

Pelikan Model Club

www.percongrp.com/pelikan.htm



JUNE 2005

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Reminders:

- IPMS Nationals Atlanta
July 20 –23
www.ipmsusa2005.org
- Pensacola West Florida Model Expo Saturday June 25th
- Jax-Con 2005 October 8th & 9th

MEMORIAL DAY

First of all, let me apologize for the May issue. After the Orlando show, I was in a hurry to get that issue out and, although the humor was well received, putting it out twice was not my intention. I hope this issue will be much more interesting. I am sending this issue out early and will not be able to attend the June meeting, so you guys will have to go on without me. Hey - no cheering! Don't worry, as far as I know Robert is still bringing the doughnuts.

Since I am wrapping this issue up on Memorial Day, I wanted to put in my two cents on the subject. The vast majority of scale model builders are interested in military subjects. In our quest to recreate miniatures of military subjects, we are inevitably preserving history and the memory of those brave men and women who have severed. As we all know, some among us know first hand, there is nothing glamorous about war and conflict, but the more people understand, realize, and reflect, the better chance we have of not repeating it. I know some of us, especially me, get very wrapped up in the effort to construct that perfect model (which never really happens). It takes a good amount of imagination to be a scale model builder and once we put that imagination to work thinking about the environment in which our subject existed/exists, we are remembering those who served. I know we all hope that people who look at our work will also ponder the history behind it and perhaps even learn something from it. That being said, I hope this Memorial Day weekend will find all of you at your bench, if only for a short period of time, working on a model, reflecting on the subject, and having fun.

For the Sci-Fi builders, go see Star Wars, if you have not already. It is very cool. For the car builders, it is a great racing weekend. I hope you find a comfortable spot on the couch to watch and enjoy.

See you all in July.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

FROM ROBERT RAVER



Since I am working on this issue over the memorial day weekend, I thought it fitting to pay tribute to our service men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom. The following are some interesting facts about the guards who are on duty at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. My step mom sent this to me a while back and I thought it was truly fascinating. I had no idea what the level of commitment was for a Tomb guard. I think this is exemplary of the fact that our fallen soldiers will never be forgotten, even if they remain unidentified.

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why?

21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

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TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER CONTINUED

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30." Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are ! and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis {the boxer} and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

SS AMERICAN VICTORY

FROM DAVE FENWICK

SS American Victory 2nd Re-christening Cruise

On Saturday, April 16th, I had the opportunity to take a cruise in Tampa Bay with my father on the *SS American Victory*. The WW II era cargo ship has been undergoing restoration in Tampa since 1999. It has been out a few test cruises and took its first true voyage last year. I am very glad I had the chance to join 550 other paying passengers, 50 WW II re-enactors and about 100 crew on its 2nd venture to sea.



The history of the *SS American Victory* is a long and storied one, despite the fact that she spent much of her life in mothballs. She was involved in World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars, being one of the first ships in Tokyo Bay after the Japanese surrender. Immediately following World War II, the *SS American Victory* carried foodstuffs, vehicles and manufacturing machinery to the war torn countries of Europe and Near East, under the auspices of the Marshall Plan. The *SS American Victory*, as her name implies, was one of 534 Victory ships built between mid-1944 and mid-1946 to replace the venerable Liberty class of merchant vessel, the main difference being steam turbine engines replacing reciprocating engines. (*history from their website*)

The cruise started at 9:00 with the assistance of two tugs, the ship coming under its own steam upon leaving the Seodon channel. We pass Peter O'Knight airport, Macdill AFB and down the middle of Tampa Bay to the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. During this period, a WW II era "swing" band entertained the crowd with music and dance. A group of WW II re-enactors demonstrated their weapons, including a M-1 rifle, M-1 Carbine, Thompson 45 sub-machine gun, and its cheaper cousin, the "Grease Gun" (which cost about \$1.45 to make). Blank ammo was used as the FAA tends to frown when live rounds are fired into the sky.

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SS AMERICAN VICTORY CONTINUED

The ship passed under the bridge, did a right hand turn to reverse course (took about 30 minutes to turn) then back under the bridge. Back on the bay side, we came under attack by a low-flying aircraft. It caught everybody by surprise (1 hour early due to airspace problems) but I just happened to be looking across the ship as it passed the deck line. The re-enactors were also caught by surprise, they didn't have their weapons manned, but after a few passes they opened up with their small arms, a 30-cal on the deck and a 50.cal mounted on a jeep. Hmmm, a soldier with a Red Cross helmet was manning the 50 cal. I'm not sure what kind of plane it was, some sport kit plane painted up in "Luftwaffe" colors. It flew out of Perter O'knight.

Chow time...the biggest drawback of the trip. Even though the chow crew fixed a couple hundred box lunches ahead of time, the wait after those were gone was 45-60 minutes. They gotta work on that part. Food was okay though, BBQ ribs and chicken.

Back into the port to dock, passed 4 ships in the channel, pretty neat watching the port activity and the tug activity as we neared the pier. We disembarked approx 3:00PM.

Those of us interested in WW II sometimes feel detached from it as compared to European modelers as we don't have the opportunity to visit many WW II sites here in the U.S., but, we have here right in our own backyard a true gem, a combination of a "battlefield" and a museum. I recommend to our club members that you take this opportunity, that is, if you can spare \$100.00 from your kit purchase funds. For 7 hours worth of entertainment, it was worth it.

<http://www.americanvictory.org/>

SCALE MODLER TAN

FROM MIKE HANSON

It's Summertime and I think we all know what that means for scale model builders here in Florida. Stay in the AC and work on a model - it's freak'n hot out there!



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

Email: rraver@tampabay.rr.com

SOME INTERESTING THINGS ON THE INTERNET

Gil Hodges sent along a link listing hobby shops in FL. Most of the shops I know about are listed, however, House of Hobbies is absent. It is still a great reference. The link is

<http://www.onerateads.com/rc51-fl.htm>

Hank Kramer sent a link to a story about Iwo Jima that is quite interesting. Hank explains:

Cut and paste this link into your Internet Explorer Address box:

<http://www.goodolddogs.com>

When the website comes up, go down the page about half-way, and there will be a list of titles you can click on to visit the respective web pages. Go to the third one down (Who Raised The Flag On Iwo Jima) and click on it. It is a fascinating story, liberally illustrated with photographs taken during the battle and actual flag raising. It's not the story you probably think that it is. It's very different from what you may have heard.

PELIKAN DROPPINGS

FOR SALE

Nothing new this month. If you have something you wish to sell, send me an e-mail and I will get it into the newsletter.