



Sprue Bits

An I.P.M.S./ M.O.S.S. Publication



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Nate's Notes

By Nate Jones, President IPMS/MOSS

Welcome to the November-December issue of *Sprue Bits*; my delay in getting this publication together has allowed the opportunity to include Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, and Christmas in this expanded issue. Since most of these events have already passed before the "printing" here; I am playing catch-up on much of this. And I cannot forget to wish the Marine modelers "Happy Birthday" as the US Marine Corps celebrated their 238th birthday on the 10th of November!



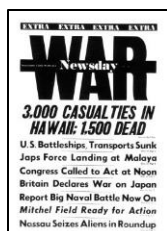
Happy Thanksgiving

I hope that you and your families all had a Happy and blessed Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for but in the current times, we often overlook or take for granted the abundance and the blessings we have, even when things in our lives are not going as we planned, expected or prefer.

In recognition of Veteran's Day, I would like to express my sincerest thanks to all Veterans who have faithfully served our Country; I truly appreciate the sacrifices they have made through their service and am thankful for each and every one. There are many people who walk the streets of this Country who do not know, understand or acknowledge how much has been given so we may all enjoy the freedoms we have in the United States. Thank you and welcome home!

A few days ago, the US remembered the 72nd anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Sadly, for many Americans, the significance of that that President Roosevelt declared as a "day that will live in infamy" is lost. But we must remember its significance—the

day that awoke the sleeping giant, united a Nation and started a chain of events that changed the world forever. We must never forget those who fought that day and every day after for the next four years, and those who gave their all.



And there is one more event that we must never forget, nor let the commercialization of the modern day jade its significance: Christmas. A little more than 2,000 years ago in a faraway land, during the time of the *Pax Romana*, a Roman Emperor by the name of Caesar Augustus declared that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world so that a tax could be imposed. Because of this decree, every man had to return to his hometown in order to be counted. In accordance with the law, one man by the name of Joseph took his nine-month pregnant fiancée, Mary, and together they traveled approximately 80 miles south to a little town called Bethlehem. The town was full and there seemed to be no vacancy, but one innkeeper happened to have an empty stall in the stable. It was there that Mary gave birth to her firstborn son, and according to the instructions given to her by an angel of the Lord, she



named him Jesus. That same night, some shepherds were tending to their flocks in the nearby countryside. While they lay there looking up at the starlit night sky, angels appeared and announced the birth of the Messiah; at once the shepherds went to find the newborn and worship him. During this time of giving in the Christmas season, take time to remember the gift that God gave us—his Son Jesus—and that He is the true Reason for the Season!

Source: Luke 2:1-20 (NIV)

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



*“May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace,
The gladness of Christmas give you hope,
The warmth of Christmas grant you love.”*

~Author Unknown



*Merry
Christmas*

“We’re making it a small world, because small things matter!”

Out of the Box ~ A Cure for Insomnia?

By Mike Staworski, Vice-President IPMS/MOSS

Several months ago, I went through a period where I could not sleep through the night. I would wake up, usually around 1 or 2 a.m. and simply could not get back to sleep. How does this belong in a model newsletter? I thought you’d never ask.

Never one to pass the wee hours of the morning quietly, I decided to head into the hobby room. First up: proper lighting. Next, a little entertainment (let’s see which DVDs look best tonight. Mel Brooks and Monty Python it is!). Now, which model gets the “Midnight Marauding Modeler” treatment? How about one that’s already been started? The 1/48 Airfix Corsair that’s

already painted a lovely shade of yuck? Nah! The '67 Chevelle wagon that's already painted in three lovely shades of yuck? Heck no! The 1/35 Dragon Wagon with enough photoetch to set off metal detectors? Yeah, right! Done with *Blazing Saddles*, time for *The Holy Grail*.

Here's a brilliant idea; start something new! And not just an out-of-the-box build, let's make it something interesting; how about a '32 Ford sedan with a chopped top? That sounds right!

Ok, let's stop right there for a moment and consider a few facts. First, remember the Corsair and the Chevelle? Well I skipped over them because painting in the middle of the night just won't happen around my house. I'd have to move two Jeeps from the garage in order to paint, and the last thing I would want my wife to hear at Oh-Good-Lord O'clock in the morning is the sound of engines starting up. She'd think I was trying to run away. Again. Second, I skipped over the fourteen pound Dragon Wagon because the thought of working with microscopic parts at said early morning hour had me shaking in fear of losing something. Not parts, but my few shreds of sanity! Third, remember the "chopped top" part of the '32 sedan. Well that wasn't the way the kit manufacturer had intended it. I'd be on my own and attempting it for the first time. Insert cringe here. "*Your father was a hamster, and your mother smells of elderberries!*" Let's watch *Spaceballs* now.

Moving right along...I started the surgery by marking the roof pillars with masking tape as I had read. With the patient prepped and the surgeon thoroughly anesthetized, I pulled out my razor saw and began work. If things started to go wrong with the kernel of a thought about this procedure, then right here is when that kernel went *POP*!

I'm not sure how, after laying out straight lines and actually cutting straight along those lines, I was able to cut away the roof so that no more than two of the pillars would touch at the same time, but here it is in front of me. Well, I guess I could try sanding until everything lines up. Yawn!

Never mind. I've watched three great movies and killed a kit. Chaos, confusion, destruction, yep my job here is done. Good night!

~ ~ ~



Pictures of a Viet Nam era LVTP decorated for Christmas on Facebook, looks like 1/35 scale. (Found on a Facebook page; modeler unknown.)

COMING
SPRING 2014



MORE DETAILS
COMING SOON!

Check out www.ipmsmoss.com for more details.

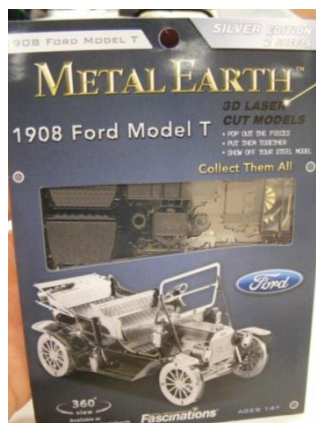
LAST MEETING

17 November: We met in the West Wing of the White House Theatre. We discussed how MOSS CON 2013 went and some possibilities of the 2014 show and Chapter meetings. We welcomed a new member, Paul Drinkall, who brought with him his



Academy 1/35 M50A1 Ontos. Gary Sanders brought his just completed straight out-of-the box build of Mobius' 1952 Hudson, his newly purchased Dragon 1/35 M48A3, and introduced us all to Metal

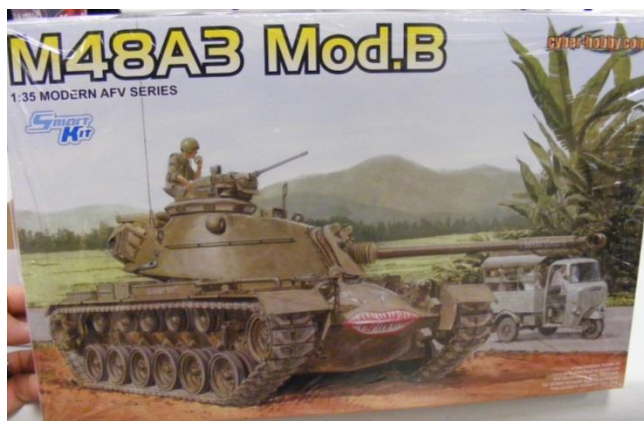
Earth's 3-D photo etch models. Mike Staworski brought his completed Tamiya 1/35 Panzer II and M3 Stuart. Richard Carroll brought in his almost completed Group Build (GB) ship projects, and—in honor of Veteran's Day—some family military memorabilia. Nate brought in his in-progress Tamiya 1/48 Rufe and GB ship project.



Left: Gary Sanders' 1952 Hudson model; photo-etch Model T (this one he found at a Barnes & Noble bookstore)

Below Left: Gary Sanders' new Dragon M48 kit

Below Right: Paul Drinkall's USMC Ontos



Below: Richard Carroll's family military memorabilia and GB projects



Below Left: Mike Staworski's Stuart and Panzer II



Below Right: Nate's in-progress Rufe and GB ship

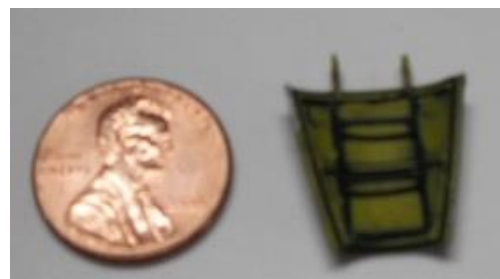


Go to www.ipmsmoss.com and check out the Gallery for more pictures!

WORK IN PROGRESS

Great Wall Hobby 1/48th scale P-61B *Lady in the Dark*, Part 3 by Michael Praetorius

One assembly that illustrates the level of skill and Photo Etch (PE) construction required in this model is the Radar Operator's entry door. The base of the door is molded styrene with grooves for the ladder and struts to fit; the sides of the ladder are PE. The rungs are made from a provided piece of nylon bar .04mm thick. Yeah—smaller than the width of a sewing needle or a pin!



I measured the distance between the molded in groove and the side frame, marked it off on a piece of cardboard and cut three rungs of equal size with a sharp hobby knife. The side frames had minute indentations to receive the rungs. Once I had the PE trimmed and ready I placed a drop of superglue on the cardboard. I carefully picked up a rung with a pair of tweezers, dipped an end of the rung in the

glue, and placed it in the indentation, pointing straight up. I did this twice more and let it dry. I then turned the frame so the rungs were horizontal, took a toothpick tipped with superglue, touched it to the rungs, and moved the other half of the frame to the rungs. Remarkably it worked like I had planned (with the help of a few prayers!).

Next, the placement of the landing gear door and the hatches for the 20mm Hispanosa cannons. The doors and hatches are well detailed and the fit is excellent. After painting the inner side Zinc Chromate, I painted a thinned wash to bring out the detail.

The last major step in the build is the masking (provided) and

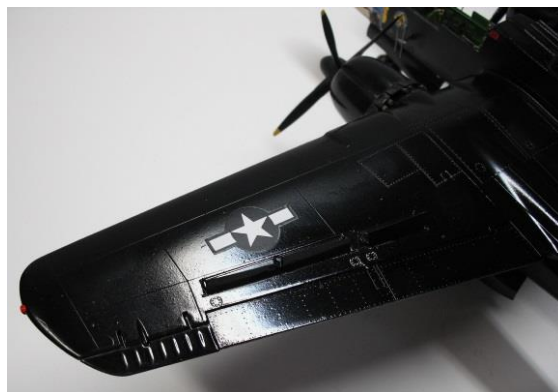


painting of the canopy and windows. There is a large amount of glass on this bird and it must have been like a greenhouse inside at any of the crew seats.

The masks are kind of hit-and-miss. They are extensive but not all window pane masks are cut to fit exactly. I have seen much better masks provided by Eduard and others. I would say 75% of the window masks fit adequately. I placed them on, trimmed what I could, and burnished them down. I then airbrushed the clear parts and let them dry. I removed the masks and touched up the areas lacking as best I could by hand. I have decided to leave these parts off until after I apply the decals.



The application of the decals also turned out to be a disappointment. The decals while colorful, accurate, and vibrant, when placed on the model, look as if they are printed on scotch tape. I have applied Micro Sol before and after but it is the decal carrier film being opaque rather than clear that seems to be the trouble.



I will have to make the best of it and finish applying the decals. The last thing I plan on doing prior to the placement of the clear parts is to spray and overall coat of Future to seal everything.

Thanks again, Michael; your Black Widow is really turning out well! Looking forward to Part 4! ~editor



In honor of Veteran's Day ~ IPMS / MOSS Salutes our Veterans



"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."

-Elmer Davis

"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude."

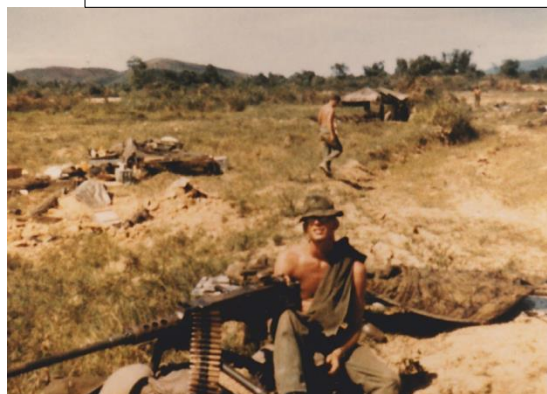
-Cynthia Ozick

Michael Praetorius – Served in the US Navy from 1973 to 1977 as an E-4 Gunner's Mate, including duty aboard the USS Paul Revere, LPA-248 and the USS Mount Vernon, LSD-39. While on the USS Mount Vernon, Michael was involved in the evacuation of Saigon, assisting with the evacuation of 3,000 refugees to Guam.

Richard Carroll (pictured) served in the US Air Force from February 1971 to February 1977 as a Sergeant E-4* Disbursement Accounting Specialist with the Military Pay Unit at Little Rock AFB in Jacksonville, AR.



* In a 30 December 1975 directive the grade of Sergeant was split into two separate ranks while retaining the grade of E-4. Senior Airman would be the last junior enlisted tier rank while Sergeant would remain the first rank in the NCO tier.



Paul Drinkall (pictured) served in the US Marines from 1967-1969, as an 0811, Field Artilleryman, "Cannon Cocker." He served one tour in Viet Nam with Co. C, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines, 1st Marine Division.

Don Holderman served in the US Army from 1961 to 1964 as an E-5 Sergeant, Section Chief on a Nike Hercules nuclear missile battery. His duties in the Army Air Defense Command kept him primarily in the Chicago, IL area but he did take a temporary duty tour to Thule, Greenland.

Steve McKinnon served in the US Navy from 1963 to 1969 as an E-5 Radar and Communication Electronic Technician. He served in various capacities of Photo Journalism, Public Information, and Communication duties at locations ranging from California, Guam, Marianas Islands, and Da Nang, Viet Nam.

Gary Sanders served in the US Army from May 1970 to December 1971. After Basic Training at Fort Bragg, NC, Gary volunteered for an additional year and was allowed to choose his MOS: 45K - Tank Turret Mechanic. After training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, Gary shipped to Viet Nam in October 1970 assigned to the 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), working on M48 tanks and driving a deuce-and-half truck. While in country, Gary spent his tour at Quang Tri, a few miles south of the DMZ. 364 days and 21 hours later, he left Viet Nam and returned to the United States to serve the rest of the year at Fort Carson, CO, then received an early out in December 1971.



Nate Jones (pictured) serves as a Captain in the Military Police Corps. He enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard in 2005, attending Basic Training in Fort Knox, KY, then Officer Candidate School in 2006. In 2009, Nate transferred to the US Army Reserves, and attended Military Police Officer Basic Course. Nate recently returned from a deployment to Bagram, Afghanistan, where he served his tour as a Battalion Battle Captain in a Joint Operations Center.

The members of IPMS/ MOSS thank all Veterans for their sacrifice, service, and dedication to our Country.





Swap Meet

26 January 2014 - 6pm, Sunday. We will be having a **Swap Meet** at **The White House Theatre**, so bring some models to sell or trade! See you there!

History In A Box

"A Truce in the Forest"

Christmas, Ardennes, 1944

On a harsh winter night in the Ardennes Forest near the German-Belgian border in 1944. It was December, and two months had passed since Hubert Vincken brought his wife and his son Fritz to a small cottage in the Ardennes Forest for their safety. The family's home and its eighty-eight-year-old bakery in Aachen (Aix-La-Chapelle) had been destroyed in a bombing raid.

Fritz and his mother, Elisabeth, were isolated. Every three or four days, his father would ride out from town on his bicycle to bring his wife and son food. When the snow came, Hubert had to stop his weekly trips. Elisabeth was concerned that their food was in very short supply, as the war seemed to be moving closer to their cottage of refuge.

By late December the cottage was no longer out of harm's way. German troops surprised and overwhelmed the Allies on December 16, turning the Ardennes Forest into a killing field.

On Christmas Eve, Elisabeth and Fritz tried to block out the distant sound of gunfire as they sat down to their supper of oatmeal and potatoes. At that moment, they heard human voices outside, speaking quietly. Elisabeth blew out the little candle on the table and they waited in fearful silence.

There was a knock at the door; then another. When Elisabeth opened the door, two men were standing outside. They spoke a strange language and pointed to a third man sitting in the snow with a bullet wound in his upper leg. The Vinckens knew these men were American soldiers and the soldiers were cold and weary.

Fritz was frightened and wondered what in the world his mother would do. She hesitated for a moment; then she motioned the soldiers into the cottage, turned to Fritz and said, "Get six more potatoes from the shed."

Elisabeth and one of the American soldiers were able to converse in French, and from him they learned news about the German offensive. The soldier and his comrades had become separated from their battalion and had wandered for three days in the snowy Ardennes Forest, hiding from the Germans. Hungry and exhausted, they were so grateful for this stranger's kindness.

A short time later that evening, four more tired soldiers came to the cottage. However, these men were German.

Fritz was almost paralyzed with fear; while he stood and stared in disbelief, Elisabeth took the situation into her hands.

"*Froehliche Weihnachten,*" Elisabeth wished the German soldiers a Merry Christmas. She then invited them to dinner, but before allowing them in, Elisabeth informed them she had other guests inside whom these men might not consider as friends.

Elisabeth reminded the German soldiers that it was Christmas Eve, and told them sternly there would be no shooting around here. These soldiers, still mere boys, listened respectfully to this kind and mature woman.

The German soldiers agreed to store their weapons in the shed. Elisabeth then quickly went inside to collect the weapons from the American soldiers and locked them up securely.

At first, it was very tense. Two of the German soldiers were about sixteen years old and another was a medical student who spoke some English. Although there was little food to offer, Elisabeth knew that everyone must be very hungry. She sent Fritz outside to fetch the rooster he had captured several weeks earlier.

When Fritz returned, the German medical student was looking after the wounded American, assuring him that the cold had prevented infection.

The tension among them gradually disappeared. One of the Germans offered a loaf of rye bread, and one of the Americans presented instant coffee to share. By then the men were eager to eat, and Mother beckoned them to the table. We all were seated as she said grace.

"*Komm, Herr Jesus,*" she prayed, "*and be our guest.*" There were tears in her eyes and as Fritz looked around the table, he saw that the battle-weary soldiers were filled with emotion. Their thoughts seemed to be many, many miles away. Now they were boys again, some from America, some from Germany, all far from home.

Soon after dinner, the soldiers fell asleep in their heavy coats. The next morning, they exchanged Christmas greetings and everyone helped make a stretcher for the wounded American.

The German soldiers then advised the Americans how to find their unit. Elisabeth gave the men back their weapons and said she would pray for their safety. At that moment, Elisabeth had become a mother to them all. She asked them to be very careful and told them, "I hope someday you will return home safely to where you belong. May God bless and watch over you."

The soldiers shook hands and marched off in opposite directions. When Fritz returned inside, Elisabeth had brought out the old family Bible. He glanced over her shoulder; the book was open to the Christmas story, the Birth in the Manger and how the Wise Men came from afar bearing their gifts. Her finger was tracing the last line from Matthew 2:12: "*...they departed into their own country another way.*"

Throughout her life, Elisabeth Vincken would often say, "God was at our table" when she talked of that night in the forest.

Fritz Vincken searched for the soldiers for years following the war. In January 1996, he finally was able to meet up with one of them in Maryland; Ralph Blank who served with the 121st Infantry, 8th Division. Sadly, Fritz passed away on December 8, 2001, sixteen days before the 57th anniversary of this Christmas truce.

Adapted from *The Night God Came to Dinner* and *A Truce in the Forest*.



Sources: <http://storytruceintheforest.blogspot.com/>; <http://ba-ez.org/educatn/LC/OralHist/vincken.htm>;
<http://www.nytimes.com/1985/05/06/world/president-cites-a-story-of-peace-amid-the-terrors-of-battle.html>;
http://unsolvedmysteries.wikia.com/wiki/The_Friends_of_Fritz_Vincken;
<http://www.patriotfiles.com/forum/showthread.php?t=43839>



SHOWS & CONTESTS

Here are some upcoming shows in the “local” area (IPMS Region 5 & some “close” Region 6) in case you’d like to attend!

2/1/2014	Minnesota Rochester Region 5	17th Annual Hope It Don't Snow Show  Ramada Hotel & Convention Center 1517 16th St. SW Map Zumbro Valley Scale Modelers Chris Krco 507-254-4646
3/8/2014	Wisconsin Cottage Grove Region 5	Mad City Modelers Annual Show Double Days 4586 Baxter RD Map Mad City Modelers Rob Teubert 608-295-9258
3/15/2014	Missouri Kansas City Region 5	KC CON 2014  Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene 11811 State Line Road Map IPMS Great Plains Stuart Malone 816.560.8282
4/12/2014	Iowa Des Moines Region 5	Surgicon 20  The Euclid Room 2540 E Euclid Avenue Map IPMS Plastic Surgeons Aimee Wright 515-291-3395
4/26/2014	Iowa Cedar Rapids Region 5	Fleacon 10  Landmark Aviation; Eastern Iowa Airport 3411 Beech Way Map Alexander Lippisch Charles Kucera 319-389-0877
5/16/2014 To 5/17/2014	Kansas Wichita Region 6	PRARIE WIND 2014 REGION 6 CONVENTION-- THEME: "INVASION STRIPES"  Marriott Hotel & Event Center 9100 Corporate Hills Drive Map Air Capital IPMS Modelers Mark Vittorini 316-440-6846

7/12/2014	Illinois Crystal Lake Region 5	NIMCON 3  McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE 8900 U.S. 14 Map IPMS LAKES REGION SCALE MODELERS PHIL PIGNATARO 847-658-9920
10/18/2014	Missouri Kansas City Region 5	2014 Region 5 Regional Convention  AmeriStar Casino & Hotel 3200 N. Ameristar Drive Map IPMS/West Central Missouri Justin Carlson 816-256-1310



Have a **Merry Christmas** &

a **Happy New Year!**



We'll see you at the meeting on January 26th!

Take care, be safe and Happy Modeling!



"We're making it a small world!"

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I WANT YOUR INPUT



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