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Reminders:

- If you are not on the list for new shirts and you want one, get your name on the list. Charlie has the list.
- We need to get rolling with the Fantasy of Flight trip plans, so bring your money!

Theme of the month:

- This month: Kursk
- Next month: Falaise Pocket

DEMONSTRATIONS

We have a great line up for demonstrations that will take us through the rest of the year. This is a great chance to hear, and especially see, the techniques used by many of our members to create their awesome work.

The demonstrations will begin after the raffle, so we will need to move from show and tell straight into the raffle to keep things moving along. Each session will be about 15 minutes and will be conducted off to one side of the meeting room. If you are interested in the subject, just mosey on over and check it out. If you are not interested in the session, just hang out and talk as usual. Please be courteous to the presenter and the audience of the session in progress and do not disrupt them while the demonstration is taking place.

The following is a list of the demonstrations that we have lined up so far. If there is something you would like to demonstrate let me

know so we can put it into the schedule.

Demonstration Schedule

July Robert Marquinez

Working with Acrylic paints (washes and dry brushing)

August Joe Bivona

Painting heads (faces) with artists oils.

September Ed Brutt

Machining parts (Unimat machine. Fun with power tools!)

October Robert Raver

Working with photo etch parts

November Charlie Hess

Working with decals

IPMS STUFF

The IPMS is conducting a survey to get information about how well members are satisfied with the organization. There are surveys for members and non-members. A copy of each is attached to this months news letter. If you have not already completed this survey, IPMS would like for you to complete it and mail it to the address that is listed on the survey.

It looks like they are

trying to get a handle on whether the membership of the IPMS is happy with the organization and are looking for ways to make it better for the members. It is also apparent that they are trying to find out why people in model clubs are either not members, or have not renewed their membership.

For those who are members of IPMS, there are some amendments that are up for a vote and

more votes are needed. Casting your vote on the IPMS web site is pretty painless. Casting your vote will let you have a voice in the organization and will also help out the IPMS by getting enough vote to make the amendment decisions.

You can cast your vote at www.ipmsusa.org or send in the ballot from the latest IPMS Journal.

IPMS needs your help

MAKE AND TAKE

We had a very successful Make and Take at Frank's on Saturday 6/28. We went through approximately 60 kits and sent many kids home with a cool new model and a big smile on their face. As usual, we all had fun and I would like to say thanks to all those club members who came out to help with the event.

There has also been a challenge put forward by one of the IPMS chapters to raise additional funds for the IPMS Make and Take program. They are asking for a \$10 donation from each of the clubs to help them reach their funding goals for the program. Not that \$10 is going to break the bank, but we will take a vote to see if the club wants to

pitch in and help. Check out the pictures from the Make and Take at Frank's that Robert Marquinez took. Kids of all ages hard at work having fun!

Fun for all.



Brad and Charlie at work (Larry supervises)



Slackers

Baumholder, Germany Home of the First Armored Division Museum

During the reduction of US forces in Germany in the mid 1990's, the 8th Infantry Division, which was housed entirely in the U. S. facilities at Baumholder was dis-established. Because of the large amount of base facilities in good condition, it was decided to keep the base open, but to relocate elements of the 1st Armored Division to Baumholder. 2nd Bde, 1st Armored is now the primary unit, including two BNS infantry and 1st BN, 35th Armor Regt. The division museum was also moved from its former location at Vilseck. I first visited the museum at Baumholder in June 1995, and due to the proximity to my home, I have been back many, many times.

The museum is now housed in and around an old barracks building, built in late 1930's, which gives the museum an authentic "old" feeling. The construction and age of the building provides a sense of appropriateness for

DAVE'S MUSEUM REVIEW

a museum. Inside the building is a 1/285th model of the Fulda gap, depicting mostly US armored units that would have been sacrificed to slow down a Soviet armored advance. The museum director stages 1/76 scale wargames here, with the second floor housing a large gaming table and his large collection of mostly 1/76 gaming vehicles. But the real museum is outside.

The vehicle collection includes many US units, some German guns, and Soviet produced pieces captured from Iraqi forces. Most pieces are in excellent condition, except for the war-torn Iraqi tanks. Most are maintained in accurate original colors except the Iraqi pieces which are in the condition they were captured in.

First up is a M-10 Wolverine, followed by M-5 Stuart, M-24 Chaffee, M-4A4 76mm Sherman, M-8 Greyhound, M-2

scout car, M-3 halftrack with 75mm howitzer, M-4 A3 Sherman, M-7 Priest, M-32 recovery vehicle, M-41 walker Bulldog, and M-26 Pershing! All of these are in excellent condition.

A row of German guns includes an 88mm (what respectable museum would be without one?), 37mm Pak, 105mm Fh18 (standard German 105) 105mm howitzer (pre-WWI), 37mm flak, 20mm flak 38, SiG 33 150mm howitzer and a couple other guns that I did not photograph.

Several Russian produced items, all captured from the Iraqis: T-72, T-62, T-55, ZSU-23/4, 2S1 122mm medium artillery, 2S3 152mm heavy artillery, BMP-1 APC, MTLB APC, ACRV HQ vehicle, BTR-70 APC, ZU-23.

For contributions to the newsletter, questions, or comments, contact Robert Raver

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Other items on display around the base include a M-47 Patton, M-42 Duster, M-16 with quad .50 cal, M-24 Chaffee, 155mm Long tom gun. Of note, another M-24 was configured with a yellow flashing light on top of the turret...this vehicle acts as a convoy guard when elements of the 35th Armored Regt are on the move.

While not on display, the museum also has a good number of vehicles in various stages of rebuild. The list includes M-4, 4 M-3s, M-2, M-7, M-32, M-47, M-60, M-88, 203mm gun, 2S3, MTLB and some others. The workshop is in buildings constructed in the mid 1930's and housed German panzer and artillery units. Neat bit of history.

The most interesting items to me were a Sdkfz 251/1 ausf C, and a Hetzer G-13. Both painted in accurate 3-colour camouflage. An interesting point was the open infantry compartment of the 251 was sealed with a 1/2 inch metal top.

At first, I thought this was simply a means to preserved the interior from the elements. Upon discussion with the museum director, I learned this vehicle is actually a Czech-built OTR-810, produced by Skoda after the war and used by the Czech forces for many years. In fact, many of the "Sdkfz 251s" in museum and private collections are actually OTR-810s. The Hetzer which also served in the Czech forces, is a Hetzer G-13, one of about 200 produced by Skoda for several armies after the war. (The Hetzer G-13 is found in many museums)

One final thing: the museum director owns a 1.5 ton Opel truck that he is trying to configure as a radio vehicle (Sdkfz 17) (1998, I wonder if he has completed it yet).

OK, one final point of interest. When I was at Baumholder in 1997, I noticed in the rail marshalling yard a flatcar with a tank on it. It was a T-34/85, formerly of the Bosnian Serb army, recently acquired by the 1st Armored while on peace keeping du-

ties in Bosnia. Several, perhaps up to 100 tanks, T-34s, M-4 Shermans, M-18 Hellcats and M-36 Jacksons were acquired or purchased from the Serb, Croat and Muslim forces after the conflict ended. This caused some consternation with U.S. officials as the U.S built tanks were provided to the Yugoslavian gov't free of charge in the 1950's and 1960's, but were now being sold for profit by the organizations holding them. It was an interesting controversy! More on formerly Bosnian tanks in later issues.

Due to the current security situation, access to the museum and base is limited, but special arrangements can be made in advance.