



MADDOG MONTHLY

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2007 The Year In Pictures



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2008 Theme Schedule:
February: Tamiya
May: Idaho
August: Luftwaffe
November: Carrier Related

Meeting Minutes for December 8th.

Twenty, very cold, members met at Hobby Town for our monthly meeting. As usual a lot of enthusiasm in spite of the little problem that we encountered with the meeting place. We hope to have this situation resolved for the next meeting.

The following models were entered for model of the month;

Ian Robertson 1/32 F4F Wildcat from Trumpeter. The first release of this kit was so bad that Trumpeter had a recall. The new kit is a combination of new and old parts, and they do not necessary match. No problem for Ian who once again came with a winner.



Terri Falk A Minicraft DC-6 Air Tanker in 1/144. I came to the conclusion that Terri does like aircraft that have been modified for fire suppression. Has anybody else come to the same conclusion?



Herb Arnold 1/72 Skyknight from Matchbox. This particular aircraft from VMF- 113 was flown in Korea.



Don Vandevort A Polar Light kit, the Phantom of the Opera. A re-release of the old Aurora kit.



David Stansell 1/48 B-25 from Monogram weathered with pastels over semi-gloss paint ! Later David came to his senses and applied a coat of flat.



Brian Geiger A 1/48 Dauntless purchased in Seattle.



Bob Olson 1/35 Tamiya T-34 Late Variant.



David Stansell 1/48 Eduard Weekend edition of the LA-7. It did not say how many weekend it took to complete this particular weekend edition?



Bob Olson 1/72 Minicraft B-24G.



Cameron Severs An yet to be completed Tamiya P-47D.

(no photo available)

Tom Vogt A 1/25 AMT/ERTL "66" Mustang.



The winners were Ian Robertson and Herb Arnold who gathered the same amount of votes.





Prez's Prattle

Greetings fellow Mad Dogs, and a most prosperous and highly prolific plastic modeling New Year! Hope Santa was good to all of you and you got what you wanted. If not, be your own Santa!

For those of you in attendance at the last meeting we had our first hiccup at the new venue. We were waiting for Arlen to unlock the church and unfortunately he wasn't there. Fortunately, the good folks at Hobbytown allowed us to return for a hastily formed meeting. We will have to work on backup plans should this happen again. I know, stuff happens, but with a line of communication and a plan we can make this work.



Our next theme for February is Tamiya, or that is any kit manufactured by

Tamiya. I'm furiously working on two kits at once and hopefully will have them both done. I used my new Iwata airbrush for the first time and man what a lovely thing it is. Takes a fraction of the air pressure of the Paasche and shoots oh so nicely. This is a worthy investment I hardily recommend.

HP-BCS



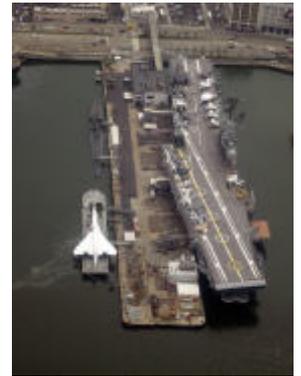
HP-B Plus



TDM

On another modeling note, if any of you ship modelers have found an easy way to add photo etched hand rails to your models, then I'd like to hear or see your technique. Been on a bit of a ship binge as of late and I'm looking for suggestions

By the time you read this I will have returned from my trip to NYC. Never have been there, but my wife has and we've been planning this one for years. One of the destinations I had thought about going to while I was there was the Intrepid. Unfortunately, it is still undergoing a rather lengthy renovation and will not be open until Veteran's Day of 2008. Oh well.



I want to send my thoughts to Brian. Things have not worked out so well, and we need to keep him in our thoughts. If we can be of assistance by all means let us know.

That's about all I have for this month. It's dues month, so plan on bringing cash, or a check, and Rob will be more than happy to take your hard gotten gains. See you at the meeting.

Get off my workbench!

by Brian Geiger



Now and then you see a fellow modeler share progress on the current model occupying their workbench. I'll do that and more, taking it one step further. My message is, "Get this model off my workbench!" Don't get me wrong. The Tamiya Char B1 is a great kit, and was pretty much a pleasure to build. The problem is that it's been lingering for over a year now. I took a break after painting the first base color. After finishing up a few other kits it was time to put this baby to bed.

Why so long

I've been reading lots of articles on weathering lately and wanted to try some new techniques. What I learned is that

you don't have to use ALL the techniques on the same kit. I was also reminded that it really takes guts to paint gunk onto a model that you've invested so many hours into. I still have a way to go in that respect. Here's an overview of the steps I took.

Construction

Tamiya's kit is well engineered and was a quick build.. I used some copper wire to add the "pig tail" lift hook above the hull 75mm gun. I'm still a bit confused about it's orientation. There are reference photos showing the loop vertical, horizontal, or coplanar to the front face. I also drilled six holes for the 75mm gun travel lock. In a fit of indecision, I drilled

a hole in the hull and added a front headlamp. Then, I noticed that my particular tank version didn't have the lamp. After snipping off the lamp, putting up the hole, and recreating the rivet, I was back where I started

The turret is made up of two parts and I eliminated the seam. Then I noticed that there should actually be a visible weld seam. I glued a piece of stretched sprue in place and dimpled it with an Xacto blade to make the weld bead. Mr. Surfacer bridged gaps on a few mating parts and corners here and there but that was probably me being over cautious. The snap-together tracks were literally a snap. The assembled tracks articulate just like the real ones.





Painting

My goal was to add lots of variation to this model. Color changes over a plain surface give a sense of scale, transforming a small toy into a scale miniature.

The tank was first coated with Mr Surfacer out of a spray can and preshaded with black streaks. The base sand color of Humbrol 94 was added and then highlighted with a lighter Hu7 for

variation. Next, poster putty was used to mask off areas for the green camo scheme. The Hu98 dark green color covered up much of the subtle preshading effects. Doh! Touches of lightened green were added to upper surfaces.



The lower surfaces were dusted with a thinned application of Hu187, a light tan color similar to Tamiya buff. With the decals now added, it was time to start the weathering process.

Weathering

Artist oil paint polka dots of browns, yellows, greens, and white were applied all over and then blended with Turpeniod using a mop brush. This adds chromatic variation and dulls the look of the paint. This may have been an area where I could have been more gutsy, leaving more residue. It's very easy to simply wash all the oil paint off.

Not dirty enough

It still looked too clean so I grabbed an assortment of acrylic craft paints and mixed up some thinned brown colors and

applied them as washes. While playing with the oils, I thought of replicating the streak stains on the sides that show up prominently on many photos of Chars. Using burnt umber, I painted on streaks with a small brush and then lightly brushed over them with a mop brush moistened with Turpeniod. Lighter brown and green colors were added and blended in. Pin washes of dark color helped create scale lighting to crevices and surface detail.

Chip away

Chipping was applied pretty sparingly. Something new for me was painting a light color of the base paint first, then adding the chip, using a dark brown color. This left a border around the chip, simulating the scratched paint. I also left some light scratches without the dark color where the damage hadn't completely penetrated the paint.

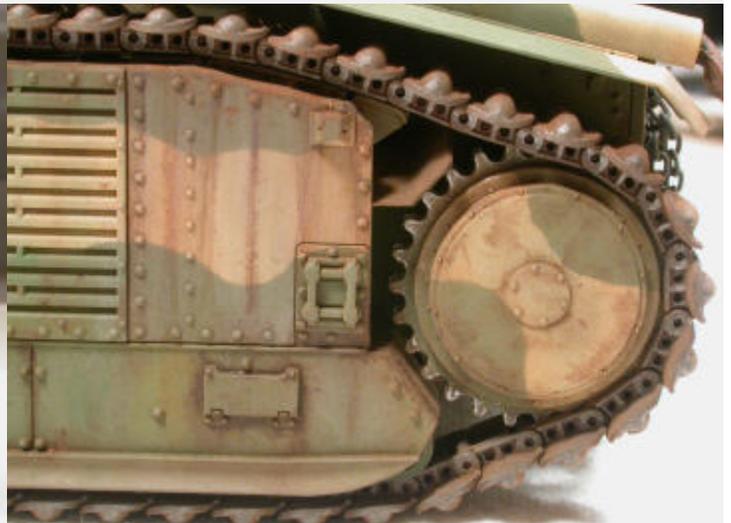
Dirty Tracks

The tracks were so easy to assemble but I managed to spend a lot of time painting them. They received a base coat of brown from a spray can followed by a brushing of rust, Hu113. Next, they were semi-drybrushed with gun metal, Hu53. I added a thin black wash but this really dulled the metal look so I did another drybrushing of Hu 53 with highlights with silver Hu 11. Now for the fun part. Water, with a touch of white glue, was brushed onto the tracks. Then I broke out a selection of Doc O'Brien's Weathering Powders and dabbed on random patterns of dirt. The track faces were then wiped with a paper towel. This let the silver highlights show again. I was pleased with the overall effect.

The weathering powders were also used around the lower surfaces and sides to tie everything together. As a final end note,

for those of you relegated to modeling in the garage, I feel your pain. Even with a small space heater running, this last month has been finger numbingly cold.

There you have it; a quick build project stretched over a year. Of course I want to put it on a base with a couple of figures so... I'll have that ready next year. ☺



The Scuthebutt

Lyrics by John Thirion

Trumpeter has announced the future release of the battlecruiser Repulse in 1/350. The model is in their catalog next to the Richelieu. This is indeed a great news for all ship modeler and trumpeter should be congratulated for having started a “war” with their Japanese competitor. Hasegawa will be releasing the Akagi, the mold had to be corrected to take advantage of some new information that have become available.

Most modeler are not very familiar with the Repulse. I am including a brief history of the two ship of this class, the Renow and the Repulse.



After the success of the battlecruisers Inflexible and Invincible at the battle of the Falkland an order for two more battlecruisers was placed. The concept was to have ships with heavy guns, high speed, and very modest protection. The Renow was build by Fairfield, the Repulse was build by John Brown & Co. Both ships were completed in 1916, too late for the Jutland but too early to incorporate the lessons learned during that famous battle. Both ships soon acquired a reputation for being high maintenance. The Repulse was nicknamed the HMS Repair and the Renow the HMS Refit. After the war, the Repulse was fitted with a 9 inch deck instead of the original 6 inch, also an extra 6 inch was placed over areas that were originally left unprotected. The underwater torpedo tubes were removed. A total of 4,300 tons of armor were added. Both ships received

more armor in their 1933-36 refit, most of it protecting the machinery. They also received a substantial amount of anti-aircraft guns and internal anti-torpedo protection. The Renow also received more substantial anti-torpedo protection with the addition of external blisters. The Repulse did not get the blister and this would prove to be fatal. Both ship also were fitted with a hangar housing a Supermarine Walrus.

After the outbreak of the War the Repulse operated with various hunting groups searching for German raiders. She participated in convoy protection. She participated in the hunt for the Gneisenau and Sharnhorst. Also was part of the task force hunting for the Bismark.

With the declaration of war by Japan the Repulse was transferred to India. With the Prince of Wales and 4 destroyers she formed Task Force Z, the intend was to have the task force intercept Japanese invasion convoys. Both ships were lost after attacks by Japanese airplanes. The Japanese who had respect for the Royal Navy did not press their attack against the destroyers who rescued the survivors. The next day a Japanese plane dropped two wreaths, one for the Japanese deaths and one for the British deaths. Sadly this type of chivalry did not last very long.

The Renow survived the war and was scrapped in 1948.



Dimensions;
794 ft x 90 ft

Displacement; 33,250 tons

Armament; 6 x 15 inches.

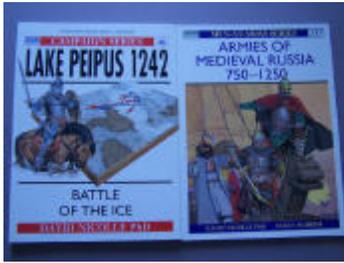
Performance; 33 knots (as fast as the New Jersey class!)

Crew; 967

The Teutonic Knights

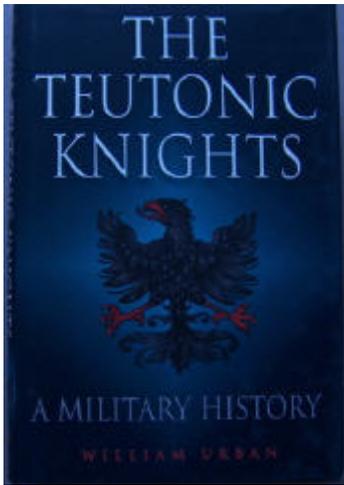
By John Thirion

I have been asked by several members if I was working on any projects, my answer was “yes, on a couple of figures”. It came to me that I could write a series of article on the subject of my project. To some modelers, we see the model, then become interested in the history behind the miniature that we are building. For myself, I acquire interest in a subject, then I plan to build a model related to that subject. This is the way I got to build my diorama on the battle of Tannenberg.



I have always been fascinated by the Teutonic Knights, one of the three religious orders that were founded in the middle east during the crusades. Unlike the Templars and the Hospitalers the Teutonic

Knight are less well known. Therefore I will start with a first article on the history of the Teutonic Oder.

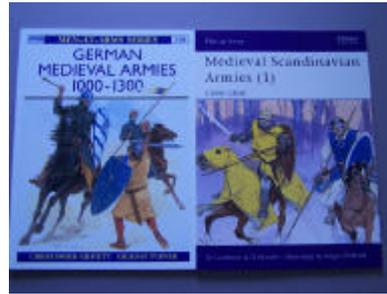


The background of the formation of the Teutonic Knight was the third crusade (1189-1192). The crusade was organized by the monarchs of France, England, and Germany. The largest army was lead by Frederick Barbarosa, the emperor of Germany. The emperor died on his way and the mighty army dissolved, a mere remnant arrived in time for the siege

of Acre. Some of the Germans established a hospital for the wounded German troops and were granted a Papal recognition as an independent military order. The organization will be knwn as the Teutonic Knights. The Knights acquired lands in the Kingdom of Jerusalem and in the Kingdom of Cilicia (an Armenian Kingdom in present day Turkey). The order’s most important stronghold was the fortress of Montfort in northern Palestine. The new order suffered a near fatal disaster at the battle of La Forbie near Gaza. Of the 400 Teutonic Knights present, only 3 survived the battle. In 1271, Montfort fell to the Mamluks and the Knights took refuge in Acre. That city fell in 1291, this was for all practical purposes the end of the crusades in the middle east. The Hospitalers and the Templars moved to Cyprus, the Teutonic Knights moved to Venice. There was a strong faction among the order that wanted to concentrate in expending their power in the Baltic. Their wishes were grant-

ed when in 1309 the headquarter was moved to Marienburg in Prussia.

During the 13th century the King of Hungary had invited some of the Knights in southern Transylvania as a buffer between Hungary and Wallachia. The area known as the Bruzenland consisted of a series of mountain passes among some of the wildest terrain in Europe. In 1225 the Knights were expelled from the area by the King of Hungary. The dispute arose from the fact that they used stones as foundation for their castles instead of wood as stipulated in the treaty.



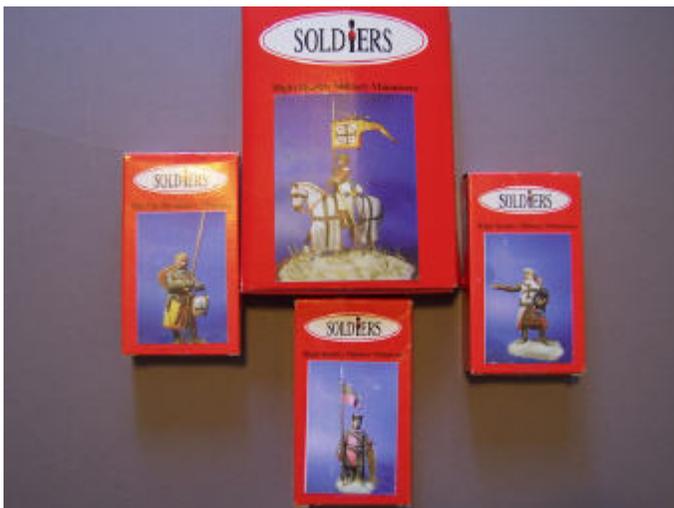
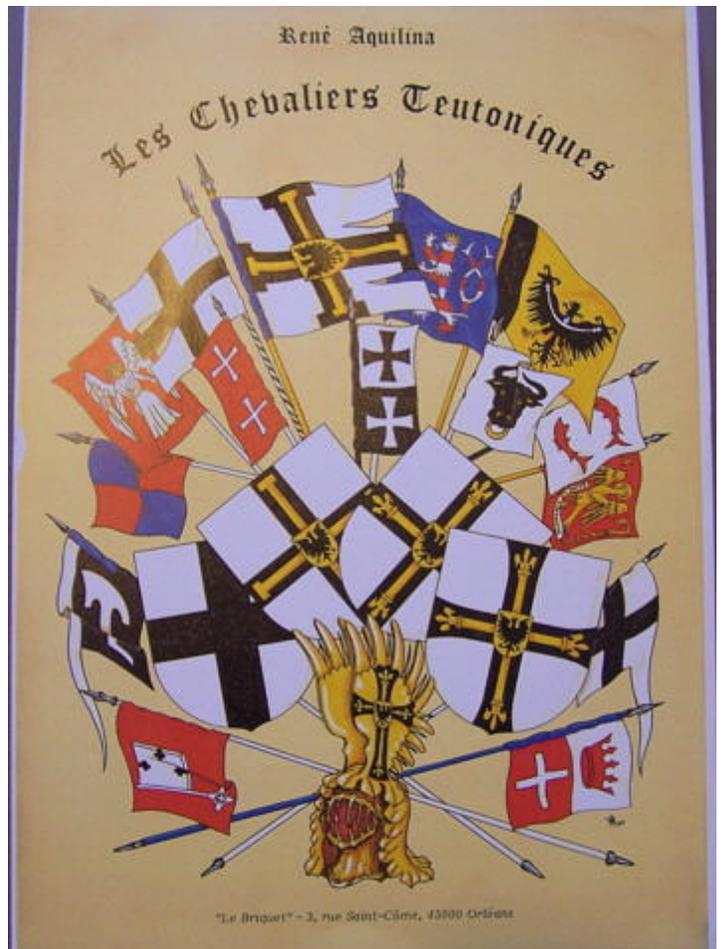
Having been expelled from the Bruzenland and the outcome looking bleak in the middle east, the knight had their chance when Conrad, the Duke of Mazovia, asked the Knights for help against the Prus-

sians. The Knights agreed in exchange for a piece of land around Kulm. With the explicit approval of the Emperor Frederick the Teutonic Knight were to become the strong-arm of the German Imperial policy within Prussia, Poland, and other eastern European territories. This policy was the conquest and conversion of all the land not under the control of the Holy Church . The Knights began their campaign against Prussia in 1228. The Prussia and Lithuanians were pagans, but the war also involved the Russians Orthodox Christians. Taking advantage of the Mongol invasion of Russia in 1223, the East German, Danes, and Swedes mounted an invasion against Novgorod. The invasion ended in defeat with the Swede defeated at the Neva and the Danes/Germans at Lake Peipus. The German contingent included some Teutonic Knights and Brethren of the Swords who formed the bulk of the heavy cavalry. After their defeat at the battle of the Saule in 1236 the reminder of the Sword Brethrens were integrated in the Teutonic order. The territory was separated into two different entities. On the west the Teutonic Knights headquartered at Marienburg and including the cities of Thorn Danzig and Konigsberg. On the East the Livonian land with Riga as the Capital. Separating the two was the lands of Lithuania. This separation continued until the end of the order. The role of the Teutonic Knights soon differed from the other major military orders by becoming an order of warrior monks forcefully ruling a commercial empire. In 1386 the Grand Duke of Lithuania married the daughter of the king of Poland . Lithuania became a Catholic country allied to Catholic Poland and the Order’s reason for existence in the Baltic area ceased to exist. Tension between Lithuania, Poland and the Order continue to rise as more clashes occurred on the borders between the three. The tension came to a climax in 1410 were the Teutonic Knights were defeated at the battle of Tannenberg (Grunwald) by an alliance of Poles, Lithuanians, Russians, Czecks, and Mongols. After a failed siege

of Marienburg, the Order survived but severely weakened. A civil war dragged from 1456 to 1465, the Order on one side and the cities within the Order's territories on the opposite side, By the treaty of Thorn the Teutonic Knights ruled Prussia as vassals of the King of Poland. In Livonia the Order stayed outside of Polish influence but suffered the assault of Muscovy which had replaced Novgorod as the main power in Russia. By 1566 the Livonian wing was totally independent from the Prussian wing of the Order. In 1501 the Livonians defeated the Russian at Smolina, their western brethren has less success and are defeated by the Poles in 1519. In 1525 the Grand Master Albrecht von Hohenzollern adopt Protestant Christianity and secularize the order. The territory falls under Polish control. In 1561 the territories of Livonia are also secularized and become Polish territories.



The subject of my project is an event that occurred before the battle of Lake Peipus in 1242. The day before the battle the Russian advance guard under Damash Tverdilavich is intercepted and defeated at the Mooste bridge. My diorama will represent the crusader leaders inspecting the area after the battle against the Russian advance guard.



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