



Battlewagon



Bay Colony Historical Modelers

February 2004

Volume 22 Issue 4

Recon:

Downeastcon 2004 – March 20, 2004 – Biddeford, ME
Contact Ron Garland 207-324-3117 high52@psouth.net

Military Museum Show 2004 – March 28, 2004 – Wareham, MA
Contact Bill Grigg 508-759-5722

Valleycon 14 – April 4, 2004 – Chicopee, MA – Contact Al LaFleche 413-733-9247 ajlafleche@aol.com

MassCar 16 – April 18, 2004 – Taunton, MA Contact Paul Kaszanek 508-384-3855

Noreastcon 2004 – April 30 – May 1, 2004 – Schoharie, NY
Contact Art Loder, aloder@nycap.rr.com

IPMS/USA Nationals 2004 – August 4-7, 2004 – Phoenix, AZ
Contact www.ipms2004.org

Cape Cod Con 13 – Sept. 26, 2004 – West Barnstable, MA
Contact Rich Reingold reingold@comcast.net

ModelFest – October 10, 2004 – Milford, CT Contact Doug Hamilton Modelfset2004@aol.com

Granite Con XII – October 17, 2004 – Nashua, NH Contact Rod Currier ipmsgsmc@hotmail.com

Baycon 2004 – November 7, 2004 – So. Attleboro, MA
Contact Bob Magina, 508-695-7754 treadhead@comcast.net

friend of mine (editor) who I see every year when I travel to Hong Kong. He like most of us knows all the great hobby shops and all the great prices in downtown Hong Kong. I thought that this month I would include several pics of Alan's work.



The Modeler's Bench – Guest Modeler – Alan Lee

Alan Lee lives in Hong Kong. Alan is a business management consultant. He is married and has two boys. Alan is an avid model builder with strong interests in Japanese female cartoon caricature figures and robotics. Alan is a very good



Eduard Yak-3 1/48th Scale

by Hal Marshman Sr.

I realize that this kit has been around for a little while, but I feel that a review at this time would not go amiss. Let's look at the kit.

*cast in medium gray semi soft plastic with no pour marks of other blemishes in visible places.

*Ultra smooth finish with engraved panel detail. Fuel filler cap and external fuel gauges are worthy of note. Where as the Yak-3 was of mostly wood skinning, there is relatively little in the way of surface detail aft of the cockpit, or on wings or empennage. Control surfaces show stretched fabric over frame well.

*Cockpit is well done with separate side panels, two piece seat, stick, rudder pedals, and cannon cocking device. The floor is cast into the upper wing half, along with the wing filets. Filet to fuselage seam fit very well and required no filling. The separate shelf aft of the seat has a radio cast into it. There are individual hand wheels for each cockpit side, and a "C" shaped gun sight base and clear cast gun sight. The instrument panel is very nicely relief cast. This interior can be made to look outstanding with little extra effort.

*Landing gear consists of main strut, oleo scissors, 2x2 piece wheels, retracting strut, and hydraulic cylinder, plus inner and outer gear doors. Gear door innards are nicely relief detailed. Tail wheel fits into leather styled dust cover with detailed doors.

*Spinner is typical dome and backing plate affair with cast in receptacles to accept separate prop blades. (clock-wise rotation). Exhausts are also separate units which will profit from being drilled out.

*Clear parts provide 3 piece openable canopy, or single piece closed canopy if so desired. Armor glass headrest and above mentioned gun sight round out the clear sprue. Canopy parts are thin enough to allow stacking.

*Decals provide national markings and patriotic slogans for 2 birds. Look pretty decent to me, with colors rendered correctly, and in register. Also included are Eduard canopy masks, and a somewhat complex masking system for the spinner, should you choose the plane with the star marking on the spinner. Should you make this selection, there is a zig-zag white line on the decal sheet to separate the red star from the light gray spinner. The whole deal seems a little hokey to me, and I elected not to go that route, choosing the version with the yellow numbers and squadron logo.

*In addition to the exhausts, machine gun ports need drilling out, and on the starboard nose there is a vent facing up and to the rear which looks really good hollowed out.

*Well kids, that's the story. Very fine kit of a pretty enough Russkie bird. The kit is simple and goes together well, in spite of the lack of locating pins. The only problem areas for me were the joint where nose bottom meets the wing, and the separate cowling top, which was a couple of hundredths too long. Filler use was kept to an absolute minimum. Eduard is to be congratulated again. These folks are doing good work!

have fun,

Hal

Add Pratt & Whitney, Colt, and Curtiss Electric to Republic's airframe and
whatcha got? JUGS.

WANTS AND DISPOSAL

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FS Model Compressor and Badger Airbrush – Used 3 times \$75. **Contact Steve 774-254-2446**

Kit Review- Tamiya's 1/48 Dornier Do335A "Pfeil"

by Steven Kwasny

This aircraft had to be one of the most unusual prop-driven fighters of the Third Reich. Its dual inline engines gave it a push/pull characteristic, while the cruciform tail gave this aircraft an unusual appearance. Designed to be sleek and fast (almost 800 km/hr), this A/C was never produced in any numbers to challenge the Allied air superiority over Germany. Tamiya released this kit in 2000, and it keeps a retail price of \$38. They also released this kit with the Kettenkraftrad tug, but retails for around \$50. Let us see how the kit builds and paints up, shall we?

Plastic: Tamiya molded this kit in light grey styrene, free of any flash, warpings, or mold release agent. The plastic is easy to work with is not brittle, and features recessed panel lines and nice small molded detail. Now, I will not take out a ruler and measure the pieces and tell you if the dimensions are accurate, or if parts should be located 0.05 mm ahead or behind where the instructions suggest. But I will tell you that there are four trees of light grey plastic parts, and one tree of clear parts. One major pain in the neck are the location of many registration marks in impossible to cleanup locations, like the wheel wells. Sanding these out would eliminate a substantial amount of detail.

Instructions: The 10 page instruction manual contain clear assembly drawings and are easy to follow. At no point was I confused on parts location.

Cockpit: Assembly of the Dornier Arrow begins naturally with the cockpit. This is a nicely detailed area

that required very little modification on my part. The only additions I made were drilling out the rear of the instrument dials and inserting fine wire and lead foil for the seat harnesses. The instructions dictate painting the interior RLM 02 grey, which I did. The instrument consoles were painted aircraft interior black. This was followed by a wash of X19 Smoke. The instruments are finely molded and call out for detail painting with various colors such as white, red, and yellow. The kit has a decal for the instrument panel, but I rejected this. I also rejected the decal for the seat harness, as I felt they looked way too thin. The little gem of the cockpit is the Heinkel ejector seat, not looking like most other Luftwaffe fighter seats.

Interior: No major snags here. Tamiya gives you the choice of open or closed bomb bay doors, and a five-piece 500 kg bomb. I elected not to add the bomb bay. Before the halves are sealed up, a chunky metal cylindrical weight is added to the nose of the A/C to make this area heavy and allow for it to sit on its nose wheel. As a reminder, as I almost neglected to do so, forget to install the rear radiator (parts C7 and C8) and exhaust backings before sealing the fuselage halves together.

Exterior: Tamiya have produce two different Do335 with different canopy arrangements- the single seater A-0/A-1 as reviewed here, and the two seater trainer A-12 "Anteater". The latter has a second cockpit elevated above the main cockpit, with a separate canopy. This kit has a large dorsal fuselage plate (part A4) that covers the region for the second cockpit. Cleanup of this part was disappointing, as rivet detail disappeared. Before installing this piece, choose which variant you will build as each aircraft in the kit has a different antenna array.

Wings: The wings on this aircraft were wide 'n chunky, and fit perfectly and snugly. The main spar that is part of cockpit and bomb bay assembly traverses the fuselage and fits into the wings nicely. My only addition was running a little Testor's liquid glue into the wing roots. On the bottom, there was a slight fit problem with the right wing at the root, but a little pressure with some super glue fixed the problem.

Landing gear: The struts are nicely molded and detailed, and my only addition was fine wire for break cables. They were painted RLM 02, and given a mixture of black and brown oil washes. These parts were also great for drybrushing. The tires were molded in halves, but I elected to use True Detail tires, which I had laying around, but after getting them onto the kit they were designed for, I don't recommend them. I do not have any reference photos of the nose landing gear, but every model I see of this particular A/C done by other people show no brake cable, so I did not add one. If I am wrong here, please let me know.

Painting: Tamiya calls for dark green/black green/ light blue (71/70/65) paint scheme. I opted for the brown violet/dark green/ light blue (81/82/65) scheme. I used Model Master II colors, using French Chestnut brown for RLM 81. All three markings have a hard edged splinter camo scheme. A sharp pencil was used for the panel lines, and smoke black and panzer grey paint pigment powders were used for exhaust staining, giving a subtle effect.

Decals: The decals conformed nicely, requiring very little decal setting solution. Not much silvering was observed, and those decals that did were treated with solvaset.

Verdict: This is a very nicely molded and nicely detailed kit of an unusual aircraft. It looks great in my collection, and I have plans of acquiring the trainer version of this A/C. Very well done, Tamiya!

Region 1 2004 Update

By Doug Hamilton RC-1

Greetings from 2004!!

Happy new Year everyone. Now that that's out of the way, here is the latest scoop to start the new year. The results of the poll to decide whether regional events should take on the National rules is, drum roll please..... The proposal passed. We here in Region 1 voted overwhelming against it. The numbers went something like this. Thirteen chapters voted. I also voted as RC, for a total of fourteen votes from Region 1. Four voted in favor, and nine against. I voted against it as I felt my vote should reflect the views of the chapters I represent. Thanks for passing on your comments when handing in your votes. Let it be duly noted that they were passed on when I turned in my tally. One reason that I heard so many of our chapters voting against it was the fear that this may trickle down to the local event level. I don't see that happening, but it was a concern voiced by some. The following is an excerpt of a message I received from Jack announcing the National results.

"OK, here is how the voting went. Of 200 chapters, 112 voted. Of the 112, 85 were in favor and 27 against. Ten of the eleven regions went in favor of using Nat'l contest rules at Regional conventions. Only Region 1 was against this idea. This vote reflects 56% of the chartered chapters and the fact that this many voted is encouraging considering how difficult it is to get a 15% vote on any proposal.

I am very pleased with the voting as this is a step in the right direction towards standardizing the contests at regionals. This will not take effect until 2005. I will be working on the wording for this over the next few months with the help of the National Contest Committee, of which I am a member.

Please feel free to let all of your chapters know the result of the voting and that this will not effect local shows. Also let them know that if a chapter plans of making a bid to host a regional, they must be willing to abide by the National contest rules."

Back to me.

Even though we as a region overwhelming rejected this proposal, it passed due to the support it had in other regions. The number of votes cast certainly shows a valid result, with over 50% of all chapters taking part. Now we'll have to wait to see how the National Contest Committee sorts it all out. I'm confident they will be thorough in their task. They know what they're doing, and I'm sure will make the right choices.



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By now, everyone should have their rechartering materials back to Jack, and have received your seal. Thanks to you all for working really hard in getting this stuff back on time. (There'll be a little something extra in your checks next week.) I think there are one or two that are still waiting for your seal, and if you've sent your stuff in, and don't hear back within a few weeks, let me know.

January of the new year could only mean that the spring show season is coming soon. I hope everyone has had a chance to build some cool stuff. And while we're talking about shows.... let me update y'all on Noreastcon version 2004. I spoke to Art Loder the other day, and he was telling me that the event web site is up and will soon have the forms available to download. To get there, go to the IPMS NENY site, and follow the links.

<http://www.aloder.freeyellow.com/>

Art was also saying the plans are moving right along, and they're looking for trophy sponsors. Please consider sponsoring a package to support our region's event. There are a number still available, so if you act soon, you should be able to sponsor a category you like. The next update will contain the list of approved 2004 events. If your chapters is still planning something for this year, and you haven't had your date approved yet, get something to me soon. the dates are filling in fast. And please, remember Chapter of the Year, and Person of the Year nominations should be sent in. The sooner the better. Nominations close March 1 for both, so times a-wastin'!! I received the Chapter of the Year plaque from the home office a few days ago. It looks really nice, and will be presented with the winners name on it. (everybody now, ooooooooooooo!!)

IPMS/USA is pleased to announce that a new, secure (SSL) system has been implemented for Membership Renewals (and new membership applications). Using our new secure server, you can renew your membership subscription online with a credit card payment - without the necessity of having to use a third-party agency such as PayPal. For those who prefer payment via check or money order, the old "snail mail" system will still be accepted.

I was going to end this with some crude comments about Britney Spears recent wedding stunt, but I realize that this may fall into the hands of children, so I won't get into that here. (But I will send them to you if you ask!!) So I'll close this with a quick, seeya!!!!

And as always, please share this with the officers and members of your chapter. It belongs to them too!!!!
Semper Fi
Doug Hamilton RC-1

Bay Colony Director Nomination Running Statements

Ray Rosario:

For those of you who do not know me, I am Raymond Rosario and am seeking the vacant director position in the Bay Colony Historical Modelers' Society. As an active club member for the last twelve years, I have seen the club grow and develop into one of the best organizations for this hobby for the Region One area. I like to think I was a part of that development and would like to continue and add more. That is why I am seeking this position. I see Bay Colony as more than a bunch of guys who like building models...it is a group of people who are willing share and learn in order to make one another not only better modelers but better people. Skills I have learned from members have been invaluable in not only my model building but life in general. I hope to continue learning and passing along skills to my fellow club members. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Gian Montecalvo:

I decided to run for the director position in order to help maintain or re-establish the sense that this is a hobby and not to be taken too seriously. After all the various shows that I attended this past year I started to get more and more of a feeling that there were too many "experts" and not enough room for the common hobbyist or novice. This feeling could not have been more emphasized after the recent vote to keep the IPMS rules out of the small club shows. For them to come down and dictate how we should run our own show is just another form of censorship. I feel that the only impression is gives is that this hobby is for the people already involved and new comers need not apply. The basic idea is that it is a hobby and is suppose to be fun and should be done with that idea in mind.

IPMS/USA NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

IPMS No.: _____ Name: _____
(leave blank) (FIRST) (LAST)

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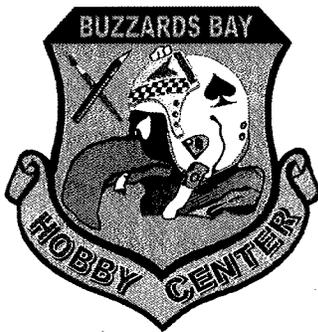
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 If recommended by an IPMS member,
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Battlewagon

Bay Colony Historical Modelers

In Range:

December 13th Meeting – Bob Don

1/35th Scale Thoughts of Home dio – Bob Magina
135th Scale British Soldiers (WIP)– Ray Rosario
1/48th Scale P47-D-10 – Hal Marshman Sr.
54mm Scale Knight – Chris Libucha
1/48th Scale RP-38L Lightning – Bob Don
1/48th Scale MI-1 Helo – Bob Don
1/35th Scale JS-2 Dio (WIP) – Kevin Conlon
1/35th Scale Hulk with Abrams (WIP) – Kevin Conlon
1/48th Scale Mig 29 Fulcrum – Kevin Conlon
1/35th Scale Bolter! – Joe McDonald Sr.
1/35th Scale Countermove! – Joe McDonald Sr.
1/5th Scale Kamikaze Pilot Bust – Joe McDonald Sr.
200mm Scale U-Boat Skipper – Joe McDonald Sr.
Flat Scale Crusifixion – Joe McDonald Jr.

Raffle: None Held

In Attendance:

Stan Wright	Bob Magina
Hal Marshman Sr.	John Gisetto Sr.
Ray Rosario	John Nickerson
Bob Don	Norm Robbie
Joe McDonald Sr.	Gian Montecalvo
Chris Libucha	Kevin Conlon
Kevin Colburn	

January 10th Meeting – Bob Don

1/35th Scale SS Tank Commander – Steve Kwasny
1/35th Scale SdKfz 250/9 “Neu” – Steve Kwasny
1/35th Scale Last of Its Kind– Steve Kwasny
1/35th Scale JS-2M & Bridge (WIP) – Kevin Conlon
1/25th Scale 911 Engine (WIP) – Kevin Colburn
1/72nd Scale British 6 Pdr Gun – Bob Don
1/72nd Scale Fairchild UC-61 – Ray Laskorski
1/35th Scale M36 Jackson – Bill Collins
1/35th Scale Zil-157 & SA2 Carrier – Bill Collins
1/48th Scale A-8 Shrike – Bill Collins
1/16th Scale WWII GI Rock – Gian Montecalvo

Raffle: Dremel Tool Set – won by Jim Hayman

In Attendance:

Bob Magina	Bob Don.
Norm Robbie	Stan Wright
Hal Marshman Sr.	John Nickerson
Kevin Colburn	Brian Millette
Kevin Conlon	John Gisetto
Joe Ravino	Ray Rosario
Gian Montecalvo	Ray Laskorski
Frank Knight	Chris Libucha
Art Drummond	Jim Hayman



Up Scope:

March 13th 2004 Meeting

- Host – Bill Pritchard -

11 Orchard Avenue, Brockton
508-580-2179

From the North, south on 24 to exit 19A "Harrison Blvd. Avon". From the top of the ramp go one mile to the second traffic light, turn right on West Main St., go one mile to first light, road becomes North Main St. as you cross into Brockton. At the first light, (Oak St.) there are banks on both right hand corners, Montello News on the left. Proceed straight thru that light, take next right onto Orchard Ave. (dead end). The house is the first on the right, #11, right after the bank parking lot.

From the south or 495 take 24 north and you have two options. Drive north to the Harrison Blvd. exit and follow the directions above or get off an exit earlier, Rt. 27 West, "Stoughton". At the first light turn right, following rt. 27, proceed thru the next light, (hospital entrance), and make a right turn at the third light onto Oak St. (between gas station and dunkin donuts), follow Oak east thru a number of lights, just over 2 miles, Montello news will appear in front of you as the road suddenly widens, go right on North Main. And right onto Orchard.

You can park in the bank parking lot.

April 10th 2004 Meeting

- Host – Bill Collins -

113 Powderhorn Lane
Taunton, MA
508-824-8141

Take 140N from Taunton or S from Norton. Go right or left on Norton Street. Take a left at first fork, then a right at the second fork. Take first right and follow along to house #113.

May 8th 2004 Meeting

- Host – John Gisetto -

390 Plymouth Street
Middleboro, MA
508-947-1546

Rte 495 to Rte 44 exit. Take Rte 44E. From rotary go to third set of lights and take a left on to Plymouth Street. KOA campground is on the corner. Its the house on the right (green ranch). Its about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile up on Plymouth Street.

Bob Don Challenge
1/48th Scale
P-39 Aircorba

The President's Column FROM THE BRIDGE



Just a reminder, there are a few regulars that haven't renewed yet for 2003-2004. Dues are still only \$10 per year. If you would like to pay a couple years in advance that's ok. Mail your payments to me or see me at a meeting, checks to be made payable to Bay Colony Historic Modelers.

The most important bit of business to cover is the election of a new director to fill the empty seat. Two members have graciously stepped forward, or everyone else stepped back, I'm not sure which, and offered to serve. Gian Montecalvo and Ray Rosario. Where this is an elected position, you the membership will now have the opportunity to vote for one of these gentlemen. You will find voting instructions elsewhere in this issue. Voting will remain open for the month of February. As is our tradition, once elected, the new Director will remain in office as long as he is a member in good standing of our club and IPMS, or until he resigns or is voted out in a new election. You may also write in another member's name as a 'write in' vote, if you wish. Please remember that your write in candidate must be both a Bay Colony and IPMS member in good standing. Any write in votes for candidates that do not meet this criteria will be voided.

At the January meeting we voted to revise the rules for the Masters category for Baycon. As some of you may know, Masters was a disaster this year. The level of competition was very high and there were more than 30 models on the table. Many models were moved to that table as the day progressed. Some modelers chose to ignore the rules. Some were using rules from other clubs. Others, when confronted quickly pointed out more offenders. It became clear that there would soon be no space left on the tables and it would be an impossible task to judge. So, in an attempt to quell any future controversy we voted to revise the rules. From now on any model that has taken a first place at BAYCON must be entered in Masters. One final note on this past years Masters, there was one modeler that contacted me after the show and apologized for entering in the wrong category and not Masters and offered to return his award. I thanked him for his offer and, of course, declined.

My wife is a quilter. That in itself has nothing to do with anything. They have contest and conventions like we do. They also have what they call "Quilter's Weekends". They go off to some location like the Cape, the New Hampshire mountains, etc. There is time for socializing and seminars and sewing. Now these weekends aren't cheap. But the people that run them are in it to make some money. So I want to float this idea, I'm looking for some feed back. What if we have a modelers weekend. It means a weekend away although you don't have to stay at the location to participate. And you don't have to be from the club to get in. (Club members get a discount though.) We schedule a couple seminars for Saturday morning, a couple for Saturday afternoon, have some vendors in, dinner in the evening with some social time. Sunday morning pancake breakfast, then go home. We could even have an event or two for the significant others. Things I'm thinking of are that we might be able to get Bear Air to do a airbrush demo. Maybe Talal could bring his display. Bill Pritchard might do his landscape demo. Some of us could do seminars. I could do carving Styrofoam or painting small scale figures. Del could do modeling with common household materials. It may take some thought but I'm sure we could come up with some ideas. Basic aircraft modeling, detailing auto engines, etc. There will also be some prep time required. It either has to be something that can be demonstrated or hands on training, followed up by some Q and A. The person doing the seminar or class determines how many people he wants to work with and all the classes have to be signed up for in advance.

At January's meeting we discussed the result of the IPMS ballot by region over the issue of adopting the National contest rules at the Regional level. It passed. Region 1 was the only region to vote against it. We don't need to open that issue here again. While in the discussion I was asked if I still felt it was important to be an IPMS chapter, to which I answered yes. I would like to just outline my reasons here for all members to see. First it gives us, The Bay Colony Historic Modelers Association, national exposure. It also indicates our goals and intent, we definitely fit the 'By Modelers, For Modelers' mold. As an IPMS chapter we are part of a large national and international body of modelers that are recognized by the plastic model industry. And there is also the insurance that covers our meetings and show. Yes, I still see a benefit.

You've seen IPMS mentioned many times in this months column. It stands for International Plastic Modeler Society. If your not a member you might want to

consider it. Ask Bob Magina or myself for more info.

As always, you can reach me on the web at jjnick@lycos.com.

God bless America! Happy modeling and give kits to kids!
John J. Nickerson

Election of a New Director

By John Nickerson

As mentioned in the previous issue we have need to elect a new director to replace Ron Dodenhoff, who passed on last year. IPMS requires that to be a chapter we have five active IPMS members. It is also required that all officers of the club be IPMS members. Many years ago we tried to kill two birds with one stone. We would have five officers, all of them IPMS members. President, Chapter Contact, and three Directors.

Two members have stepped forward and offered to fill the position. Gian Montecalvo and Raymond Rosario. There should be position papers / bios from each of them elsewhere in this issue.

Every member in good standing may vote on this issue. Balloting will be open for the month of February. Results will be announced via the internet, at the March meeting and in the next issue of The Battlewagon.

How to vote: This is a secret ballot and there are three ways you may cast your votes. First thing to do is write your choice on a piece of paper, vote for only one. You may hand me, John Nickerson, your ballot at the February meeting. You may mail it to me before March 1st 2004. If you choose to mail it the envelope must have your return address on it so that I may verify only one vote per person. You may e mail it to me at jjnick@lycos.com. If you use email I will copy your vote to a slip of paper and delete the original email. Once all the votes are in, I will count the votes and the count will be verified by at least one other club officer.

Good luck, Gentlemen

Mini Kit Review – Etrich “Taube” (Flashback) 1/48th

By Joe McDonald Sr.

Great clean styrene. Model is all one could want from the birdlike wings and tail feathers to the strut work for the wing warping and structural strength. The landing gear is a little confusing but not beyond the smarts of any one smart enough to be a BC member.

The three pieces of resin (engine block, intakes and exhaust) are at a minimum and therefore I didn't get angry at an hour of eliminating pouring slugs. Long a favorite of mine because of its graceful lines, I now have one for my collection and at price less than some others I've seen in smaller scales. Too bad it wasn't done in time for inclusion in the newly renovated WWI case.

Steve Kwasny Armor Challenge

Any piece of 1/35th scale armor with an animal name for example; Panther, Tiger, Weasel, Scorpion, Leopard, Wespe, Nashorn, Humel, Grille, Piranha, Buffalo, Bison, Alligator, etc.

Tamiya 1/16th Scale Wehrmacht Infantryman

By Hal Marshman Sr.

This the latest release in Tamiya's line of 1/16th scale German World War II military figures. Before I get into the kit, I must take a second and clarify the meaning of the word "Wehrmacht". The term Wehrmacht refers to the German military, being the Heere or Army, The Kriegsmarine or Navy, and the Luftwaffe or Air Force. The Waffen SS was not a part of the Wehrmacht, being a political army, best explained as a paramilitary arm of the Nazi party. Such being the case, although usage has become such as to make the Wehrmacht synonymous with German Army, this was not really so. On to the figure...

Tamiya has given us a representation of a German Army enlisted man in field marching order. As kitted, he carries a MG-42 light machine gun, along with a choice of folded or extended bipod stand, a detachable ammo drum, and the waist pouch for the MG tools. The figure comes with 2 heads, one to use with the helmet and one bareheaded. The helmet is the 1936 style with crimped rim, but as in other figures from this line, does not show the rivets used to attach to the liner or the vent holes. The face is quite decent, and with little effort, could be an 18 year old recruit or a grizzled older nco. He wears the regular tunic, which can be painted to represent either the 1936 style, or the simpler 1940 tunic. The collar patches, chevron backing, and breast eagle are relief cast onto the tunic in the proper places, as is the cuff title on the right sleeve. Tamiya has provided a decal sheet with all these insignia, plus shoulder strap decoration, 2nd class Iron Cross ribbon for the button hole, and helmet decals. The rear of the box shows where to use the decal items. The shoulder straps themselves are separate plastic pieces. Now, as to these decals, they certainly look terrific, and I've seen them on a painted figure and they look quite good. That having been said, I'm sure that

those among you who paint figures regularly would rather paint the insignia themselves. For me, that's part and parcel of the fun. The only belt clasp included is the Army buckle, and it's very well rendered.

As far as accessories are concerned, Tamiya gives us a standard sprue with the MG-42 parts, helmet, bayonet, pistol holster, potato masher grenade, Schmeisser MP-40, gas mask tin, bread bag, Schmeisser magazine pouches, and canteen. These accessories and the choices they allow you to make, can lead to some highly individualistic renderings. As for my self, I elected to eliminate the MG-42 and go with the MP-40. I also chose to use one set of mag. pouches, so had to dremelize an area on the jacket so that they would look right when fitted. I took the bareheaded option, and ground down the top of the head so that I could use the M-43 visored field cap that came with the Panzer officer. Fits well, looks good, and gives me a figure just that little bit different than the next guy's. I also did my figure as a panzer grenadier, which means the shoulder strap piping is in grass green, and not the white waffenfarb (branch of service color) of the regular infantryman.

For those of you who read my review of the Tamiya Machine Gunner earlier this year, this again is more than a figure to paint, it's a plastic kit the same as an airplane, tank, ship or car. Most parts are in 2 halves, and must be cemented together carefully and seams eliminated just as in any other plastic model. When finished this is a pretty decent representation of a German Army soldier, and I can heartily recommend it.

have fun, Hal
A Jug a Jug, my kingdom for a Jug.

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