past the club had done group displays and it was agreed that this would be good idea in the future for local museums.

Parade Ground [20:00-20:30]

Although fewer people were present, there were more entries.

Presentation [20:30-20:59]

Dave gave a presentation on an article he did for Historical Miniature Magazine on a vignette from Pegaso of Alexander the Great, including step by step painting suggestions. The presentation in PDF format was mailed to members.

Conclusion [21:00-21:10]

Some more informal discussion of various subjects including the size of our unbuilt, unpainted armies!

Attendees

Jim Richey, David Hoffman, Scott Sheltz, Bob Prokop, Glenn Merritt, Jim Pratt, Burt Thompson, Mike Dutcher, Bernard Kempinski



National Capital Model Soldier Society

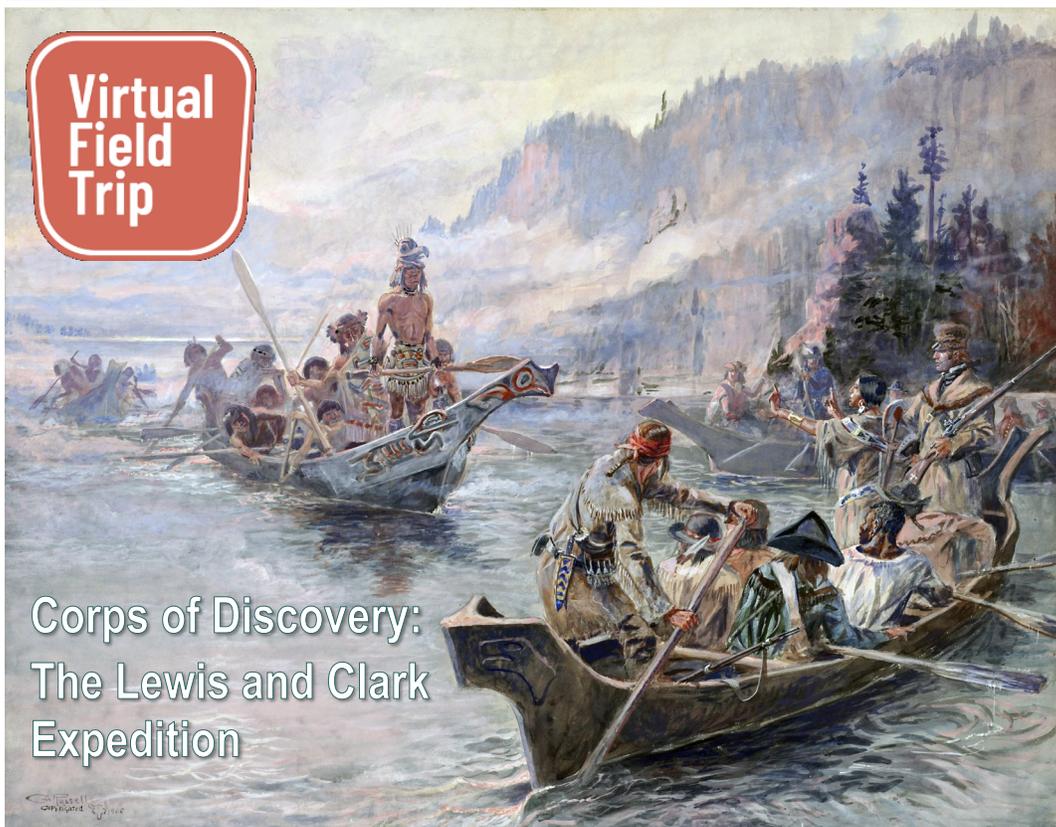
Member benefits include:

- * 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



Corps of Discovery: The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Corps of Discovery: The Lewis and Clark Expedition (Virtual Field Trip)
National Museum of the United States Army, 1775 Liberty Drive Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
January 26, 2022 @ 10:00 am–11:00 am

The Corps of Discovery was the Army's first diplomat-

ic mission. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark received orders from President Thomas Jefferson to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Territory and find a water passageway to the Pacific Ocean. In this virtual field trip, examine primary sources to learn more about the crew,

American Indian culture, and the natural landscape. Discover the mission's lasting impacts and consequences for the Army, the nation, and the American Indians who inhabited the land.

[Register for the Virtual Field Trip "Corps of Discovery"](#)

Commemorative Air Force AirPower History Tour National Air Tour of Historic WWII Aircraft

Martin State Airport, Baltimore, MD
May 30th to June 1st, 2022

Featuring "AA"

The World's Most Famous Flying B-29 Superfortress, and the planes, pilots, and crews of the Commemorative Air Force.

Experience the sights, smells and sounds of historic World War II aircraft. Visitors will have the opportunity to:

- Tour the cockpit
- Talk to the crews

- See the planes FLY
- Get up close & touch the aircraft
- Teach the younger generations



EVENTS AND PLACES (Continued...)



Macho Modelz on Facebook & Instagram
HGUC (1/144) GM Guard Custom, complete! My goals for this project were to 1. complete a fast and fun build in less time than it typically takes and 2. have it place in a competition. I'm happy to report that I achieved both of these goals when it took home a silver medal at the NCMSS show this past month September! It's my hope that this kit gets some of you feeling a bit more confident about competitions and help to lower the bar for entry. The formula is pretty straightforward, solid build, sound presentation, enjoy yourself. More

importantly, this "out of the box" style build was a ton of FUN! Sometimes I'm my own worst enemy here; sinking 30, 40 hours into a single build has its place however, sometimes I just want to move fast and make cool stuff. Please check out my earlier breakdown post if you want to learn a bit more about this build and thanks for tuning in!"

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



Check out their blog: [Cordless airbrush revolutionize the way we spray](#)



Listening to Paint Dry with Mike & Dan Podcast



Episode 36: Bewitched by Lyla Mev

"This week we're excited to bring you an interview with the incredibly talented Lyla Mev, the Mini Witch. Thank you so much Lyla for sharing your hobby journey. You can follow her on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/lyla.mev/>, YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/c/LylaMev>, and Patreon at <https://www.patreon.com/lyla.mev>. We will be back again very soon with a review of the Game Envy Exemplar Wet Palette." —MD

Follow us on: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#), and [Twitter](#)



Drop us an email at: listeningtopaintdry@gmail.com

"If you're going to fail, fail fantastically on your way to become a Better, Braver, Happier Painter."—Mike D.

IPMS RICHMOND
OLD DOMINION OPEN
SCALE MODEL SHOW & CONTEST
FEBRUARY 26, 2022
RICHMOND RACEWAY COMPLEX
 Henrico Hall
 600 E. Laburnum Ave.
 Richmond, VA 23222
 Doors Open at 8:30 am
 Registration Closes at 12:00 pm Noon
 Over 70 Model Categories
 Hobby Vendors
 Huge Kit Drawing
 Follow IPMS Richmond for updated information on:
<http://hmsrichmond.blogspot.com> or www.facebook.com/IPMSRichmond

IPMS BUILD OR DIE TRICON 2022
 3 RIVERS • PITTSBURGH

THE GREAT SCALE MODEL TRAIN AND RAILROAD COLLECTORS SHOW

The Art of Miniatures
 The Artist Preservation Group
 presents
 "The Revolution in Miniature."
 Hosted by:
 The Museum of the American Revolution
 June 18 & 19, 2022
 A joint program by the Museum of the American Revolution and the Artist Preservation Group
 An exhibit of miniature figures and toy soldiers from American history
 Advance registration only — no fee to exhibit
 Vendors and Awards
 Painting Class by Scale 75 and Julio Cabos — June 18-19
 For information and updates visit:
artistspreservationgroup.com

HOBBY CALENDAR 2022

- JAN** • Jan 28-29 — [ModelCon 2022](#), Chattanooga Scale Modelers IPMS, Chattanooga TN
- FEB** • Feb 5-6 — [Great Scale Model Train & Railroad Collectors Show](#), Timonium, MD
 • Feb 11-12 — [JAXCON 2022](#), First Coast Chapter IPMS, Jax, FL
 • Feb 18-20 — [Atlanta Model Figure Show](#), AMFS with Atlanta AMPS, Atlanta, GA
 • Feb 26 — [2022 Old Dominion Open](#), IPMS Richmond, Richmond, VA
- MAR** • Mar 19 — [AtlantaCon 2022](#), IPMS Atlanta, Marietta, GA
- APR** • Apr 2 — [TRICON 2022](#), Three Rivers IPMS, Allison Park, PA
 • Apr 7-9 — [AMPS 2022 International Convention](#), AMPS, Newport News, VA
- MAY** • May 13-14 — [MFCA 79th Annual Show & Mart](#), MFCA, Trevoze, PA
 • May 14 — [Mid-Atlantic NNL](#), Maryland Automotive Modelers Assoc, Havre de Grace, MD
- JUN** • Jun 4-5 — [Wonderfest '22](#), Crown Plaza, Louisville, KY
- JUL** • Jun 1-3 — [World Model Expo 2022](#), Veldhoven, The Netherlands

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

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

October “Mug-of-the-Month”

WINNER



October 2021
Parade Ground Participants

*Jim Richey, Greg Paspatis,
Robert Prokop, Gerard
Joria, Mike Dutcher*



“Balbo at the Fair”
Gerard Joria



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

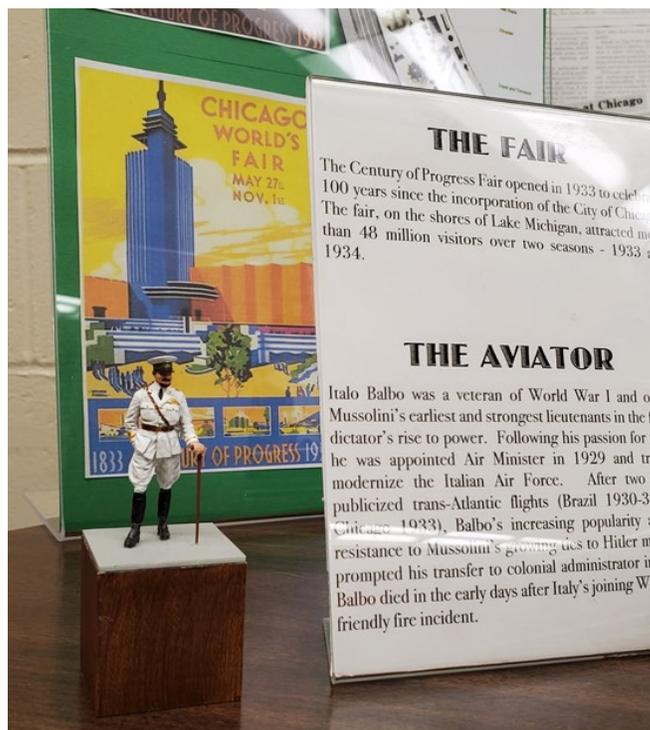
GERARD JORIA



Gerry was fresh from MMSI Chicago Show where he displayed his forced perspective bird's eye view of the 1933 World's Fair. He won the Displayer's Award for the second time in a row and a Bronze Medal.

The display has two different scale models of the Savoia Marchetti SM55 X along with two smaller 3D prints. Twenty-four of these seaplanes flew to the Chicago World's Fair in 1933 led by then Italian Air Minister Italo Balbo. Gerry combined the 1/72 and 1/100 kits with two 3D printed models at 1/200 and 1/285. The lakefront and well researched Fair grounds are all scratch built.

Italo Balbo is a 1/35 Royal Model kit. Balbo was one of Mussolini's lieutenants who became the Italian Air Minister. Mussolini exiled him to Libya early in the war.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY

Purchased at our September Show, The Wizard of Oz flat was bought from The Little Tin Soldier, a regular vendor, and the Franco Prussian War French Officer was from the Model Cellar, another supporting vendor over the years. Done in acrylics, with non-metallics used on braid. Jim jumped on The Wiz the night after the show!



GREG PASPATIS



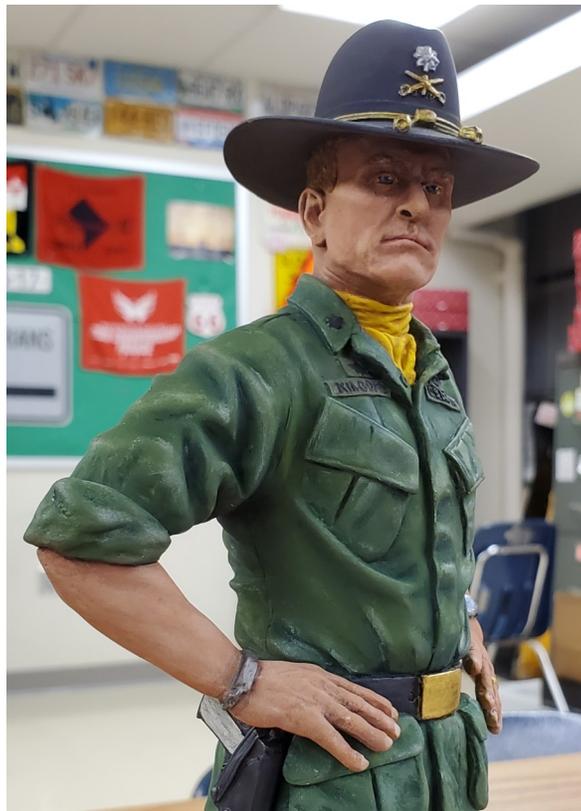
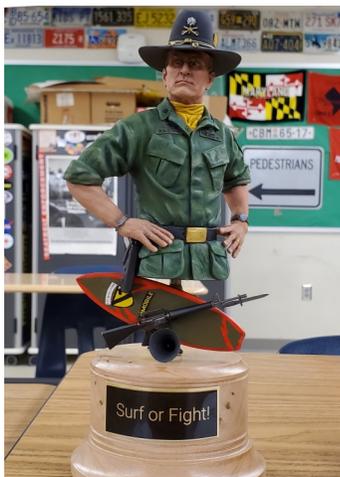
Greg displayed a Mexican-American War Infantryman in 1/32 scale from Imrie-Risley, which he painted in enamels.

Greg has focused on American subjects from many historical periods as a tribute to our American Servicemen. Greg discussed some aspects and personalities of the war and others chimed in with their thoughts and favorite reference materials.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

ROBERT PROKOP

“Surf or Fight!” Legends and Lore, Col. Kilgore (Robert Duval). Based on the scene from Apocalypse Now when the Colonel convinces his surfer soldier to get in the water and surf during a battle. Bob obtained a surfboard and M-16 online, and added a speaker too, along with a shell from the range. Painted in acrylics but he did the blouse in oils.



The Mandalorian. This was a 3D print Bob got online and is a 200mm. Printed using the newer liquid resin process, Bob was amazed by the lack of cleanup and great fit of the parts.

☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MIKE DUTCHER

Exquis “Lea Lea” Bust, Ouroboros Miniatures

Mike used only inks on this one over a white primer with a limited palette (C,M,Y,B,W). Mike wanted to do an artist “sketch” style as in the illustration accompanying the figure. A nice technique that was very successful!

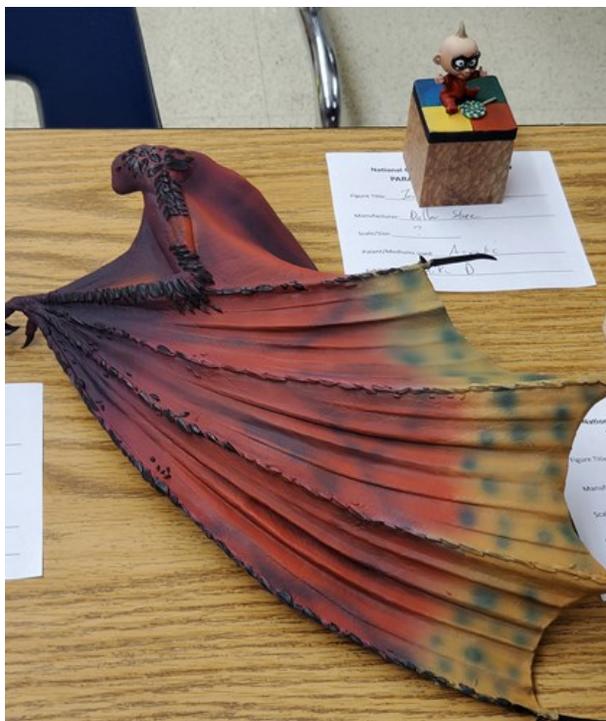


Jack Jack (above)

Jack Jack is a repainted Dollar Store toy with a playmat and a lollipop added. One of his entries at ReaperCon.

Smaug

Mike brought in a wing from a large Smaug the dragon kit he’s working on. He’s using an airbrush. This figure is huge weighing in at 12 pounds of resin! (Mike said it is “the size of a household iguana.”) More to follow next month.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MIKE DUTCHER (CONTINUED)



Warlock, Kimera Miniatures

Painted during a two-day painting class in Fredericksburg by professional miniature painter Erik Swinson. Mike was exhausted after taking this great class and completing the figure over a blistering eight hours! The class included the “non-metallic” metals painting technique.

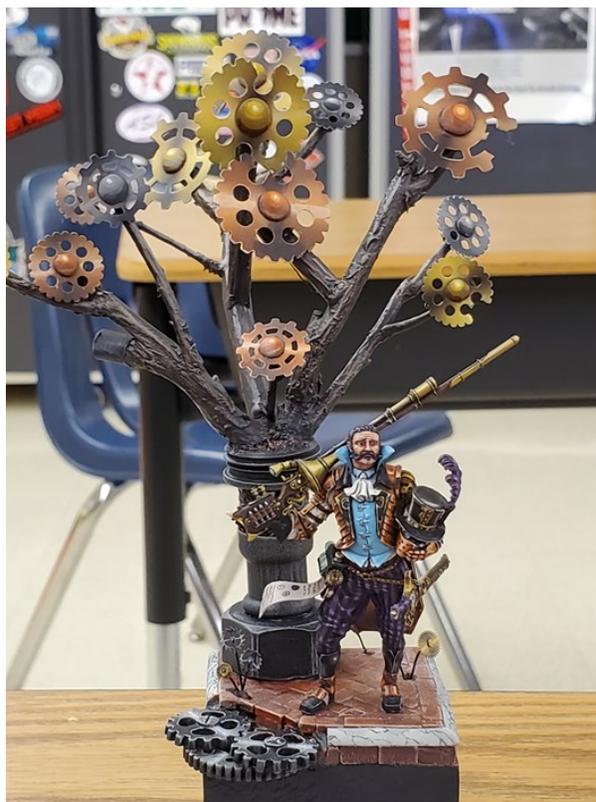


Onna Bugeisha, Nuts Planet

(lower left) 75mm, "Female Martial Arts Practitioner" is a term referring to female warriors in pre-modern Japan. These women engaged in battle alongside samurai men mainly in times of need. Mike's first historical figure and a great subject at that! Still a work in progress. Painted in acrylics.

Steampunk Lancelot, Demented Games

(below right) This 54mm kit was also entered in the recent ReperCon and won a gold. Well done!



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆



November "Mug-of-the-Month"

WINNER



November 2021 Parade Ground Participants

*Jim Richey, Scott Sheltz,
Glenn Merritt,
Bernard Kempinski,
Mike Dutcher,
David Hoffman*

"Smaug"
Michael Dutcher



The Hobbit
[Battle of the Five Armies](#)
[Strategy Battle Game](#)

"Smaug"
\$625.00

"This magnificent 42 piece miniature is hand cast using the highest quality resin and the most advanced techniques to produce a model with extremely fine detail. Every scale, horn and battle-scar has been expertly reproduced to create a beatifically authentic collectors piece."

"Weighing in at 2.4kgs, the height of the miniature from the bottom of the base to the tip of Smaug's wing is 8.4 inches (or 21.4 cm). The base is 9.2 inches (or 23.1 cm) long and 5.4 inches (or 13.3 cm) wide."

Currently available.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

MIKE DUTCHER



Smaug, almost finished for a commission. This is 12 lbs. of resin, and he went through two air brush compressors. Mike mentioned the fit was horrible, straight pieces that should be curved and curved pieces that should be straight, but the project went faster than he thought it would. Great color choices and airbrushing!



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

DAVID HOFFMAN

Dutch or Red Lancer (2nd Regiment Lancers of the Imperial Guard) This is a 90mm Pegaso figure painted mostly in oils, with Jo Sonja's Gouache for the gold braid and Vallejo Liquid Gold for the metal. David always comes back to this period, one of his favorites.



BERNARD KEMPINSKI

Bernard brought a 3D printed vignette based on characters from a computer game. He printed this over a period of 72 hours with lots of liquid resin, even though most parts are hollow. He originally was just going to do the figure but he thought the whole vignette set in a lake of lava would be a pretty interesting challenge. A discussion of 3D printing and newer methods that followed was very informative.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

JIM RICHEY



Manfred Von Richthofen

200 mm bust from Alexandros Models. Somewhat of a complex assembly for a bust. Jim said the gloves were in two parts and used Elmer's glue to fill in seams. The Pour le Merite came with the kit. The cane was cast slightly bent to form with the coat with much detail such as gold studs lost underneath

SCOTT SHELTZ



Ivar the Boneless Jorvik Fer Miniatures, 1/16th scale. Work in progress.

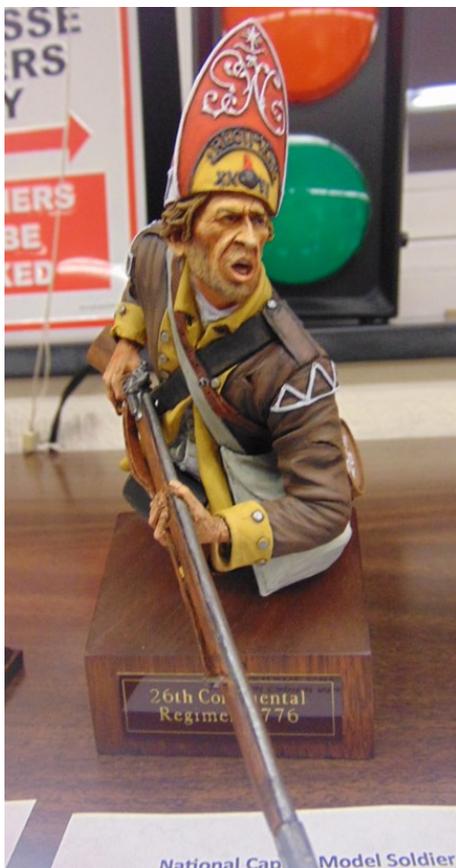
Ma.K (Maschinen Krieger) Work in Progress.

Scott worked on his chipping technique along with using oils for streaking on the legs. He is still working out the hydraulic lines. He used Apoxie Sculpt and other materials for the groundcover.



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

GLENN MERRITT



26th Continental Regiment, 1776

A 200mm bust sculpted by Carl Reid and produced by Frank Miniatures.

Wellington Battalion Chunuk Bair Gallipoli August 1915

This piece garnered Best Diorama at our show. Well deserved!



☆☆☆ PARADE GROUND ☆☆☆

GLENN MERRITT

Some of Glenn's 43 displays he had at the September show. A mix of older figures and newer ones, including a U.S. 2nd Cavalry Trooper from 1918, two figures battling over the Oriflamme at Agincourt, 1415, an 18th century Naval Officer, and a French Revolution period Commissar. The very nice balcony setting on the last was all scratch built.





Painted by Peter De Hann from Nederland

Jeffshiu's
miniatures
120mm



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

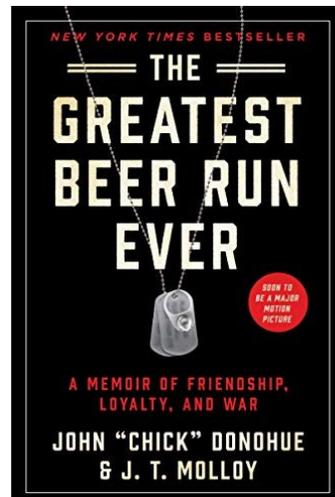
The Greatest Beer Run Ever: A Memoir of Friendship, Loyalty, and War

by John "Chick" Donohue & J. T. Molloy, 249 pp, Harper Collings Publishing, New York, NY, 2015

A few months ago one of my neighbors loaned me a copy of this book. Both she and her husband had thoroughly enjoyed reading it. The story sounded interesting; a veteran travels 8,000 miles to let his friends serving in Vietnam know their neighborhood hadn't forgotten them. Dave mentioned that he heard it was being adapted for the big screen. It sounded like a good read.

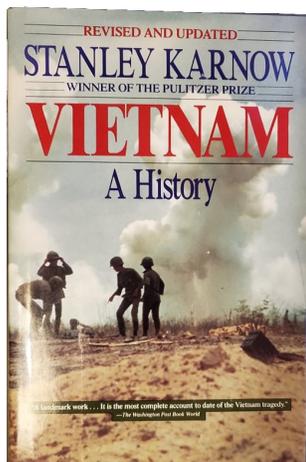
In 2017 Corey Kilgannon of the *New York Times* wrote that Donohue's beer run story has been met with incredulous scoffs for half a century, quoting Donohue as saying, "I've been told I was full of it, to the point where I stopped even telling this story." Tired of the scoffing, Donohue decided to publish a memoir about his adventures. The book includes images of Donohue in Vietnam with the soldiers he visited as well as interviews with them.

Since Donohue's story is more of a light-hearted memoir than a serious historical analysis, I really couldn't find any hard-hitting criticisms of the book. (OK, so I'll admit that I did not really try.) What I



did find were good-natured retellings of Donohue's tale and how he came to write it. I also found several entertaining videos that will give you an idea of the men behind the story. (Click the picture to the left to view the video sponsored by Pabst.)

The movie adaptation of the book is currently being filmed in Thailand. The cast includes Russel Crowe and Zack Efron. Bill Murray is rumored to also be part of the cast. The director is Peter Farrelly, who is known for directing movies such as *Green Book* and *Dumb and Dumber*. I look forward to seeing the movie when it arrives in theatres! --Darci H.



Vietnam: A History

by Stanley Karnow, 768 pp, Viking Books, NY, 1991 (revised/updated edition)

This book has been on our shelf for decades. It's one of those "must read" titles that you never seem to get around to, but you'll read it one day when you have more time.

There are so many books on the conflict in Vietnam, it's easy to be a bit overwhelmed when selecting a good one to read. Who better than the Council on Foreign Relations to suggest the best books on the topic? The CFR writes of Karnow's *Vietnam: A History* [originally published in 1983], "Karnow draws on his experience covering the war for *Time*, the *Washington Post*, and

NBC News to provide what may be the most comprehensive history thus far written of the war. PBS produced an Emmy-winning television series, *Vietnam: A Television History*, to accompany the book's release." If you've seen a Ken Burns' documentary, you know any book associated with it must be worth a look. --Darci H.



Miniature Brushes for Maximum Benefit

By Jason Gilmer



ARMY OF ONE Richard Sanders applies himself to a unique hobby.

This article originally appeared in the Fall 2021 issue of Carolina Home & Garden Magazine. Photos by Colby Rabon unless noted. Reprinted here with permission.

Rick Sanders' fascination with flat tin figurines (aka "flats") dates back more than 50 years ago, to his days as a teenager when he played table war games, classic style, with a group of friends in the Washington, DC, suburbs. One of those friends decided to build a Napoleonic Russian army and needed some assistance.

"The Napoleonic Russian army was not well trained, but they compensated for it by having huge numbers of troops," Sanders explains. "So the problem was, [my friend] needed somebody to help him — he couldn't afford to buy all the figures that he needed. I started off doing a Napoleonic Russian army with him."

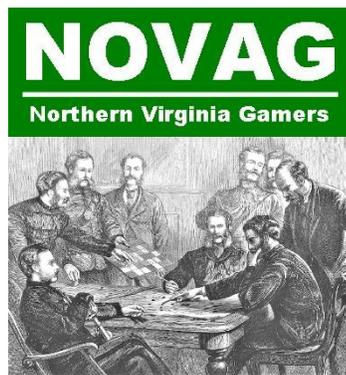
This meant obtaining and painting several hundred of the small figures. (Sold in Germany as common toys since the early 1800s, they were, by then, already becoming valuable. Today they are coveted collectibles.) So Sanders used some of his gaming partner's figures to make his own plaster molds, but ordered as many from Germany as a teenager's budget would allow.

"My collection grew and grew and grew over the years. I stopped playing war games, but I was kind of hooked on flat figures because I had seen a picture in a book — I could not believe that the figure was actually a flat figure because it was so [realistically] painted."



Like their name suggests, flat figurines or "flats" — seen here up close and en masse — can only be two millimeters thick.

Miniature Brushes (continued)



Dedicated to supporting Washington D.C. area gamers since 1986.
www.novag.org/

Sanders adds that he had always been interested in military history. He started taking German in high school, and then his father, a career Army officer, was transferred to Germany: "I was situated in just the right place to learn German and collect the figures."

Called Zinnfiguren in their country of origin, flat figures are mostly 30 millimeters tall and typically cast from hand-engraved slate molds. They stand up freely, but unlike three-dimensional figurines, they are only two millimeters thick; hence "flat." Sanders' collection includes many figures whose slate molds were cast more than 100 years ago (those molds have been refurbished and can again produce figures). He has painted between 4,000 and 5,000 flat figures over the decades but still has 3,000 unpainted flats in his collection that he hopes to paint in his retirement. Some he has sold, but most are still displayed in his home: in shadow boxes, posed against backgrounds he has drawn or painted, or in glass-fronted cabinets.

During Sanders' career — he is a retired Army colonel and former Department of Defense employee — he worked for almost 20 years in Germany, where flat figures are most accessible. Finding



Sanders paints and poses his "flats" for full effect.

Miniature Brushes (continued)

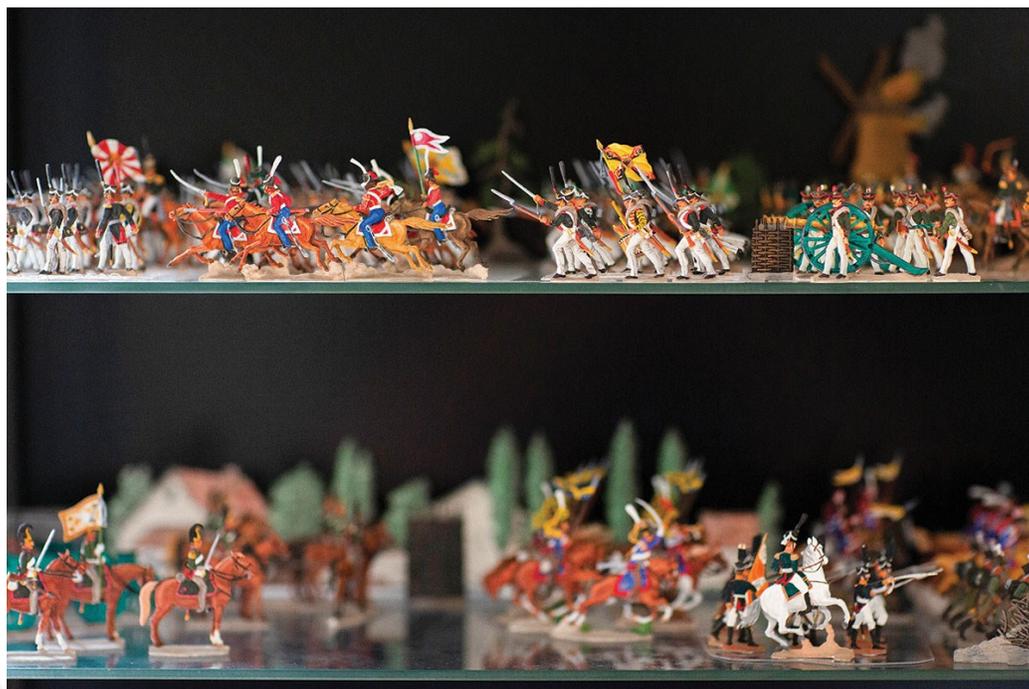


**GAEL
HOBBIES**



**The
Little
Tin
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them in the U.S. has been tough, he admits. He knows of only about 30 other collectors in the country, and eBay has become the spot to find possible additions to his collection, and through established contacts in Europe. (He's occasionally sold his own flat figures on eBay, but if he paints them, he photographs them so he can remember his work.)

Sanders, who moved to Western North Carolina in 2017, has a home office loaded with military history books, which he consults so he can accurately paint the figures to match soldiers' uniforms from the past. "I have what I would say is a pretty extensive library on that," he says. "Generally, any figure that I've got, I probably can do a very accurate rendition of whatever the costume or the armor uniform was."

Sanders also has a website where his collection is showcased, including pages for different eras, from ancient to modern times. He recently published a book in German about the flats pro-

duced by Hans Müller of Erfurt from 1927 to 1957.

"For many collectors, Müller's castings are considered to be the most beautiful figures for this period, [since he] employed top-notch artists and engravers," Sanders writes on his website.

Groups such as the International Flat Figure Society are proof that the hobby still thrives; an article shared on their site in August 2020 — *The Flat Figure — Toy to Objet D'art*, by Walter Fischer — received thousands of views.

Sanders uses oils and miniature "000" brushes to paint his figures. It's an artistic household: His wife, Ellen, a retired art teacher and book and mixed-media artist, shows her work in Asheville's River Arts District.

And while building an army of vibrant, authentic flat figures is undeniably satisfying — he loves "adding color and life to a colorless figure" — it's not even the best part of the experience, says Sanders.

"I think I get the greatest joy from doing the research ...

and [accomplishing the] historical accuracy."

To aspiring hobbyists in the genre, he advises, "Find a theme you like: antiquity, knights, the Bible, the American Civil War, fantasy, whatever, but be open to other subjects [too]."

"Pick your figures carefully and do careful research for your painting — or use your imagination."

Additional reporting by Melanie McGee Bianchi.



For more information visit ricksanderszf.com.

OPERATION ATTLEBORO

By Kevin Bukowski

(from [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#), November 3, 2021)

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 (unless noted) or corrections. Any questions or comments should be directed to Mr. Bukowski on his blog [Buk's Historical Ad Hockery](#).

By September 1966, there were 385,000 US troops in Vietnam and the most recently arrived were the 4500 of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade from Ft Devens, Massachusetts. By mid-October, their base camps were built in the operationally important Tay Ninh Province, the gateway to Saigon from the Cambodian border. On 25 September 1966, the arctic trained Brigade began Operation Attleboro, a series of battalion search and destroy missions into the sparsely populated countryside, as more of a training exercise to confirm standard operating procedures and familiarize themselves with air mobile operations in Vietnam.

Surprisingly, Operation Attleboro was initially spectacularly successful beyond the wildest fever dreams of its commander. The sweeps just south of the expansive Michelin Rubber Plantation had little contact and uncovered massive supply caches: one cache located by the "Polar Bears" of 4-31 IN had 843 tons of rice, enough to feed thousands of VC for months. The Americans had inadvertently stumbled on the prepositioned supplies of the entire 9th VC Division and the elite 101st Brigade of the North Vietnam-



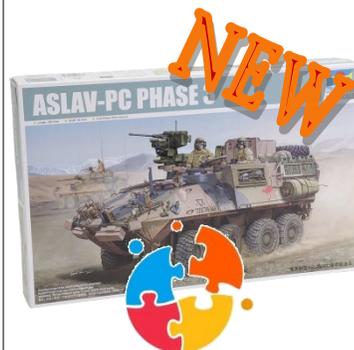
ese Army.

Both communist units were just across the border in Cambodia in a base area known to the Americans as the "Fishhook", where they were conducting their final training and preparation for their assault on the newly arrived 196th. Gen Giap in Hanoi had personally selected the 196th for destruction in order to inflame the burgeoning US anti-war movement. And instead of having to assault their base camps, the brigade had come into the open. As the 196th painstakingly cleared the caches and redistributed the rice, the Communists moved to assault positions.

Among the mounds of weapons, ammunition, and medical supplies, the 196th found documents detailing another large logistics complex (the NVA brigade's prepositioned supplies) along the Suoi Bao stream off the Saigon River, about 6 km away. The 196th's commander, feeling pretty cocky, developed an overly complicated plan to assault the area from all four directions, with none of his battalions

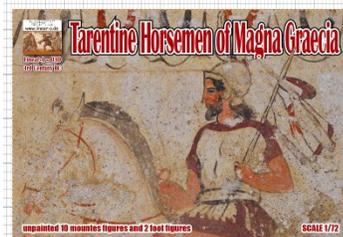
in mutual support. Despite protests from the battalion commanders, who were all infantrymen, that command and control would be impossible in the dense terrain, the brigade commander, an artilleryman in World War II, ordered the operation forward assuming the same level of opposition as before. He could not have been more wrong.

On 3 November 1966, the brigade air assaulted into widely scattered landing zones around the logistics complex and were immediately swarmed upon by the entire 9th VC Division and its supporting North Vietnamese regulars. For three days (about as long as a human can stay awake and coherently fight), 4000 Americans and 9000 Communists locked horns in a small 14 square km area of jungle and swamp, where as predicted, command and control broke down at the tactical level. Both sides fought each other to exhaustion. Every American company had at least 40% casualties and when they trudged to their landing zones for extraction on 6

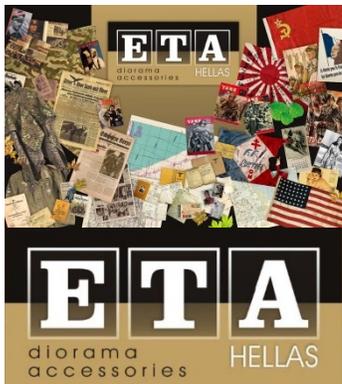


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OPERATION ATTLEBORO (CONTINUED)

November, the men of the 196th assumed they had gotten their asses kicked. They were also wrong.

The Vietnamese had gotten as good as they gave, but what they hadn't counted on was the ability of the Americans to mass forces quickly. At the ardent behest of the nearby 1st Infantry Division's commander, MG William DePuy, the Americans air assaulted nearby battalions in to continue the fight. For the next three weeks, a new brigade from either the 1st ID or 4th ID, and the 173rd were inserted into Tay Ninh Province to

continue the destruction of the Communist units. At first Giap tried to do the same by marching in from Cambodia, but soon realized he was just feeding good men into a battle he could not win against superior American mobility and firepower. The 9th VC Division and its NVA attachment were destroyed, the logistics areas cleared, and the Tay Ninh Province quiet for the next year in America's first corps level operation of the Vietnam War.

But Giap took advantage of the quiet area and forbade future contact

there, if possible. As American units moved on to other "hot" areas, such as "The Iron Triangle" further south, Giap's Central Office of South Vietnam (COSVN), the primary Communist headquarters outside of Hanoi, established itself just across the Cambodian border in the Fishhook. COSVN used the "pacified" but now nearly unpopulated Tay Ninh province as a transit point to infiltrate men, supplies and equipment from the Ho Chi Minh Trail to VC and NVA units in the south. The province was simply too large and too sparsely populated for the South Vietnamese CIDG battalions to control or even know what was going on in the area. Americans would occasionally sweep the area (Operation Junction City in 1967) but never stayed. Most of the supplies used in the south during the Tet Offensive 14 mos later came thru Tay Ninh. This would continue until Nixon's invasion of Cambodia in 1970, whose primary objective was the Fishhook.—KB



Tay Ninh Province, South Vietnam, November, 1966: Wounded soldiers are evacuated by helicopter after the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division came under heavy fire during Operation Attleboro. Kim Ki Sam © Stars and Stripes. (Photo added by Dispatch staff)

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MMSI CHICAGO SHOW

OCTOBER 22 AND 23, 2021 PHOTOS BY BOB SARNOWSKI

After a hiatus in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic, happily our friends at the Military Miniature Society of Illinois were able to put on their show again in October. Being one of the premier shows in the U.S. and the 46th iteration, it was very welcome to see it up and running again. Unfortunately I was unable to attend this year, although member Gerry Joria was able to and garnered some awards (see Parade Ground). Turn out was great and a lot of great work was on display. Like a lot of shows, modelers have been very busy during their forced hibernation. Great to see these shows coming back again, where everyone can renew old friendships and be inspired by everyone's great work.

Their was a special exhibit commemorating many of our colleagues that sadly passed recently, including the master Fletcher Clement.

In 2021 244 artists displayed their work, which was up from the last show in 2019 by 1. Due to circumstances and foreign travel restrictions, many were unable to attend but a lot of new attendees made up for it with some outstanding work.

What follows are some pictures of just a small fraction of pictures courtesy of Bob Sarnowski. More of his photos and an awards list can be found on their website [HERE](#).



Ukraine Fall 1944 - Greg Cihlar 2021 MMSI Best of Show



Greg Cihlar - Roman Officer



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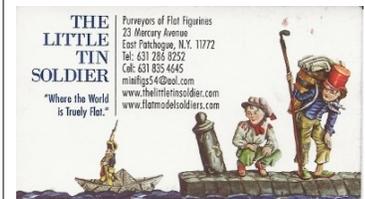
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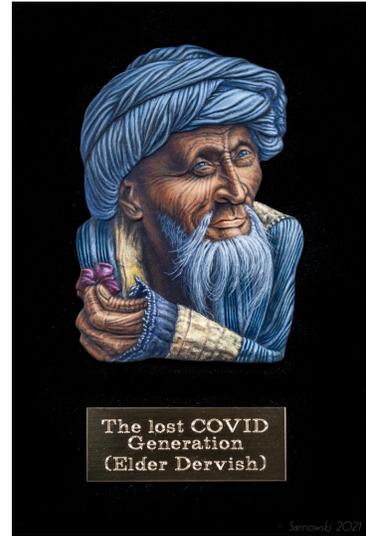
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MMSI CHICAGO SHOW (CONTINUED)



Oberst Der Landsknechte - Greg DiFranco



The Lost Covid Generation - Penny Meyer



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Look at those Disgusting Moths - Mike Bedard



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Game Day - James Rice



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Cursed - Wendy Rafalski



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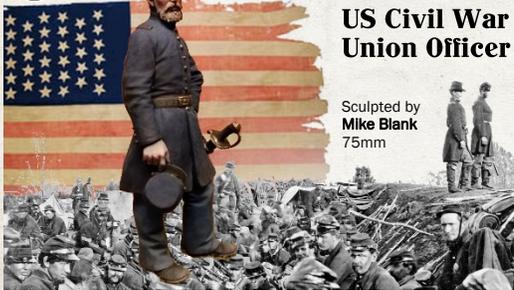
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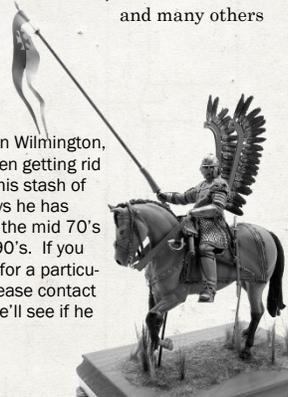


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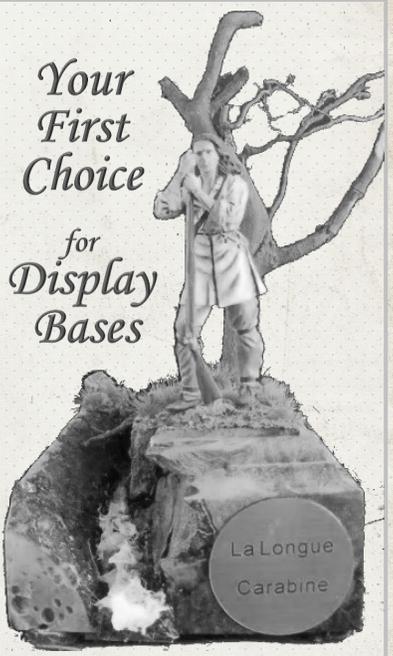
Brian Ford in Wilmington, N.C. has been getting rid of some of his stash of kits. He says he has plenty from the mid 70's to the late 90's. If you are looking for a particular kit[s], please contact Brian and he'll see if he has it.

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