



ARMOR BITS

January 2024

Newsletter of the ChicagoLand Armor Builders Society





ARMOR BITS



Welcome to another edition of

ARMOR BITS!

Well we've just about completed another turn around the Sun., and I think its been a pretty good one at that!

The National AMPS organization is in excellent health; we had another great convention at Camp Hill PA, with the next in April right in our back yard of South Bend Ind.

On top of that the IPMS/USA convention will be just up the road in Madison Wi this summer. As modelers we couldn't wish for anything better!

Although the year began with one long time member moving away, the club has been fortunate to gain 4 new members.

Additionally we have had 12 great meetings with countless great models displayed, and many terrific modeling discussions.

I don't think it can get better than this,

but one thing that I've learned is not to take anything for granted. So sit back and enjoy it but we need to keep up the great effort from everyone!

With the Winter closing of Cantigny, Januarys meeting will be hosted by Chuck Aleshire at his home. If you haven't visited before you are in for a treat. And if you can, stay after the meeting and join in the fun of building a model. Just bring your tools and a model to work on.

Also, we will have a "GOOD" White Elephant exchange, so bring a wrapped model if you would like to participate.

Stay tuned for details of the meeting AND I hope to see you all in January.

Happy New Year!

Stan

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday **10am Jan 13th @ Chuck Aleshire's house.**

DECEMBER '23 MEETING NOTES

Welcome – *15 members in attendance*

Treasure's report/AMPS Nats Update – All vendor tables sold (some stash clearance's)

Don't waste time booking rooms. No club party.

Christmas party – January will be at Chuck Aleshire's house. Second Saturday of the month. Details below. We will need volunteers to help Dan O'Conner with security. Details following.

Armor Con—Chris and Chuck attended another wonderful show. Pictures by Chuck are below.

Discussed the possibility of a “Commemorative” coin for the convention

IPMS/USA 2024 convention in Madison, WI. Detailed PDF link is also below.

Raffle—*Several DVD's and a book were raffled off.*

New business?

Show & Tell

TRACK LINKS



Frank Ciccarella sent in some pictures of his latest builds. That radar dish looks awesome ... and very painful!



TRACK LINKS



2023 ARMORCON pictures by Chuck Alshire



TRACK LINKS

Here are some notes offered up by out of state member Serge Nakhmanson, concerning his build of the Italeri SdKfz232-6. The Nuts & Bolts Books has just pushed #48 book dedicated to this vehicle The old (and not particularly accurate) Italeri kit is still the only game in town.

Italeri #6433 Sd.Kfz. 232 6-rad research notes, including typical stowage setup, historical placement and marking options

Aftermarket additions:

- Voyager Model #35065 basic PE set for Italeri #6433
- Panzer Art German Sd.Kfz. 231/232 Road Wheels Set (6 rad)
- Adlers Nest #ANM35020 MG13K with flash suppressor
- Orange Hobby #G35-021-48 20mm KwK30 gun

Voyager Model #35065 basic PE set for Italeri #6433

The combination of this Italeri kit and the PE upgrade set allows one to build, specifically, a later-type Bussing-NAG produced vehicle with an earlier style turret / gun mantlet.

This build is intended to represent a generic Sd.Kfz. 232 6-rad reconnaissance vehicle, including a typical stowage setup, for the invasion of Poland in 1939. The license plate decal I used places it with the 3rd PzDiv.



Construction notes:

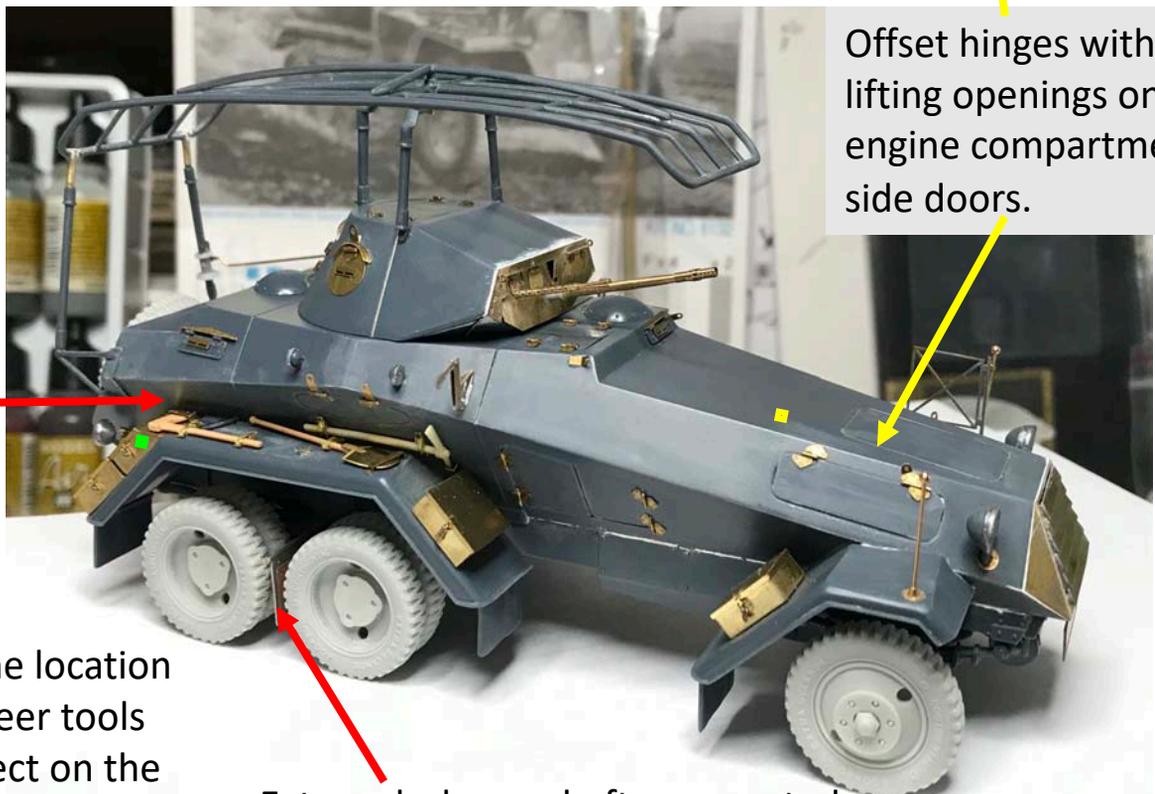
Surprisingly, the stowage layout presented by the kit and the PE set depicts one specific vehicle (in Heinz Guderian forces) that is quite an oddball. Both sets required multiple alterations to produce a generic looking vehicle, as well as improve accuracy and historic realism:

- (a) Location of pioneer tools and fender storage boxes was changed to match photographs of actual vehicles [see pp. 2 and 5 below].
- (b) Custom head/back and search light covers (often seen in photos) were made from lead foil [see p. 6].
- (c) A conduit connecting the frame antenna to the vehicle (absent in the kit) was scratch made [see p. 5].
- (d) Armored radiator louvres assembly, included in the PE set, was soldered together [p. 6].
- (e) Several door / hatch hinges are offset vertically on real vehicles, which is not reproduced correctly on the kit or the PE update set. The PE hinges were reworked to correctly represent that feature and lifting openings were added to some of them [pp. 2 and 4].
- (f) Additional rubber splash guards were present on some vehicles between the two rear axles. That feature (missing in the kit / PE set) was reproduced using spare PE parts [p. 2].
- (g) Left rear fender shelf on actual radio cars was used for storage of extra equipment (antenna parts?) that is not present in the base kit or PE set. That location was covered by a tarp [pp. 5 and 7].

The kit was airbrushed and shaded with Vallejo paint-primers, then washed and dry brushed with oils. Dust deposits were simulated with AK powders. White crosses were airbrushed on through stencils.

Sd.Kfz. 231/232 6-rad family was produced on multiple 6x4 truck chassis: Daimler-Benz, Bussing-NAG and Magirus, which resulted in several different variants with subtle differences among their bodies and suspensions.

This kit is based on the later production Bussing-NAG truck chassis and is using a variant of road wheels with armored covers on the rear axle hubs.

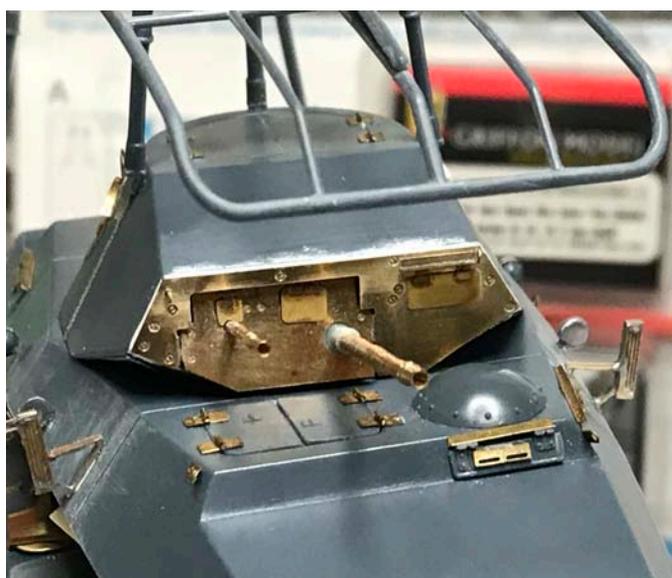


Offset hinges with lifting openings on the engine compartment side doors.

Note the location of pioneer tools (incorrect on the base kit; fixed here)

Extra splash guard often mounted on Bussing-NAG produced vehicles

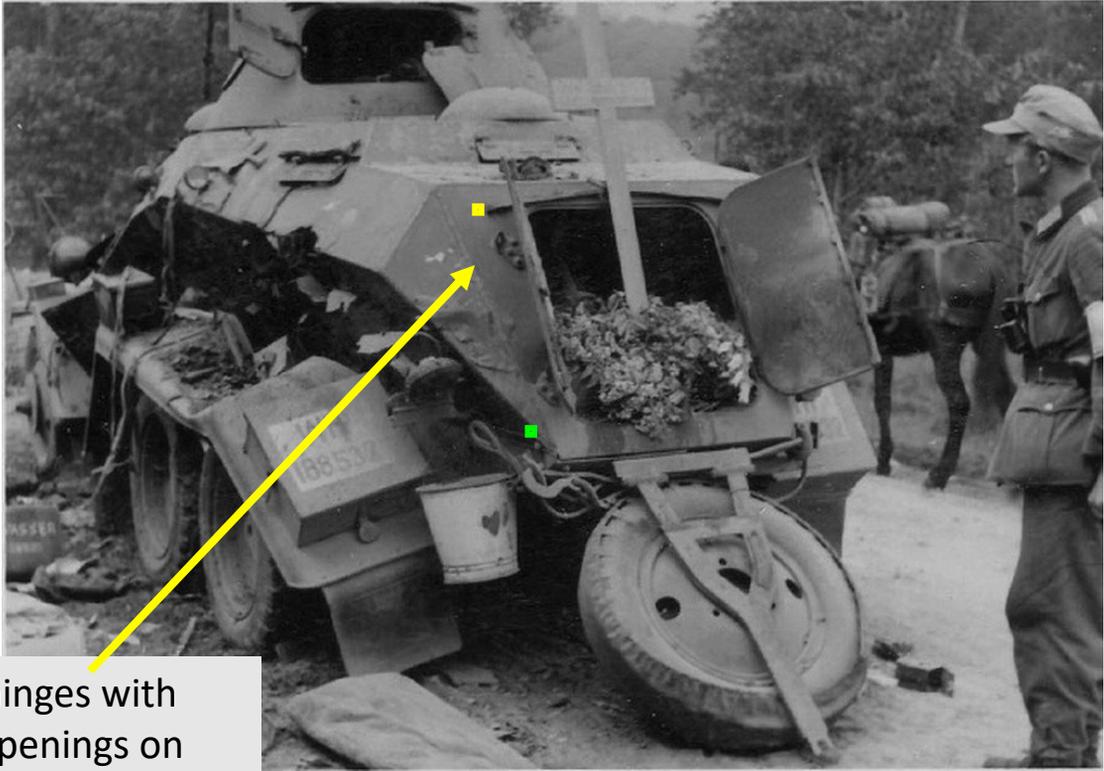
Different variants of turret mantlets were used. The combination of the base kit and PE parts allows one to build an earlier production variant shown in (a), with the MG located to the right of the main gun. The later production variant shown in (b) is markedly different, with the MG positioned on the left side.



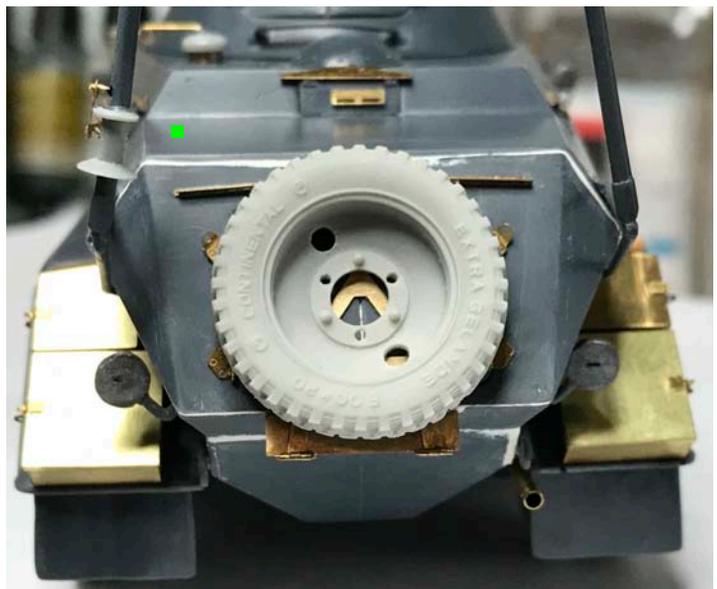
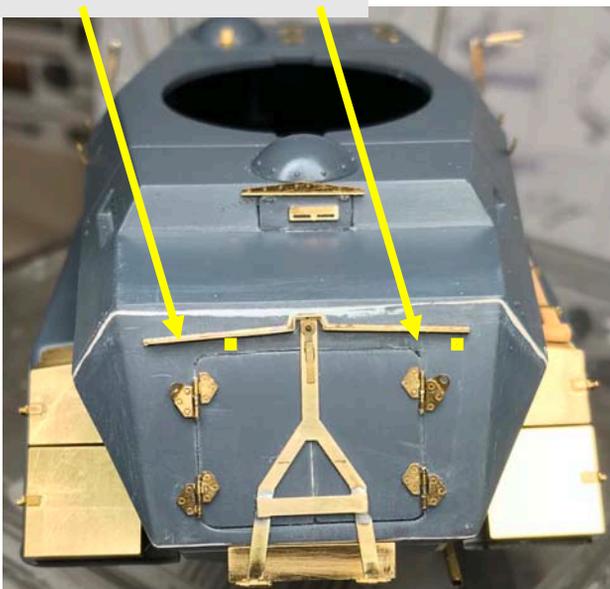
The 231 variant was armed with a 2 cm KwK 30 L/55 gun and an MG13 machine gun. It was produced from 1932 to 1937, being replaced with 8-rad armoured cars. These cars were used by Aufklärungs (reconnaissance) units in the invasion of Poland, the battle of France, and the invasion of the USSR.

The 232 variant, **represented by this build**, had the same armament, but also carried a Fu.Ger.11 SE 100 medium-range and a Fu.Spr.Ger.A short-range radio sets. It had a distinctive frame antenna over the hull with multiple patterns being in use. The base kit reproduces the most common one.

Mounting bracket for the spare wheel correctly reproduced in PE. No wheel cover / tarp was used in the build, as such covers were often missing in the field (which is also good for showing off the nice aftermarket part).

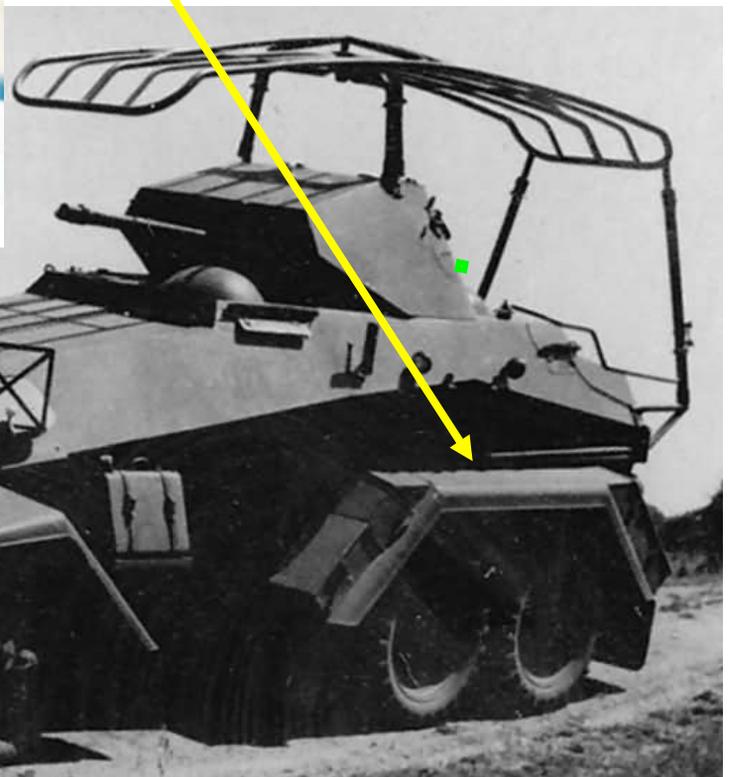
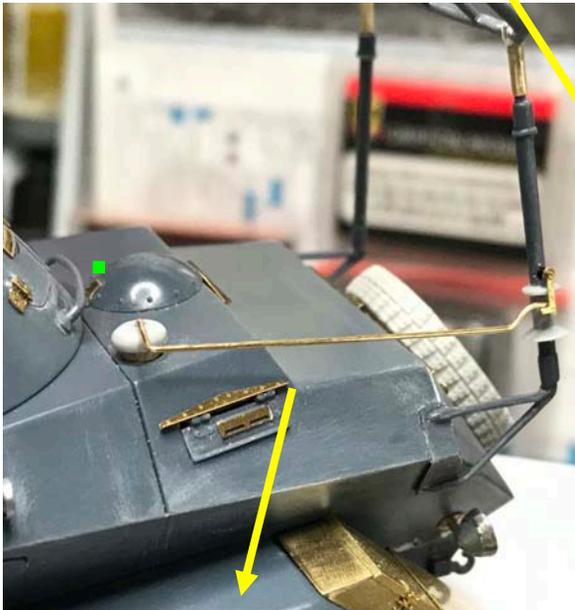
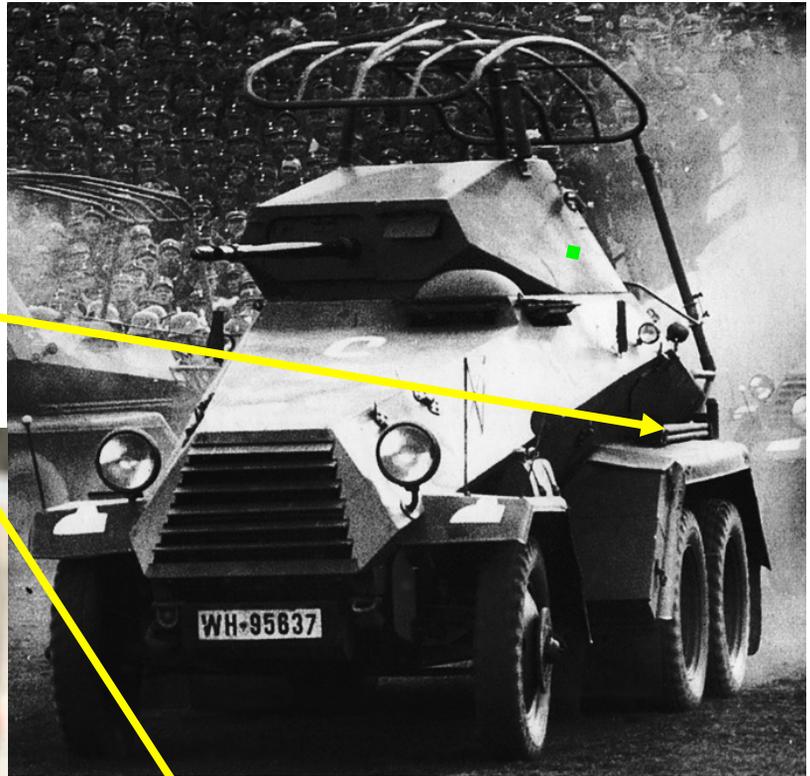


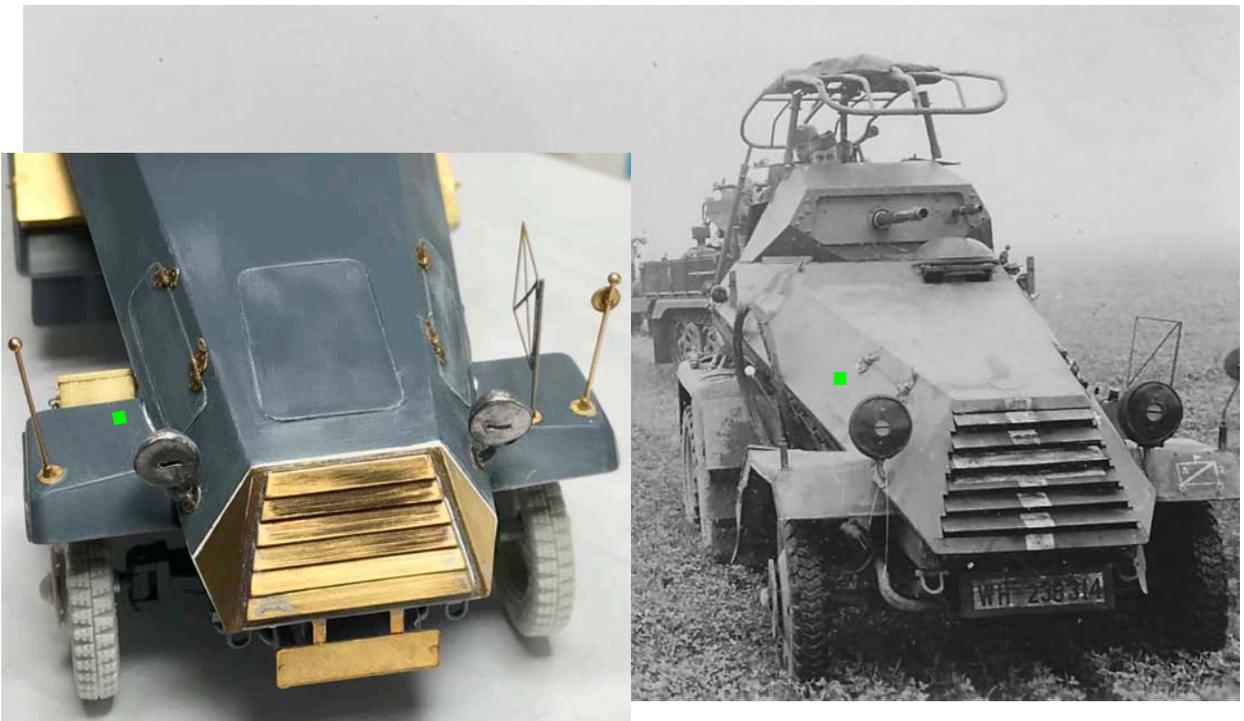
Offset hinges with lifting openings on the back doors.



The frame antenna was connected to the body of the car by a rigid conduit that is quite prominent in the period photos. Different bend styles could be seen. These parts, however, are missing from the kit and had to be scratch built.

Note also practically empty left fender shelf! Antenna extension rods (?) stowed there are not included with the kit. I covered that area with a tarp.



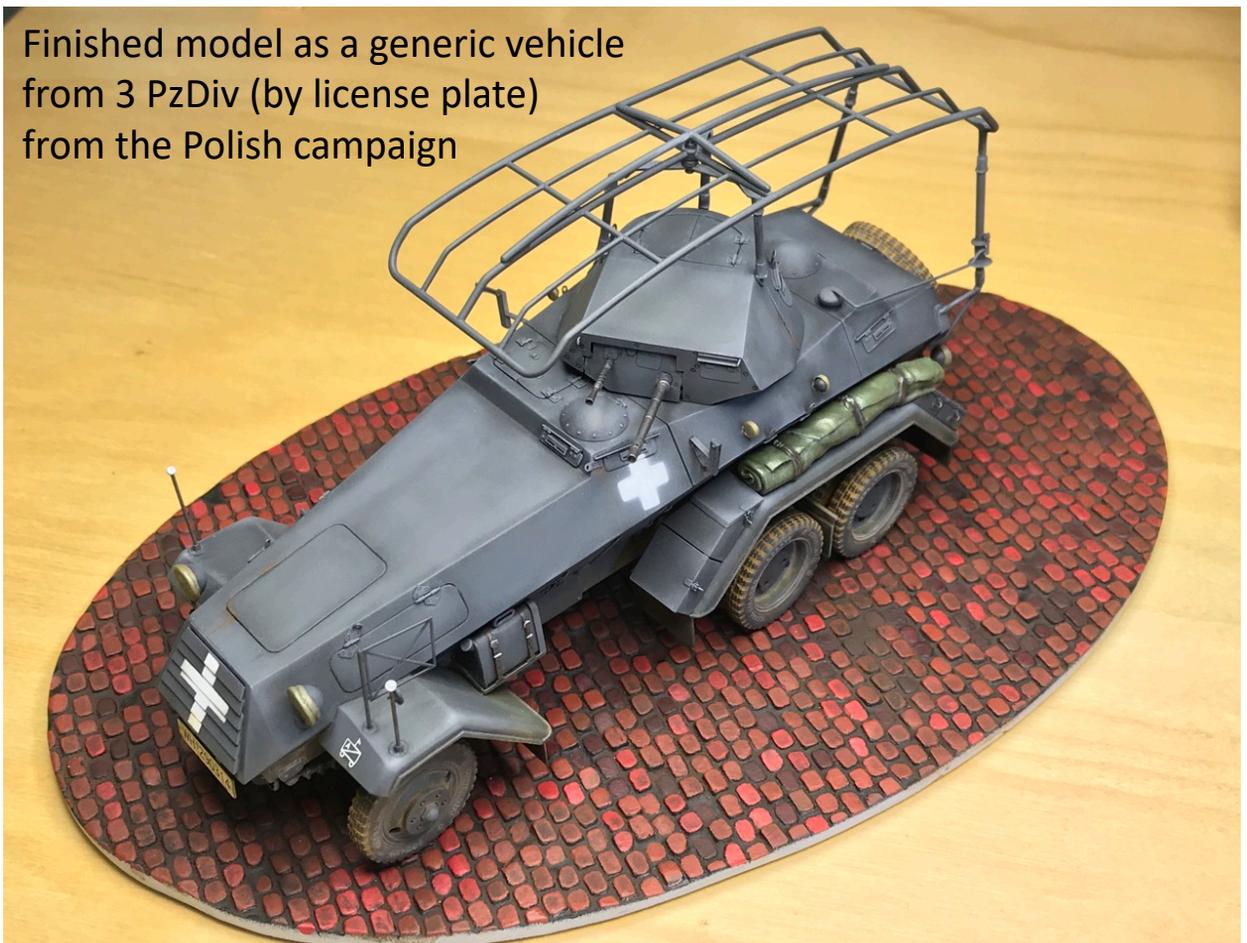


PE parts provide a good rendition of the front engine compartment area with adjustable louvres, typical for the variant utilizing the later production Bussing-NAG truck chassis. Note also the blackout covers on front lights – simulated on the kit with lead foil.

Finally note large solid white crosses on the engine compartment louvres and body sides – typical for the invasion of Poland and changed to *Balkenkreuz* in the following campaigns.



Finished model as a generic vehicle
from 3 PzDiv (by license plate)
from the Polish campaign



References:

- [1] H. Hoppe, *Panzerspahwagen Sd.Kfz. 231/232*, Tankograd Publishing – Wehrmacht Special #4010 (Erlangen, 2008).
- [2] M. Skotnicki, *Niemieckie Samochody Pancerne 1905-1945*, Pegaz-Bis (Warsaw, 2001).
- [3] T. L. Jentz and H L. Doyle, *Panzer Tracts 13 – Panzerspaehtwagen, Armored Cars Sd.Kfz. 3 to Sd.Kfz. 263*, Panzer Tracts Publications (Boyd's, MD, 2001).
- [4] W. Trojka and K. Munch, *Panzerspahwagen at War*, Trojka Publications (Katowice – Speyer, 2006).

TRACK LINKS

TANK AND AFV NEWS

NEWS FOR ALL THINGS RELATED TO TANKS AND ARMORED FIGHTING VEHICLES

ORIGINAL ARTICLES/CONTENT

MODERN VEHICLE NEWS

HISTORICAL VEHICLE NEWS

BOOK NEWS

AB

Patton versus the Panzers: An Interview with Steven Zaloga

 September 22, 2016 by [tankandafvnews](#)  6 Comments

*Two years ago we had a chance to interview author and historian Steven Zaloga. That interview became the **first feature of this website** when it launched in January of 2015. We recently had the chance to do a follow-up interview with Mr. Zaloga in late August, 2016. We were able to get his thoughts concerning his two latest hardcover books, *Patton Versus the Panzers: The Battle of Arracourt, September 1944* and *Armored Champion: The Top Tanks of World War II*, as well as a variety of other topics, including Soviet tank development, the 1940 Campaign in France and the tank book publishing business.*

Here is an older (2016) interview with Steve Zaloga. Its quite interesting and there are additional links within to some background. Long but REALLY interesting!

The actual "Tank & AFV News" may be defunct but still has plenty of info.

<https://tankandafvnews.com/2016/09/22/patton-versus-the-panzers-an-interview-with-steven-zaloga/>



TRACK LINKS

Big moves ahead on light tank, Bradley replacement and robot vehicles

By **Todd South**

Dec 27, 07:36 AM



The M10 Booker Combat Vehicle proudly displays its namesake on the gun tube during the Army Birthday Festival at the National Museum of the U.S. Army, June 10, 2023. (Bernardo Fuller/Army)

Heres a link to the forthcoming U.S.Army AFV's

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2023/12/27/big-moves-ahead-on-light-tank-bradley-replacement-and-robot-vehicles/>

January Meeting and *Christmas Party*

From Chuck

Here's the promised details for our January get together and fashionably late Christmas Bash.

Date / time - **January 13, starts promptly (or not so promptly...) at noon.**

Address - 102 Yale Court, Shorewood Illinois. Google maps or whatever nav system your ride has oughta get you here with no issues. Shorewood is roughly where I-55 and I-80 intersect, if ya get in the general area and manage to get lost call 815-351-2728 and I'll send up a couple of flares to help you vector in.

The plan - we'll start our meeting at noon, do the white elephant exchange, then eat, drink and be merry. Then, whoever wants to hang around to build is welcome to do so.

White Elephant Exchange - this year it's supposed to be a wrapped, new condition GOOD kit. The crappy kit exchanges had a lot more comedic value in my opinion, but oh well.....lol

Food / Drinks - we will provide sandwiches of some sort (beef, pulled pork, bbq chicken, whatever..) and some other stuff. I'd ask that just like we used to do, that everyone please bring a side dish or dessert. I'll have some beer and bottled water in coolers, and a couple bottles of booze on the bar for those so inclined. Feel free to bring whatever else you'd like to drink.

Build session - I can squeeze about six guys into the bunker at the tables there, we can set up more tables up in the upper basement as needed. Bring your tools, glues, etc., a cutting mat, and a portable light source if you have one. I have a handful of tabletop OTT lights for use, but those will likely go fast. If you forget something, I'm likely to have something you can borrow. We'll screen some old war movies, shoot the breeze and build until whenever....no time limit, I'll go as long as anyone wants to. These things always used to be a hell-uva lot of fun!

Depending on how many show up, I may not have enough folding chairs....so if you have one, it might not be a bad idea to throw one into your vehicle...

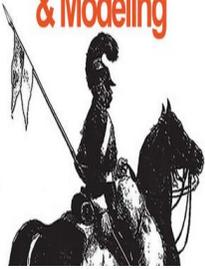
Sometime just after the New Year I'll be asking you all for an RSVP so I can figure out how much stuff to buy.

Happy New Year, and see you in January!

TRACK LINKS

small SUBJECTS

Big Ideas About Miniatures
& Modeling



Small Subjects is a podcast devoted to discussing big topics in the worlds of scale modeling, diorama-building, and sculpting and painting miniature figures, as well as presenting interviews with some of the top artists in the field, including every era, and ranging from historical to fantasy subjects.

<http://www.boxdioramas.com/smallsubjects>



Model Club

Don't forget about the **Zoom call reminiscence** up on the club web page in 3 parts for ease of viewing; <http://www.amps-chicago.org/PhotosMeetings.htm>

For a meeting by meeting description go here:

<http://www.amps-chicago.org/News.htm>

For a simple list of photos try this:

<http://www.amps-chicago.org/PhotosMeetings.htm>



December Show & Tell

Chuck Aleshire	1/35 Jagdtiger
Bob Kita	1/10 LRRP
Pat Higgans	110mm Polish Hussar
Lee Lygiros	1/35 Fahrpanzers—resin— injection molded.
Mike Knowski	1/35 Tamiya SDKFZ222 Armored car
Paul Larock	1/35 Sewer Diorama from Warriors
Scott Graupner	1/35 DML T34 1/35 Takom M60A3 w/Dozer blade

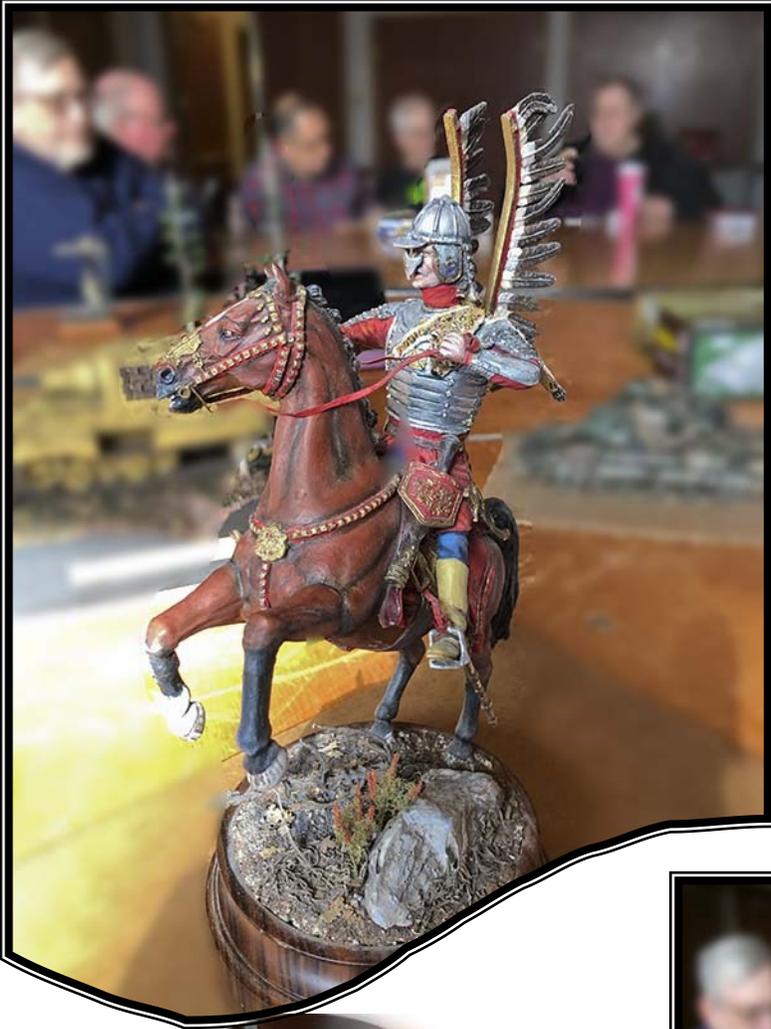
Chuck Aleshire



Bob Kita



Pat Higgins



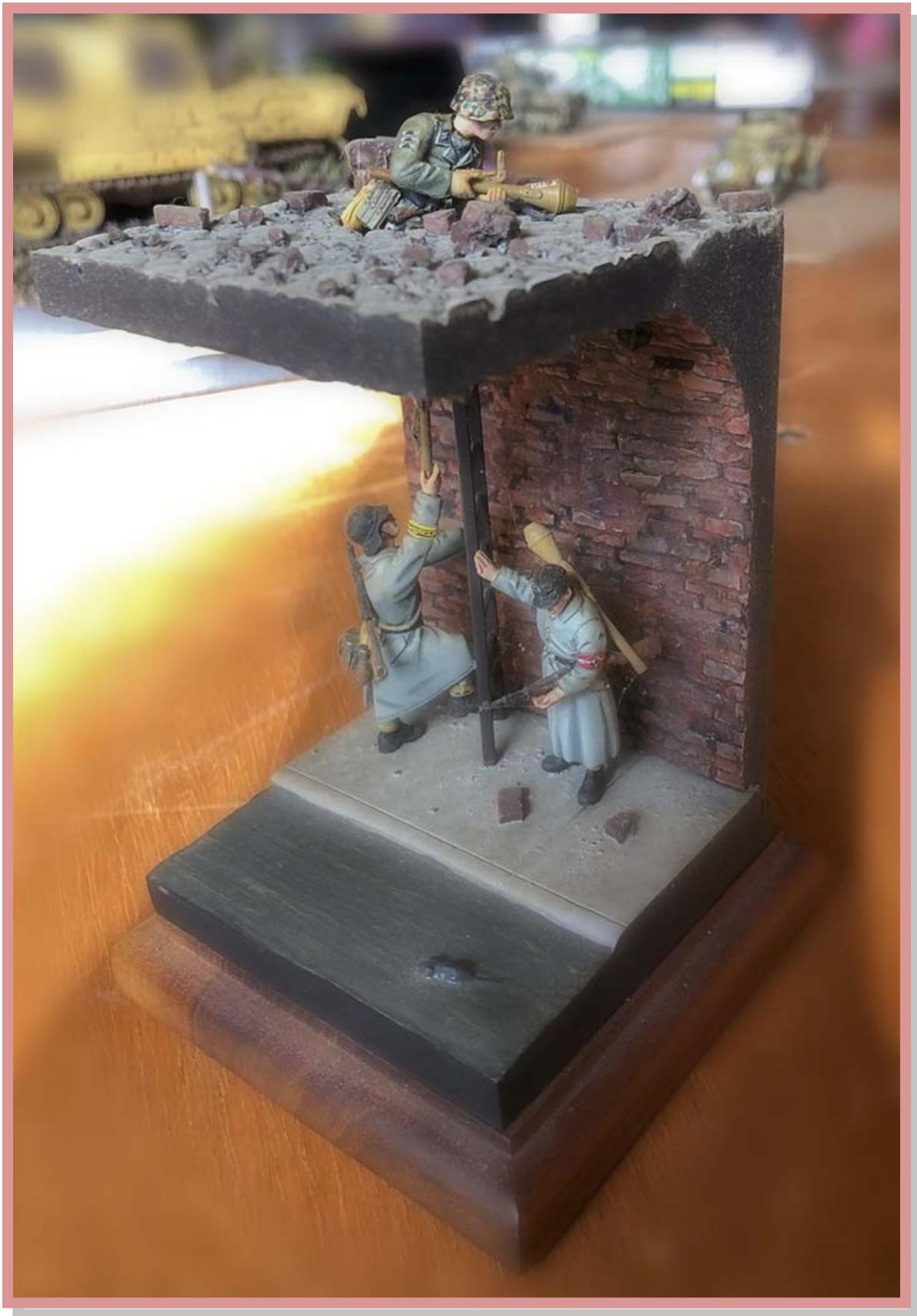
OOPs

Somehow ,we did not get pictures of Lee's model that he brought in; SO please watch out for pictures in the next newsletter!

Mike Knowski



Paul Larock





Scott Graupner





Scott Graupner

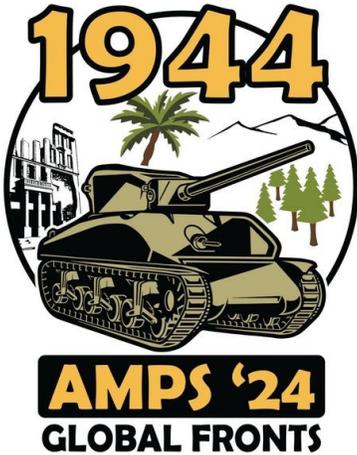


December Meeting





The Last Round



Volunteers needed for the 2024 AMPS Nationals Security Team

The job is easy. The time commitment: a short stint at the door (checking for wristbands) or where needed and a watchful eye as you go about your normal show business over the course of the weekend. Be my backup if I have any problems. Report to me if you spot any problems.

If you would like to volunteer, or have any questions about volunteering for security please email me at docon9780@sbcglobal.net .

From you I will need your **email, cellphone number** and the **dates** when you arrive and when you leave so the I can prepare a schedule.

I will also have an on-site sign up sheet in the registration area at the convention

Thank You



The Last Round



I stumbled upon this at the last minute.

[TANK HISTORIA](#)



📍 Germany, WWII

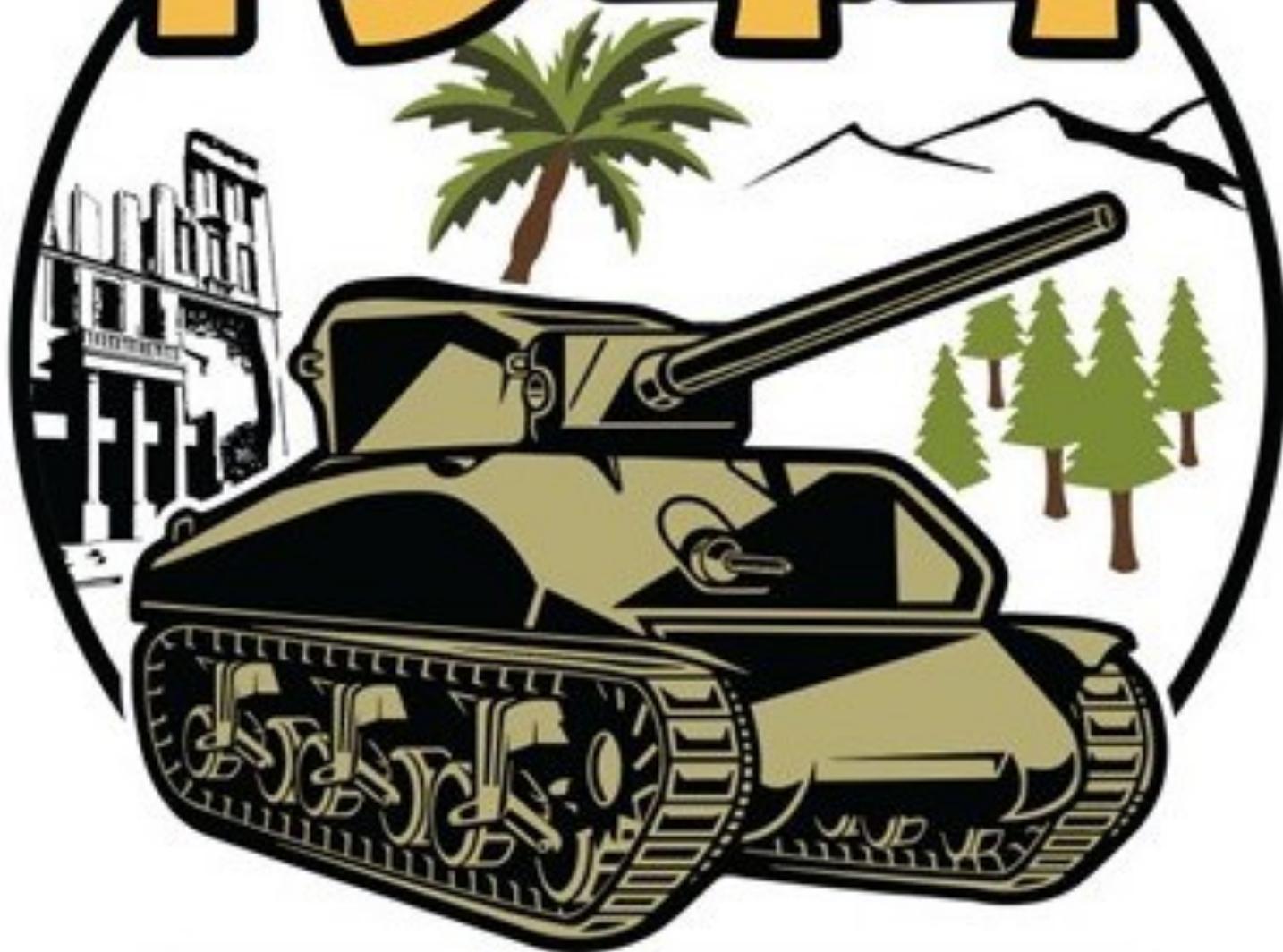
The Myth of German Technological Superiority

👤 Jesse B

📅 December 6, 2023

💬 No Comments

1944



AMPS '24
GLOBAL FRONTS

SOUTH BEND April 11–13



The Last Round



Everything you wanted to know about the 2024 IPMS/USA convention

A promotional banner for the 2024 IPMS/USA National Convention. The background is a night view of a city with a large dome, likely Madison, Wisconsin. On the left is a circular logo for the '2024 National Convention Madison, WI' featuring a 'Stuyfazers' jet, a 'Ford Mustang' car, and the text 'All American Red, White and Blue'. On the right is the IPMS/USA logo, a globe with 'INTERNATIONAL PLASTIC MODELERS' SOCIETY' and 'U.S.A.' text. In the center is a 'MAD CITY MODELERS' logo with a silhouette of the city skyline. At the bottom, a blue banner contains the text 'IPMS/USA National Convention Mission Brief July 17-20, 2024' and a small instruction: 'Click the images for the respective web pages.'

[https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?](https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH)

[fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH](https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH)
[XW_3piLfAup8-KqoFqJ1PdvWiFuipiCejSKlu689HYVSmsiEVvNg4WTVMo](https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH)

[https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?](https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH)

[fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH](https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH)
[XW_3piLfAup8-KqoFqJ1PdvWiFuipiCejSKlu689HYVSmsiEVvNg4WTVMo](https://myipmsusa.org/resources/IPMS2024-Madison_Mission-Brief-11-24-2023.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3C8Iam8Tj2trpApkk8sGWDV4AesNMqBK8fTZFPWfYvojU247SveMZ9Bnw_aem_ATeNGP7BH)

AMPS ChicagoLand

On September 8, 2007, 11 people met for the first time in Pat Keenan's living room, creating AMPS-Chicagoland. Since that day, AMPS Chicagoland has been an active chapter in the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society (AMPS) with members from Southern Wisconsin, throughout Illinois to Northwest Indiana. We specialize in all eras, scales and aspects of building military ground vehicle models.



These subjects include tracked vehicles, wheeled vehicles, artillery and figures. Our members consist of novice to master level, so all are welcome in our fun and inviting environment.

The AMPS – Chicagoland Chapter's philosophy is that having a good time and enjoying oneself while engaging in the military modeling hobby is of paramount importance. This means we do NOT take the hobby or ourselves too seriously and its members are expected to "play nice with others". There's just no drama.

For more information about AMPS Chicagoland, please visit our website at www.amps-chicago.org

JOIN AMPS TODAY

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____

ZIP CODE: _____ **COUNTRY:** _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

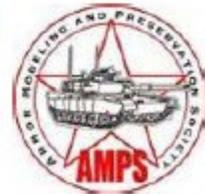
MEMBERSHIP TYPES	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Regular U.S.	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$55)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$80)
Regular Canada/Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$35)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$65)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$95)
Regular Rest of the World	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$40)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$75)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$110)
Junior (17 or under)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$30)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$45)
Family Member*	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$ 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> (\$15)

*For anyone living at the same address with a regular active member. Family member DOES NOT receive an individual copy of *Boresight* but enjoy vendor discounts, website access, and can enter in the national competition as long as he/she is accompanied by the regular active member.



IF PAYING BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES AND COMPLETED FORM TO:

AMPS
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All payments must be made in U.S. funds. AMPS accepts payments by check and money order, as well as PayPal. To join using PayPal, just visit the AMPS website:

www.amps-armor.org

THE END