



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Shirts	2
Cool Stuff	2
Book Review	3
Imperial War Museum	4

Reminders:

- Holiday Dinner funds due this meeting!
- Pelikan Master contest and John Crown Spirit Award vote are next month
- Bring your money for shirts so we can place the order

Theme of the month:

- This month: Stalingrad

Demonstrations

- Decals with Charlie Hess

A LIGHT NEWSLETTER WITH A SLIGHT CHANGE

You will notice a bit of a change in the format of the newsletter. Instead of the usual magazine type format with several columns of text for each article, I am trying out a suggestion that Charlie gave me and just putting the text one single column. This should make the newsletter easier to read. It also makes it easier for me to paste content into from other documents. As always, let me know if you have any suggestions for the making the news letter better.

This newsletter is also a bit on the light side, as I have been in Chicago for the last two weeks. Thanks to Dave, we have some interesting stuff and I have a museum review. My review is no where near as thorough as Dave's but if you find yourself in Chicago and have not been to the Science and Industry museum there, you should check it out. They have a Boeing 727 suspended from a balcony that you can go through and they even lower and retract the landing gear simulating a take off and landing. There are also several other aircraft suspended from the ceiling including a Spitfire and a JU 87 Stuka dive bomber. My favorite exhibit was the U505 German U boat. You get to walk through the main parts of the boat and get a feeling for the how cramped and uncomfortable it must have been for the crew. You get that feeling in about five minuets. The crew stayed on board for as much as 90 days. How they ever got volunteers to crew these boats is a mystery to me, but the crews were all volunteers. Some good news about this exhibit is that they are building a new addition to the museum and are going to bring the U505 inside and fix all the wear and tear it has suffered from sitting outside since the 1950s. This is truly good news. A great piece of history will be preserved for a long time to come. If you get the chance, the museum is certainly worth going to.

SHIRTS

We have had several discussions about the new shirts, but now that we have got it straight, I wanted to give you all a run down on what the options are and what they cost. The shirts are a 50/50 blend red pocketed golf shirt with the club logo silk screened on the back and the club name silk screened on the front. The options and the pricing is as follows:

\$19.79 (S-XL)

\$21.85 (XXL)

\$22.62 (XXXL)

Add \$4.00 for embroidered name

Plus 7% sales tax.

All the folks who signed up for shirts should bring in their money so we can get the order ready and get our new shirts!

THE LIST OF COOL STUFF

Dave Fenwick has a cool idea - let's help him make the list of cool stuff to see in Florida.

If you are like me, I have always been interested in seeing aircraft, tanks, etc donated and mounted in places like public parks, VFW halls, airports etc., like the M-60 that I reported last month in Lake Panasoffkee. These are commonly called "gate guards". I would like to create a list of these in central and west Florida, but I need a little help. Would you guys please send me a quick e-mail note, listing what you have seen, where and any other details that you want? I will compile the list, publish it in our newsletter, and update it as info comes in.

Thanks,

Dave

BOOK REVIEW - PANZERS AND THE BATTLE OF NORMANDY

BY DAVE FENWICK

While visiting the D-Day Museum in New Orleans, I purchased a new book titled "Panzers and the Battle of Normandy". I hesitated a little bit at the cost of \$40.00, but I have been thoroughly pleased. The book, written by Geroges Bernage, covers specifically the panzer action and some Allied tank action in Normandy from 6 June to 25 July. I consider this book to be the most detailed I have found.

The book covers the action day by day, starting on 6 June with the limited action by the 100 Pzbt equipped with French-made tanks against the U.S. paratroopers that dropped near Carenten. This reporting states that the panzers were limited to only one action. I'm not so sure about this as I thought there were at least a few occasions where the 100th tried to engage the paratroopers with their R-39's and H-39s.

It includes a very interesting detailed report on actions of the 21st Pz Division as it made a push toward the coast. This book provides the most prolific detail of that action that I have read. In addition, it covers the equipping of the 21st Pz Division prior to the invasion, a subject that has been much debated. Most previous reporting states the 21st had one battalion equipped with early model Pzkw IVs and French made tanks. While that is true, according to Bruges, a shipment of 79 long-barrel Mk IVs arrived at the division on 5 June. Apparently, the 21st did go into action as a fully equipped panzer division, but not adequately trained on the new equipment.

The book is very well illustrated with many photos that specifically go along with the text. For instance, instead of just showing a knocked out tank, the captions go to great extents in describing exactly where and when the tank was knocked out. This provides the reader with a visual record of what is described in the text. Excellently done! Further illustrations include color drawings of tanks used and current photographs of significant locations as well as prolific use of maps. Most every action described has a map to allow the reader to specifically locate the action.

This is truly the book on panzers in Normandy that I have been looking for. If you are very interested in panzer action in Normandy, this is the book for you.

DAVE'S MUSEAM REVIEW
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEAM

The Imperial War Museum complex at RAF Duxford is so, well, complex that I will devide this into six(6) seperate reports, over the next couple of years.

Starting off, because its the smallest portion and simplest to differentiate, is the American Air Museum. A single, simple arch structure of considerable size with glass front houses the museum. This was completed and dedicated to members of the 8th Air Force in the mid 1990's.

B-29 Superfortress
T-33 Shooting Star
U-2C
B-25J (US NAVY)
F-100 Super Sabre
F-4J Phantom II
TBM-1 Avenger
B-17G Flying Fortress (Mary Alice)
C-47 Dakota
F-111E
SPAD 13 (replica)
P-51D (replica)
AT-6D Texan
F-6F Hellcat
Northrop Alpha
Ford Trimotor
Pitcad Mailwind
P-40 Warhawk
P-47 Thunderbolt
PT-17 Stearman
A-10 Thunderbolt II
UH-1D Huey
B-52D Stratofortress, one of only two on display outside of the U.S.
Anyone know where the other is? If not, you'll find out in a future report.

Vehicles:

Dodge M-718 MUTT (ambulance)
Ford T-214-WC54 (ambulance)
Dodge Wrecker truck
SA-2/GUIDLINE SAM

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM CONTINUED

Pieces of the Iraqi 1,000mm "Super Gun" under construction in the late 1980's, pieces being produced by a Scottish company, siezed by British authorities in 1990.

Update from Duxford web page:
The SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, the only one of its kind on display outside of the United States and the B-24 Liberator, a World War Two bomber which has been restored by Duxford's conservation staff over the past two years are now displayed.

Much thanx to the American Air Museum web page for helping me identify a couple of older planes. The site identifies the complete display, something I wish more museums would do.

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/duxford/american/usindex.htm>

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