

5 July 2014

AMMS Brisbane News

What Happened?

In case you're wondering at the skinny size of the newsletter this month, it's because, except for a few, nobody contributed anything!

If you want the newsletter to continue, write something!

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Editorial (aka Rob's Rantings)

Once again, I have been following a discussion on Armorama with interest.

This one dealt with model kit prices, and although the majority of modellers commenting were from the northern hemisphere, there were a few from the better (i.e. southern) hemisphere as well.

It would appear from the comments made that we are not the only ones feeling the pinch regarding prices of new kits. Apparently kits that we can get here for around \$A60-70 are available in the USA and Canada for closer to \$US80-100! These are the same kits that a short while ago were retailing for \$A40-50.

Naturally, in the course of discussion, the topic of buying online came up, and I felt sorry for the bloke from Uruguay who is stung 60% (yes, sixty, that's not a misprint) in customs duties whenever he buys something off the Internet.

Perhaps we aren't so badly off after all!

Another topic, one which recurs regularly, is the size of individual stashes, and yes, I thought of

Bruce Hay and his 1000+ kit stash as I read the comments. It would appear that he's not the only one with a stash of this size, judging by some of the comments and photos.

This, of course, brings up the inevitable question of "When are you going to find time to build them all?" - one, I might add, which is frequently asked by my other half, and my stash is nowhere near the size of some.

The answer, I believe, is that we (the stash owners) have had the foresight to buy up kits when the prices were more affordable, which seems to go in cycles.

I can well remember in 1971, when I received, as a first year student architect, the princely sum of \$19.89 in my grubby paw each week, of which Mum took \$5 for board. About that time, the Tamiya Flak 36 88 came out, and I spent a lot of time drooling over it in the hobby store which used to be in the ground floor of a building on the corner of Albert and Elizabeth Streets, but as its price was somewhere in the \$7-8 range, it

was well out of my reach! (assuming, that is, I wanted lunch for a month).

Now we can only hope that prices of kits continue to rise to the extent that when we start to sell off items from our stash, they sell for more than we originally paid for them.

This is certainly the case with Rusty, who, I am certain, started his stash not long after the invention of plastic kits—not that he can get to them anyway, as his wife has taken over what used to be Rusty's modelling space for her sewing gear!

On that note, I shall retire to the garage (aka my modelling space) and admire my stash while trying to ignore the reviews of the latest and greatest kits on sites such as Armorama.

Sigh! - the wheel has come full circle again and I am still wondering how I can afford them. Oh well, that's life.

New Magazine

For those interested, there's a new on line magazine available which appears very interesting.

The first issue is available by following this link http://www.armorjournal.com/download_magazine.php

Contents of the first issue of Armor Journal include:

- Differences between Flak 18, 36 and 37
- Why I hate "World of Tanks"
- Review of three different IDF M 51 Sherman kits
- Mike Haines and his recon photo collection

David's Drivel

Welcome- Welcome- c'mon in, sit down, let us entertain you!

I hope everyone has had a great month, I've been rather busy in just about every aspect of my life but I've still managed to squeeze an hour or two in at my desk and, all things considered I'm quite happy with the results. I couldn't stretch the time or resources out to attend the Melbourne or Tweed Valley shows but I know a couple of members who did and look forward to hearing their thoughts on both shows.

And with that I hope everyone has been giving consideration to AMMS' QMHE display this year- Brad has been putting together what I think is quite

an intellectually stimulating visual display incorporating not only elements that commemorate the centenary of the start of WWI but also the 70th anniversary of the d-day landings in France during WWII combining that with all the various aspects that make up the AMMS membership it bodes well for a first class display- certainly better than any of the club stands I've seen in photo reports of the aforementioned shows who've seemed to miss both milestones in their displays or, where an attempt was made, in my opinion, has missed the mark and failed to catch my imagination leaving me to hope that AMMS Brisbane can put on a display such that it captures the effort, dedication and resolve of

those who's commitment to us in the past allows us the freedom to do so today.

What can YOU do to help AMMS with this display?

What.....?

Till next month's meeting.

Be good, be safe, be productive.

Regards,
David Scorer
AMMS Brisbane coordinator 2014.

Nazi Jetpack Prototype (thanks Clayton)

Towards the end of WWII the Nazi's had some pretty revolutionary weapons that could have turned the tide of the war if it lasted just a little bit longer. From the first jet fighter the Messerschmitt Me 262 to the The Horten 229 stealth bomber prototype. Well the Nazi's had another prototype that could helped them turn the tide of the way, jet packs.

Called the Himmelstürmer or the Skystormer, these jet pack prototypes used a pulse jet engine much like the one that propelled the Fieseler Fi 103 rocket, or the V-1 Buzz Bomb. The Himmelstürmer was designed to help Nazi troops jump over an enemy's defenses such as barbed wires, trenches and minefields. The device had two components, the main engine on the back of the soldier to propel them up and forward and a second engine on the front of the soldier to push him upwards.

The Himmelstürmer used little fuel and did not run very hot, which allowed the soldier to not be bogged down with any special clothing to guard them from heat. It allowed troops to jump 180 feet up to 50 feet high. Not bad for the 1940's, when the allies were still using Jeeps to get around. This secret weapon arrived too late to help Germany however. There are no surviving images of the Himmelstürmer that are known to exist. The image above is of a recreation made after the war as Bell Aerosystems got their hands on the Himmelstürmer. They modified the design to try and make a jet pack that would make American troops into super soldiers that could fly onto the battle field. It wasn't reliable enough for combat use and the whole project was ended.



Five Dollar Heimdal Books (thanks Graham)

Anyone heading past Harbour town on the Gold coast should check out the discount book shop in the south east of the complex as they have a stack of Heimdal books for only 5 dollars each. Most are in French but a couple are dual French/English. Other titles include Omaha, Utah, French commando in Normandy, Foreign legion 1939-45 and many other titles.

Lacquer Thinner

Some issues ago, I wrote about the effectiveness of lacquer thinner as opposed to Tamiya acrylic thinner when airbrushing models.

Of course, no sooner did I extol the virtues of the stuff than it disappeared from model shop shelves.

I figure one of several things happened:

- 1) All the readers of this newsletter went on a buying frenzy
- 2) Somebody found that the product was harmful to yak fleas in Uzbekistan
- 3) The shops concerned realise that it doesn't sell all that well and haven't ordered any more.

I think the third possibility is the most likely, so I went looking for a substitute.

Lo and behold, my local Bunnings sells lacquer thinner for \$6.99 or thereabouts for a one litre tin, as opposed to \$19.99 or thereabouts for 250ml of the Tamiya product.

Gee, I wonder which one I will use?

And Now For Something Different (thanks Clayton)

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY
MODELLING SOCIETY

AMMS BRISBANE

Meets first Saturday of every month at
Loganlea Community Centre, Timms Street,
Loganlea, between 11:30am and 4:00pm

Contributions to the newsletter are always
welcome. Please email contributions to the
editor at gncw@bigpond.com

**AMMS Brisbane is on
the Web at
www.ammsbrisbane.co**



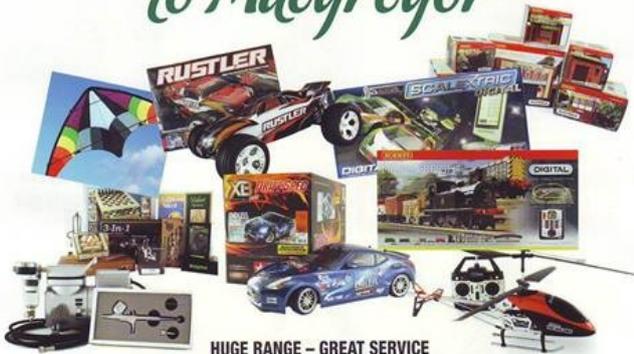
Nazi invasion? Ah, tanks for the memories

Military history enthusiasts dressed as Nazi troops take part in a staged battle, Summer 1941, near the village of Ivanovskoye, 60km from Moscow, during War of Motors 2014. The festival marks the 73rd anniversary of the Nazi German invasion of the Soviet Union. **Picture: AFP**

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