

# BIOHAZARD



Next Meeting: Who knows?

Monitor Facebook and your email for further info

# INFECTED SPECIMEN

IF CONTAINER IS BREACHED, CONTACT

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"**Tactical Notes**" is the Newsletter of the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, Inc. We appreciate your taking the time to read this little newsletter. We'd appreciate it even more if you would write something. **Yes, I am talking to you!**

**Cover Photos: by Randy Fuller. Model by C. Noel Walker**

## Editor's Note By David M. Knights

Greetings MMCL'ers,

I apologize for this being a combined March/April issue of Tactical Notes. The work tempo has increased for me. I am still getting some modeling in, but not as much as I'd like. And I must confess that I miss our monthly meetings. They've been a big part of my life for a long time, and frankly not having them has made me realize how much.

On the positive side, a lot of you have been building, and writing articles. I want to thank Lee, Rich and Mike for their contributions that appear in this issue. While I now have enough articles that I am not worried I won't have enough to fill an issue, please don't stop. It makes my life so much easier when I have so many fine articles to choose from.

As for our meetings and our Thursday night and Saturday builds, I don't know when they will return. Please keep monitoring our Facebook page and keep an eye out for further emails from Stu. We hope to get back together as soon as it is reasonably safe.

Finally, I want to extend the condolences of the entire club to our President, Stu Cox on the recent passing of his father. I am sure he is in all our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.



# President's Page

**By Stu "Optimus Primer" Cox**

Dear MMCL Members,

Your club leaders hope everyone is doing okay and that you are still hunkered down with your family taking care of everyone! There is reported to be a lot of homebound modeling going on! Due to our Kentucky state-wide Covid-19 quarantine, we have continued to do the right thing by suspending MMCL club meetings and workshop activities. It is critical at this time in support of the social distancing guidelines and all of the unknowns about how this health crisis may evolve and impact us further that we continue the suspension of club activities. There does appear to be light at the end of the tunnel though, with documented cases plateauing and starting to subside. More to come as we assess how opening up our meetings and workshops may look like and when. As you know, your club leadership team made the arduous decision to cancel the May 16 Invitational Show. We will plan to have our show again in May 2021. Given the number of rescheduled public events and IPMS related events already scheduled or re-scheduled for Fall, it would be very challenging to find a date to ensure full attendance and financial success. All arrangements and orders for category awards and table/supply rentals have been successfully suspended. There is no major negative financial impact to the club. We have maintained our monthly facility rent to KYANA based on our strong financial status (thanks to each of you and your financial contributions through dues and workshop).

Our goal is to comply with the state-wide order, but diligently get MMCL Workshop and meetings actively engaged as soon as possible! To that end, your club leaders are already planning a possible MMCL Rally Day for late summer, or early Fall. This event might include an all-day workshop, model showcase and show-n-tell for all the items finished through this period, a lunch/cookout event and a "special event" (details to be announced). This would be a great opportunity for our members, and invited guests (and friends of MMCL from other cities) to join us at our workshop facility for a day of fun and fellowship. More to come on this, as planning is still preliminary. In the mean-time, we have very successfully been using ZOOM online conferencing through the entire month of April. We'll continue to do so through May, every Thursday night at 7PM. We've had an average of 16-18 participants attend each week. Those interested should join the link provided via club email for an opportunity for continued club fellowship, engagement and model building show-and-tell.

SRI is still doing strong business, albeit through the "curbside" format. So supplies are still coming to our area and are available there if needed. Reach out through email to Brian & Martin or call the store (502) 459-5849.

Your club leadership team will monitor the state directive very closely, and communicate any changes in meeting status and workshop schedules as soon as possible. We will hopefully soon enjoy our quality time together at our meetings and workshops!

Thanks MMCL Team! President Stu(g) Cox & Your MMCL Leaders

## IPMS/USA Convention Update

The IPMS/USA Executive Board and the 2020 National Convention Planning Committee are still moving forward with planning and on-time execution of the 2020 convention. We are well aware of the plethora of challenges ahead of us in the next 90 days. There are many more unknowns than "knowns" at the moment. However, with the facts on-hand we feel the convention can still be held.

The #1 consideration in planning is the health and well-being of all of our members. Some of you have reached out to me stating that since you are in a high-risk age or health group you are not willing to risk being exposed to COVID-19. We fully understand this and agree that if you are in a high-risk category, we feel that you are probably better off not coming even if all restrictions are lifted by late July.

I have read many opinions on public forums over the past several weeks regarding the status of this summer's convention. As a convention planner, the biggest item I pay attention to is the contract that IPMS/USA committed to with the hosting hotel, Embassy Suites, and their parent company, Atrium Hospitality. These contracts are generally written in favor of the hotel, i.e., the financial burden is on the guest (IPMS/USA) to produce the numbers expected for the hotel to make a profit. We could have balked at the contract when it was presented in 2018 but then the week we picked would have went to the next organization looking to host a convention. In other words, we have to play by the hospitality industry's rules. If IPMS/USA were to back out of the contract without cause the financial burden on our society would be very substantial. Luckily, Embassy Suites in San Marcos is fully aware of the current COVID-19 situation - and in fact they are taking it in the shorts like all other hotels around the country - and have verbally agreed to work with us to execute a successful convention regardless of the contract language. This is good news for IPMS/USA. I am committed to working with Embassy Suites since they have been so good in working with us during the past couple of years to make our show a success.

The biggest wild card that both the General Manager (of Embassy Suites) and I see at the moment are government-imposed restrictions on crowd sizes and public gatherings. This is the biggest factor we are keeping an eye on and is what will eventually dictate if we are FORCED to cancel. If there are public gathering restrictions or reductions in maximum occupancy rules in the local city and county, we will assess if we can still execute a convention based on the details of potential restrictions. AS OF RIGHT NOW THERE ARE NO RESTRICTIONS EXTENDING TO THE DATES OF THE CONVENTION.

There may be many opinions and conjecture regarding restrictions in-place during the convention but as of today, they remain conjecture. I am not planning a convention based on conjecture and opinion...only facts.

A lot of what the committee will plan in the coming months will be based on the numbers we see for pre-registrations and other convention related purchases. If we see low numbers - like we are seeing so far - we will scale back what we are spending money on. I have no more details on this other than we are looking at options that may produce a smaller-size convention than others in the past. It pains me to plan this way because I think I am the most excited IPMS member regarding this convention but I have to face the reality of what is happening in the world today. It's not fair but it is happening. We will deal with it.

Refunds: If you have spent money so far or if you want to spend money registering in the short-term be assured that IPMS/USA will refund any money if we are FORCED to cancel due to the public gathering restrictions I mention above.

Unfortunately, there remain many more questions than we have answers for at the moment. I wish I had a crystal ball that could tell me/us exactly what the conditions on the ground will be this summer...but I don't...the team has to plan with the best information it has at the moment. This is what we will do.

I stand by to answer any questions any one of our members have regarding the 2020 convention. Please e-mail me at: [director.nats2020@gmail.com](mailto:director.nats2020@gmail.com)

Best Regards

Len Pilhofer – IPMS# 49932  
Director, IPMS/USA National Convention 2020

## Super Sanding Block, from Goodman Models

*by Mike Baskette*

Sometime last year I started listening to listing to "Scale Model Podcast" out of London, Ontario, hosted by Stuart Clark and Anthony Goodman. It didn't take long to realize that Anthony Goodman was operating a small cottage industry under the banner of Goodman Models. This cottage industry offers a range of pre-made, double sided sanding blocks, sold as a set or as single units. The Super Sanding Blocks were also mentioned regularly by the hosts of "On the Bench", another scale modeling themed podcast out of Melbourne, Australia. Having done the cottage industry thing myself for a number of years, and seeing what looked to be a useful



product at a reasonable price, I decided to give them a go.

I ordered the complete set of Super Sanding Blocks directly from Goodman Models via Anthony's website at [www.goodmanmodels.com](http://www.goodmanmodels.com), however, the website lists a growing number of resellers that now offer these for sale as well. The price was \$22.99 USD plus \$9.99 USD shipping, so just under \$33 USD for the set. Checkout was easy, with a convenient PayPal payment. The package



arrived after a reasonable and expected wait for a parcel shipped from Canada to the U.S.

The Super Sanding Blocks arrived in a sturdy little corrugated box, containing the six sanding blocks, a color/grit cross reference chart, and a sheet of use and care instructions.

The blocks themselves each measure 1.5" x 3" x 0.25" (37.5mm x 76.3mm x 6.25mm). They are constructed from clear acrylic, with wet/dry sand paper bonded to each large face. At the end of each long edge is a machined dimple that has been color coded with paint to match the cross reference chart provided.

The construction of these blocks is first rate. The acrylic substrate is rigid, flat, and machined square. The attached sand paper is bonded neatly and completely to the faces of the blocks, and the color coding was a nice finishing touch. The set contains the following Wet/Dry grits; 80, 180, 220, 320, 400, & 600

After these arrived, I immediately put them to task on the projects that were on my bench. I must say, it didn't take long until I was pretty attached to these things. The size is not too big, but not too small for most situations faced by modelers. Where these really shine, is as mentioned above, they are rigid, flat, and square. Not only do you get more tactile feedback through the rigid substrate, you do not get the rounding of edges that is often an issue with foam backed sanding



pads and sticks. Similarly, I find a tool like these much more controllable than a metal file, and given that they are wider, they are more conducive to finishing longer edges than a file or sanding stick. All of this is holding the work (Model or Part) stationary and moving the tool (Super Sanding Block). These blocks also impressed me in the converse situation.

Where I really bought into these sanding blocks was wet sanding parts to get something to a better scale thickness or get a very flat surface on a part. In this situation, the block is stationary on the bench, with bit of water added to the exposed face. Working through 2-3 of the grits in this manner made quick and accurate work. Best of all, the mess greatly reduced. In the past, I would have laid down my large sheet of plate glass and a full or half sheet of wet/dry paper to do the same type work, making a rather large mess in the process. For smaller parts, using the Super Sanding Blocks in this manner really limited the mess, but yielded all of the results.

I highly recommend the Super Sanding Blocks

from Goodman Models. Some may say “I can just, make those myself”, and that might be true. However, Goodman Models has taken care of that for you, with a true Wet/Dry product on a waterproof substrate, and they are rigid, flat, and square. These are a consumable product as most scale model sanding products are, but with proper cleaning and care, they should last a good while. Goodman Models offers single blocks in each grit to replace those you wear out. I have no real criticism, but do offer two suggestions to Goodman Models. One suggestion would be to expand on the grit selection. I would like to see this tool in 800, 1000, & 1200 grit. Another suggestion would be a set at half the width, or about 3/4”. I had a few instances where I had a strong desire to utilize the blocks, but the sanding face was just too wide. All said, Goodman Models has a very useful and well-made product.



## Terry's Movie Vault

by D.M. Knights

I'd never heard of this film before Dr. Hill lent me the DVD. Apparently it was an independent film made in 1999. I don't think it got a very wide release. I haven't been able to find any box office numbers for it. It is a shame that it didn't get a wider release. It is a good film. Not a great film, but a good one. The story centers on a British Army platoon holding a section of forward trench that will be part of the jumping off point for part of the attack on the Somme. The film's goal is to illustrate both the boredom and tension that the troops in the forward trenches were under.

The movie stars Daniel Craig in his pre-Bond career as the platoon sergeant who know what stress his troop are under and what awaits them in the coming battle. He spends the story trying to both educate the men in the skills that will increase their chances of staying alive, while also trying to maintain order and discipline and keep the boredom from degenerating into insubordination.

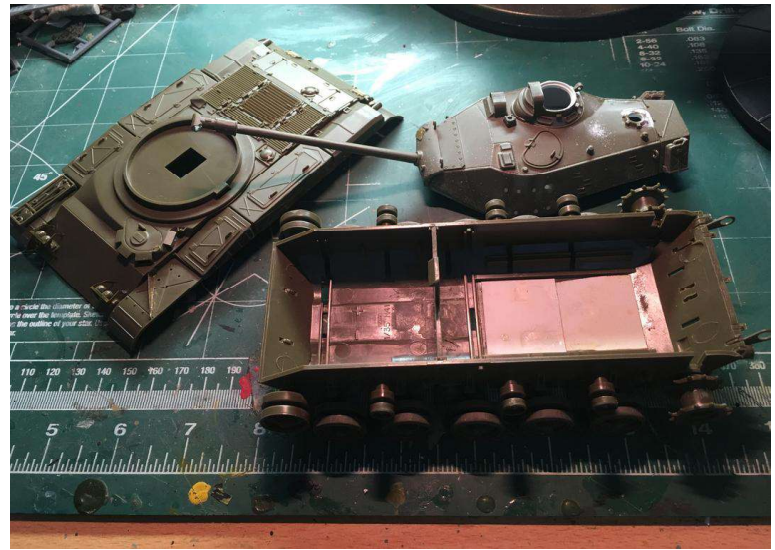
I liked the movie. I think it did a decent job of telling the story in a way to keep the viewer interested while imparting the feel of trench warfare. The movie is a tight 98 minute long and well worth the time to see it.



## Tamiya 1/35 M41 Walker Bulldog

By Lee Fogel

I bought this kit lightly started from Sock at our model show back in 2018 for \$2. The road wheels had been assembled and some turret work was done. It came with the old Eduard set #35040 to help dress it up a bit. My thoughts on it were to complete it fairly quickly and use some weathering techniques I was looking to try out.



The tracks are one-piece rubber/vinyl and have four small tips you push into the end of the track to complete it. The kit's detail is pretty good especially considering the age of this molding. The detail on the kit is typical Tamiya quality. Crispy, clean and almost no ejector pin marks. Flash is at a minimum on all parts. Outside of the road wheels and gun barrels very little cleaning/trimming is needed. My first order of business was to inspect the work done previously and start cleaning/readying parts for assembly.

The turret had the mantlet and barrel in place already. I cleaned up the seams and then removed the molded detail on the areas that would be replaced by the Eduard set. The grab bars were particularly tedious to get 'just right' but well worth the effort. The two antennas





were cut off and replaced with hard wire from a chimney brush. One of the cupola cover brackets was missing so I used an ejector pin and whittled it to the proper shape (*at last as best as I could*). Things went smoothly with assembling the upper and lower hull, adding some of the photo-etch pieces. The Eduard parts were more for the turret but what was there for the hull was attached. I glued the wheels and idlers in place at this time and that

wrapped up the hull and suspension. Now it was beginning to look like a proper tank!

It was at this point I painted the hull and turret. I used Model Master Olive drab straight from the rattle can. Once this had dried I brush painted the rubber on the road wheels with Vallejo NATO Grey. I then applied Testors Glosscote, from the rattle can, to the outside in preparation for the decals. The kit decals were old and cracked. I used Microscale Decal Saver and brushed it on all of the decals while on the backing paper. This set for 24 hours and then I applied the star at the front. It broke in three places and had terrible cracks all in it. At this point I knew the rest of the decals were a 'no-go'. So, the kit sat for some time while I tracked some decals down. Eventually I was able to get a set from the AFV Club M41 kit and chose to go with the option for an M41 in Thailand in 1962. For the most part they went on just fine. However the small ones on the sides of the tank silvered even after repeated (and liberal) doses of Solvaset. Testors Dullcote was sprayed on and the tank set aside for 24 hours. After this was done I then glued the 'band' tracks in place.

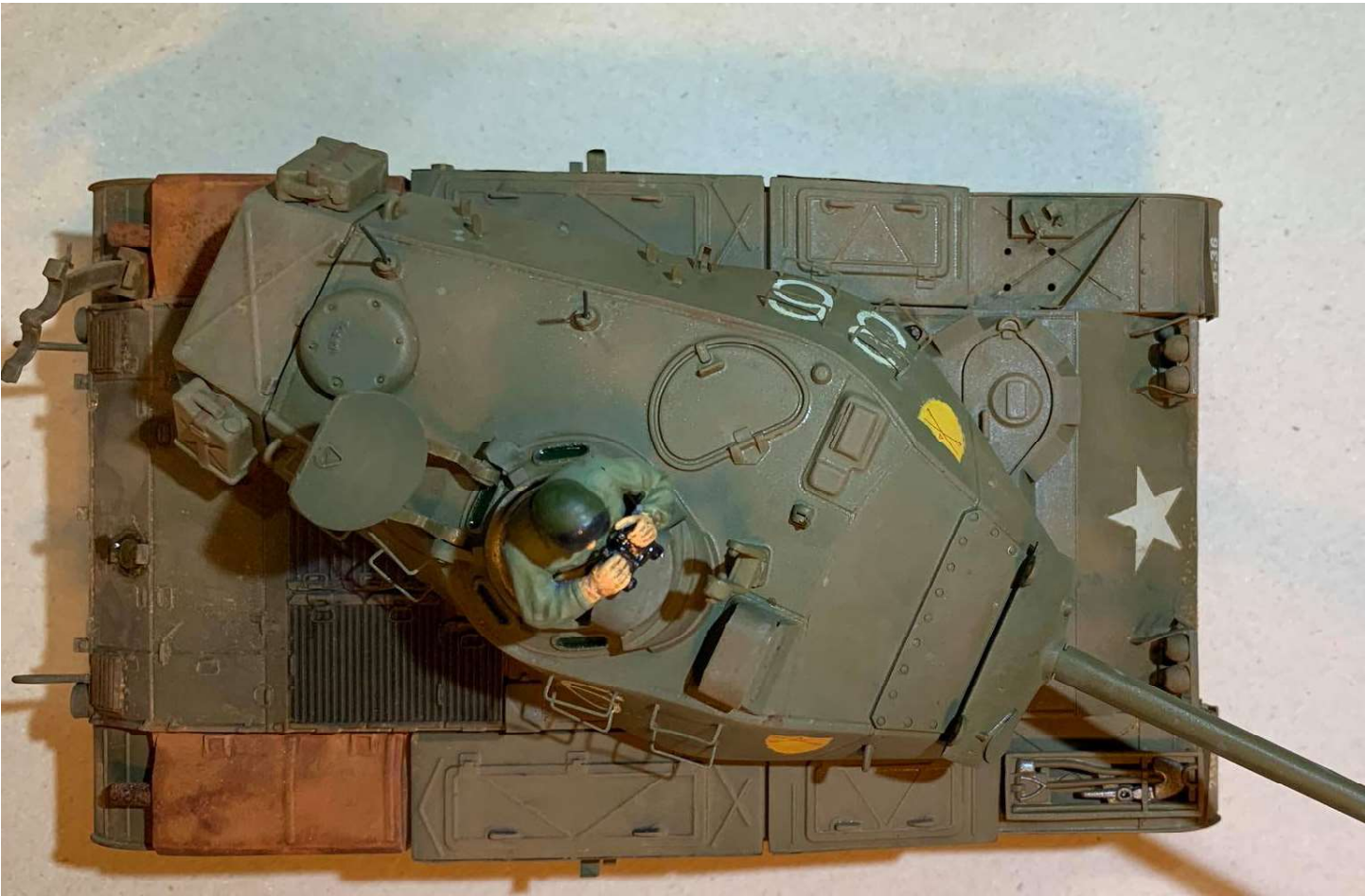


After drying, I used AMMO Oilbrushers to apply a pin wash, working from the turret down. Once this was completed I painted the muffler covers Vallejo Panzer Colors Light rust and applied Scale Colors New Rust pigments while the paint was still wet. After this sat overnight I used AK Interactive Rust streaks wash to darken the effect and give it a bit of depth. I then weathered the model with a combination of AMMO, Vallejo and AK Interactive pigments and washes. The tracks were painted with AK Interactive's Track Wash, and then weathered with a dusting of AMMO pigments. Light mud stains were done using AMO African Soil pigment and then immediately adding enamel thinner to make it harden and set up. The two outer engine screens were given a wash and the middle screen was treated with black pigment. The fuel and oil stains were then added and a final overall dusting was applied. The M2 Browning gun was replaced with an Eduard Brassin piece #635001. This had PE details added to it and the mount was from the old Eduard set. It was painted Tamiya Gunmetal and then weathered before being attached.

This only left the commander figure. I chose to use him as I really liked his pose. I did change out his left arm for a Dragon arm as I wanted both of his hands on the binoculars. The detail of new figures is night and day when comparing/painting these older figures! I used Scale 75 and Andreas #3 figure paint set for the flesh tones of the figure. After this was done, I used a combination of paints by Vallejo to paint his uniform and accessories. This was then sealed with a coat of AK Interactive Super Matte Finish.

Overall, this was a fun build and the kit really does look the part. The newer AFV Club kit may offer far more detail out of the box but, with some photo-etch and a bit of elbow grease, the old Tamiya M41 still stands proudly on any shelf. Thanks again, Sock, for the great deal on a fun kit!





## Painting Figures? Rack'em!

by Richard. G. Guetig

When you are painting several figures (dioramas or vignettes) at a time, how do you secure them for drying? Well, if you remember your high school chemistry class, I have the answer – Test Tube Racks!

When I was a high school chemistry teacher (now retired), I used wooden test tube racks all of the time. One year, my science department chair decided to clean out the chemical storage

room. Several wooden test tube racks were being thrown away, so I grabbed several to use as holders for various items on my workbench. As I put more thought into it, I realized I could use them for when I am painting figures. I usually use a dial rod with tape on the top to secure the figure (Fig. 1). The problem I always ran into was “how” to secure the dial rods and figures while drying, especially when working on several figures at one time. Test tube racks were my answer!

First, I measured the diameter of the holes for the test tubes. Second, I purchased a few dial rods with a slightly smaller diameter. Next, I cut 12 dial rods (for each slot) so they would be a little taller than the test tube rack. Lastly, I placed thick, double-faced tape on each dial rod top. Before I knew it, I had a figure painting rack that would hold 12 figures (Fig. 2). So, if you are looking for a cheap drying rack for figures, try some old, discarded test tube racks!



# Axis Midget Submarines: 1939-45 New Vanguard 212

## By Jamie Prenatt and Mark Stille, illustrated by Paul Wright

Paperback, 48 pages

Published by Osprey Publishing June 2014

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1472801229

ISBN-13: 978-1472801227

Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.2 x 9.8 inches

Review by Jeff Groves

This is a typical Osprey New Vanguard volume and follows their well-established format. The authors have organized the presentation by nationality, with the major Axis powers of Italy, Germany, and Japan each having their own sections. The sections detail the developmental history of the various types of small submersibles employed by each nation and then gives a brief overview of their operations.

The various designs had inherent limitations imposed by their size which influenced the scope and effectiveness of their employment and chances for success. Several types are marginal vessels at best, and while not strictly suicide missions, the odds are decidedly against the safe return of the crews.

Italian submersibles mainly fall into a category which we would call “Swimmer Delivery Vehicles” today. The SLC delivered two divers to an enemy harbor, where the crew would attach large mines and then hopefully evade capture. Their most notable success was the mining of the British battleship HMS Valiant at Alexandria. The Italians also employed CB-type mini subs in support of German Operations against the Russians at Sevastopol.

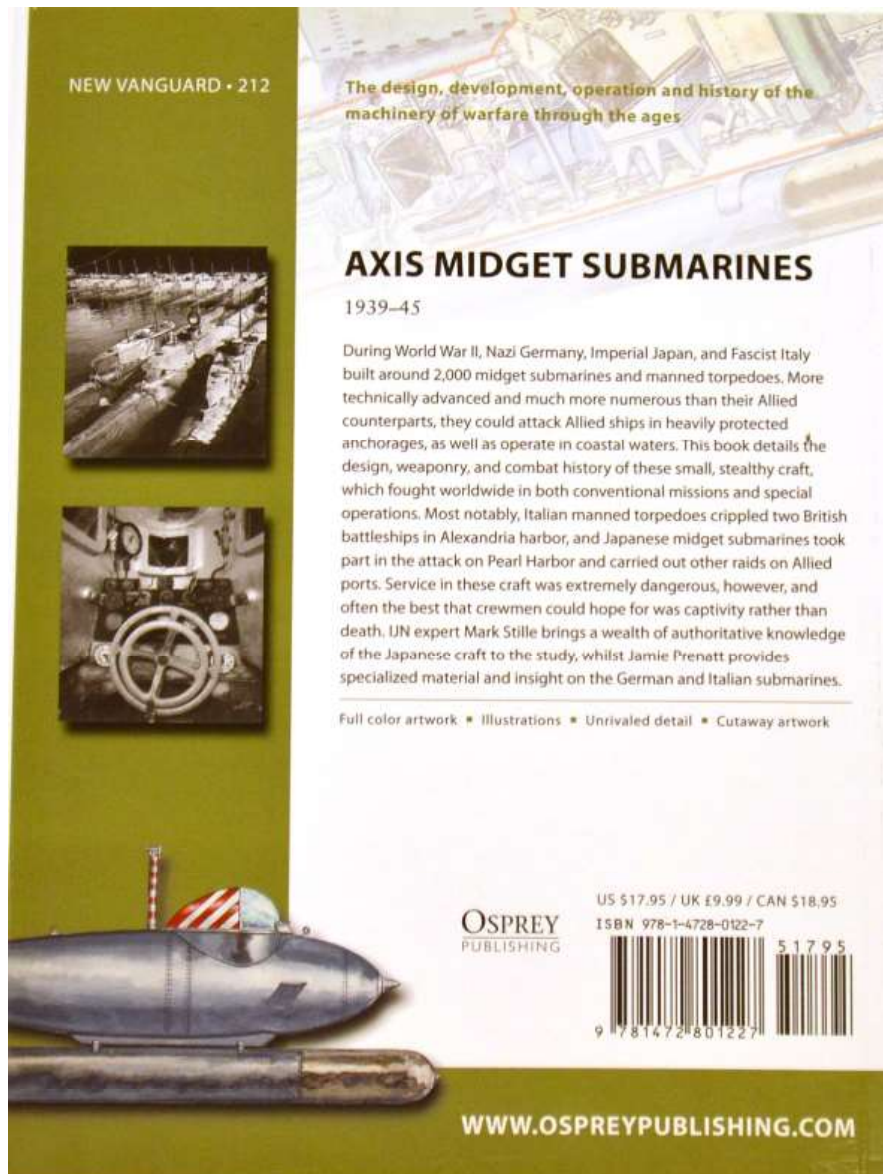
The Germans came late to the midget submarine game but developed several types in anticipation of the Allied invasion of Europe. The vast majority of these designs were ineffective, being much more a threat to their own crews than to Allied shipping. The one successful design was the Type



XXVII Seehund which accounted for 120,000 tons of shipping. Like most German wonder weapons, this was another case of too little too late.

The Japanese were arguably the most successful of midget submarine operators, most famously employing five "Target A" as part of the Pearl Harbor Raid. The authors' view is that these submarines achieved no results at Pearl Harbor, although Japanese sources maintain one did hit the USS Oklahoma. Target A submarines were also used at Sydney Harbor, the Aleutians, the Guadalcanal campaign, the Philippines, Okinawa, and Diego Suarez. The latter is the least well known operation but is arguably the most successful, the battleship HMS Ramillies being damaged and the tanker British Loyalty being sunk on 30MAY42.

The space constraints of this series limits the narrative to only a brief discussion of each nation's midget submarine programs but the space is used well. Three very interesting books could easily be written by simply expanding upon this information and covering the operations in detail. This book provides a quick introduction to the topic which leaves the reader wanting more. Recommended.



# Financial Report

By Rich Guetig

March

2020

PNC Bank

Starting Cash Balance:

**\$7,527.52**

Cash Receipts	Date	Amount	Check Receipts	Date	Amount
Workshop		\$225.00	Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
Item			Item		\$0.00
<b>Total Cash Receipts</b>		\$225.00	<b>Total Reimbursements</b>		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>			<b>\$225.00</b>		

Cash Or Debit Expenses:	Date	Amount	Cash Or Debit Expenses:	Date	Amount
Check # 7077. (E) KYANNA Rent	3/11/20	-275.00	Item		0.00
Name Tag Reimbursement		-7.80	Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
			Item		0.00
Item			Item		0.00
Item			Item		0.00
Item			Item		0.00
Item			Item		0.00
<b>Total Cash Expenses:</b>					<b>(\$282.80)</b>

Reimbursable Expenses:	Date	Amount	Reimbursable Expenses:	Date	Amount
Item		0.00	Item		0.00
Item		0.00	Item		0.00
Item		0.00	Item		0.00
Item		0.00	Item		0.00
Item		0.00	Item		0.00

**Total Reimbursements:** 282.80

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

**NET Monthly**

**Increase(Decrease):** -\$57.80

# 2020 IPMS / Louisville Invitational Contest

3821 Hunsinger Ln, Louisville KY 40220

**Saturday May 16th 9:00 AM - 3:30PM**

**SHOW THEME:**

**1945 END OF WWII**



**Largest  
Raffle  
In Region 4**

**Hobbies  
FOOD TRUCK**

**Show Contact :**  
**Dr Terry Hill**  
[thill35434@aol.com](mailto:thill35434@aol.com)

**Vendor Contact:**  
**Dave Crouch**  
[dcrou@bellsouth.net](mailto:dcrou@bellsouth.net)  
**Website: MMCL.org**

**Model Contest**

**Hundreds of entries in many categories**

**Modeling Demo**

**AK Interactive Products  
Presented by Jose Rodriguez**

**General Admission: \$3.00**

**Contest Entry Fee: \$10 (\$8 for IPMS Members)**

**Includes First two Models, \$1 per additional model,  
Juniors (Under 18) \$5 unlimited entries**

**See MMCL.org for  
Contest Entry Forms and Categories**







## International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

New  Renewal  IPMS #:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Affiliation, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior** (17 years or younger) \$17.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult** One year \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Two years \$58.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Three years \$86.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Canada & Mexico** \$35.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Foreign** Surface \$38.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Family** (1 set of Journals) \_\_\_\_\_ ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards? \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ IPMS #: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Cash  Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Check  Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address, if different than above -

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, PO Box 1411, Riverview, FL 33568-1411