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Reminders:

- Submit ideas for Theme of the Month
- Model Fest 2004 March 27 and 28 in Titusville
- Macdill Air Show April 3 and 4

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

There is a lot of stuff going on, which is usually the case with our club. Everyone should be able to do something fun to do or get involved with. Lets get right into it...

Model Fest 2004 is just around the corner. It will be a local show in Titusville on March 27 and 28. These guys put on a nice show, but they are going to need support from the Pelikans. What comes around goes around, so if you go, please consider helping out and judging at the Titusville show. We are going to need their help in October, so this is an opportunity for us to show our good will.

Speaking of October, we are going to start getting folks together for the show committee. If you want to help out with our show in October, get your name on the list. We will put together a list at the meeting and start working on a schedule of things we have to get done and figuring out who is doing which tasks.

The Macdill air show is April 3rd and 4th. With a lot of help from George Hecht, we are trying to get into the show with our usual display. George will give us an update at the meeting. We will need volunteers and the process will be much different this time due to the additional security that will be in place at Macdill. We will make a list of the folks who are interested in participating. Our club has made it a tradition to display at Macdill, so if we get to do it again this year, lets give the people a great display!

UNEXPECTED GENEROSITY

A gentleman up in palm harbor contacted me saying he had some models he wanted to get rid of for the taking. I was very skeptical as you now things are not always as they seem. In talking to him further he stated he had a couple of hundred models to dispose of they were going to Good Will or such if he could not get somebody to take them. He said his wife will be pleased as she wanted him to get rid of them. I had expected partial built and completely build models of dusty junk.

I went up to his place and in the driveway he had many boxes moth eaten and in bad shape, ouch, I figured I would be making a trip to a local dumpster. I filled my truck to bursting and I still had to put boxes on the roof rack. To make a long story even longer the club will be pleased to know it has in my estimate between 150 and 200 models. 4 big boxes of kits still in the sink wrap and 6 boxes of opened kits. a vast majority in good shape. We have raffle items until 2010. The gentleman was very nice and an old IPMS member back 30 years ago. He is out of the modeling due to age and eye sight and can no longer build or store these models.

Kits are aircraft jets and props, some ships, and some old armor. Scales are 1/144 1/72 and 1/48 and a few 1/32 Airfix, Monogram, Revell, IMC, Hasagawa and many others. Most are 1960 to 1970 era kits and some much older and some newer. I tried to sort them here at the house into opened and unopened boxes and got rid of some of the moth eaten boxes just to be able to transport them to my rental shed.

Ed Brut

Wow! This is great news for the club. We should have raffle material for some time to come. This will help us generate even more money with the raffle that we can use for getting some really nice raffle stuff. We can also put some of the proceeds back into the club for things like our up coming show. A thank you card is being sent from the club to the very generous gentleman who donated the models. He may even visit us at some point, if he is able. A huge thanks goes to Ed Brut for his time and effort in securing these kits for the club.

BURIED IRAQI FIGHTER JETS

BY DAVE FENWICK



So, there's no buried WMD found in Iraq. But the Iraqis did bury a lot of stuff, including old aircraft that were no longer operational. Normally, when an aircraft is no longer capable of flying, it is just left in a non-operational area and forgotten...or, its placed around the airfield to be used as a decoy target. This summer, US forces uncovered 30 jet aircraft, mostly Su-25/FROGFOOT ground attack aircraft(probably non-operational) and at least one MiG-25R/FOXBAT B reconnaissance aircraft which is clearly non-operational... and I don't think this jet has flown since fall 1990(when I was tracking and reporting on it). The question is, why did the Iraqi Air Force go to such lengths to bury a clearly non-operational aircraft? Even before the burying, there was absolutely no chance of ever making this aircraft flyable, so why bother?

So what is my theory?

How did you know I have a theory?

OK, here we go

10. Keeps Iraqis in shoveling practice for when the great snowstorm hits
9. The top of the sand had faded due to sunlight and the wanted a different color and texture for Al Taqqadum airbase
8. Most of the desert is level and there is just a little rise in this area, so to be consistent, they had to squash the rise
7. Mass graves...the bodies are hidden inside the fuselages
6. Osama is living in one of the aircraft engine bays
5. Saddam is in the other engine bay, they communicate by tapping. Seems this generation of arabs leaders believe they should be buried in modern day weapons, similar to the pharaohs of ancient Egypt in the pyramids.
4. They misunderstood the orders...the orders were to bury palms, not planes
3. It was part of the plan to hide the entire airfield, hoping the US Army boys would just drive right on by.
2. ??????????????????????????????

Continued on page 4.

BURIED IRAQI FIGHTER JETS CONTINUED

And the number one theory is...they are trying to conceal some other type of concealment activity nearby...but I've not heard of any other activity, and since the planes were uncovered in summer, I would think we should have found/noticed some other concealment activity in that area, so based on the timeframe, that shoots down my theory.

Here's quote from Rumsfeld press conference American forces have found Russian fighter jets buried in the Iraqi desert, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in an 05 August 2003 press briefing. "We'd heard a great many things had been buried, but we had not known where they were, and we'd been operating in that immediate vicinity for weeks and weeks and weeks ... 12, 13 weeks, and didn't know they were (there)," Rumsfeld said. The secretary said he wasn't sure how many such aircraft had been found, but noted, "It wasn't one or two." He said it's a "classic example" of the challenges the Iraqi Survey Group is facing in finding weapons of mass destruction in the country. "Something as big as an airplane that's within ... a stone's throw of where you're functioning, and you don't know it's there because you don't run around digging into everything on a discovery process," Rumsfeld explained. "So until you find somebody who tells you where to look, or until nature clears some sand away and exposes something over time, we're simply not going to know. "But, as we all know," he added, "the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." Search teams found several MiG-25s and Su-25 ground attack jets buried at al-Taqqadum airfield west of Baghdad.

The attached imagery shows aircraft dispersal areas around the base. This is where the burial activity has probably taken place. The shot is an overview of the airfield and the surrounding area.

Now, if I was still in the business and had some new imagery of Al Taqqadum airbase, say mid-April, I would have thoroughly scanned the entire airfield area for changes from my last imagery. I believe it would have clearly shown that some kind of soil movement/burial activity took place, and that 25-30 airplanes were MISSING! Rumsfeld says we didn't know burial activity took place, but I guarantee you, that if I was still in the business of looking at all airfields every day, I would have noticed it. Seems to me somebody in the intell business failed...oh my gosh..is this another failure of intelligence? And what about the guys on the ground...didn't they look around the airfield? No, they are army guys, they wouldn't have known...but some US source should have clued them in, not sit around waiting for an Iraqi to tell them what is there. 25-30 airplanes, on an airfield, even buried is a large area. Maybe this shows a lack of experienced imagery analysts and air intelligence analysts

Since the imagery that I have available in from Feb 2002, I can't confirm where these planes are buried. My first thought is, perhaps they are not even at the airfield...but I cancel that theory by thinking they are not gonna tow 30 airplanes away from the airfield to simply be buried when there is plenty of room on the airfield itself. Then, when I relook at the photos that I sent yesterday, I clearly see the airfield fence, and a guard post, confirming that the site is on the airfield, and the image is looking to the southeast.

Oh well

DAVE'S MUSEAM REVIEW
KOBLENZ MUSEAM

Over the next several months, we are going to tour the military museums of northwestern Europe. Many museums, both large and small are just up to four hour's drive away from my home at Ramstein. Additionally, when I would take off to a museum, I would plan my route to cover a battlefield area, such as Elsenborn Ridge, Malmedy, Remagen etc. Today, we'll start with the Bundeswehr Technik Schule Museum in Koblenz, Germany. This was only the second museum that I visited. Unfortunately, I didn't have a lot of film with me so I didn't get to photograph everything (learning lesson).

The main hall is full of tanks, trucks, helicopters, jets, cannons and even a small submarine was there! The first thing you see in the hall is a T-54 tank which is cut in two parts (from the front to the end). The two parts are about one meter apart so that you can walk through the tank. The sad thing is that this hall is so full with vehicles and other stuff that they don't have enough room to present the vehicles in a good way.

Pzkw III ausf J	150mm nebelwerfer
Pzkw V Panther	150mm gun
Stug III ausf G	88mm flak 36
Pzkw 730(f) (French FT-17)	400mm searchlight
RSO cargo tractor	Stoer 40 Kfz 4 car
Marder I (47mm on pkzw 1 chassis)	Krupp kfz69 light truck
Sdkzf 232/1 armored car	Sdkfz 10
Wespe 105mm howitzer	Opel Blitz 3000 truck
Armoured Sdkfz 7/1 20mm quad flakvierling (way cool)	Galoushkanonne (stove)
20mm flak 30	Kfz 2 Kubelwagen
20mm Flak 38	Kfz 2 Schwimmwagen
20mm quad flakvierling	Zwie Goliath
Zwilling twin MG34	Lots of motorcycles
Ratkenpush 28mm tapered bore gun	T-72
105mm howitzer	T-34/85
British 25 pounder howitzer	MiG-21/FISHBED
75mm Pak 40	MiG-23/FLOGGER
88mm Pak 43	Small mini-sub
M-3 Stuart	

The most interesting item was a very large gun, perhaps 280mm, mounted on a wheeled, towed platform. I have no idea what this is. I have never run across a gun of this type in my studies of WW II German equipment. Perhaps it is a post-war, 1960's development. If anybody has a really good book on German artillery, please bring it to the next meeting. Maybe we can track this down.

On the way to Koblenz, I visited the now famous town of Remagen. Of course all that's left of the bridge is the supporting columns on wither end. But it was cool just being there! Just today I found out there is a small museum nearby. I wonder if it was there when I visited in 1996?

THE NAVY

FROM ED BRUT (FORWADED BY LARRY WILLIAMS)

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (fresh water distillers). However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each. By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, and though unarmed, she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home. The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, NO rum, NO wine, NO whiskey and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

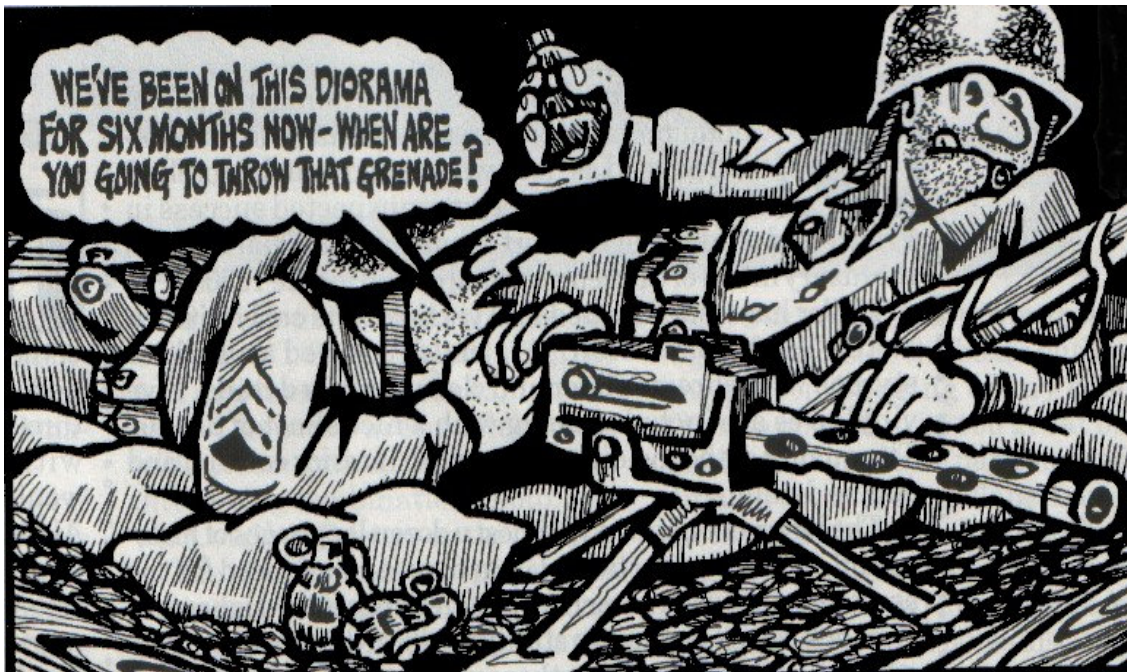
GO NAVY!

Now these guys knew how to drink!

Marines are wimps.

FOR THE ARMOR GUYS

FROM MIKE STANLEY



NAME THAT PLANE

FROM HANK KRAMER



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

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No ID with this, but my initial guess is that it's an F-4F (which is a major German Air Force avionics upgrade to their F-4Es) and it's probably from Jagdgeschwader 2 (JG2), the "Boelcke" Wing of the German Air Force. (Oswald Boelcke was the "Father" of the German Air Force who produced the first effective tactics for the use by fighter groups in WWI. He was killed in a mid-air collision with another German pilot in October 1916.) I suspect that JG2 was founded in 1914, and this paint scheme was probably a special one to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the founding of that group. Note the stylized "2" on the fuselage plus the black crosses way back on the fuselage.

FROM THE EDITOR

ROBERT RAVER

I want to thank everyone for all the great content folks are sending me. I have more than I can fit, so if you don't see something that was sent my way, look for it in future editions. I get a lot of great pictures from people, many of which never make it into the newsletter. This is because it makes the file size too large and adds pages to the newsletter. I try to keep it sort of short. I don't want to Spam anyone, so I have not forwarded the content I can not fit into the newsletter on to the club members via e-mail. My question to all of you is, would you like me to forward the content I can not fit to you or would it be better to produce a short list of stuff I can't fit in with the name of the contributor? If I list it, you could contact the person who has it and have them send it. I am open to any suggestions, so let me know what you think.