

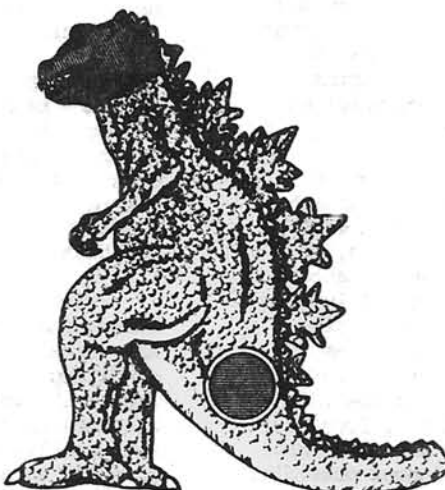
STALE MODELER

VOLUME 2, NO.5

\$6.00 ~~\$2.50~~



A CR 1 Y 2 Model 11 Godzilla of the 9th Tamiya Rentai at Khalkin Gol, September, 1940.



A CR 1 Y 3 Model 21 Godzilla-Kai of the 12th Bandai Chotai, from the I-27 off the coast of Oregon April, 1942



A CR 1 Y 4 Model 52 Special Attack Godzilla of the 13th Hasegawa Sentai from the I-700 at Ulithi, 1945.



Rising Sun
Red G 18



Natural
protoplasm



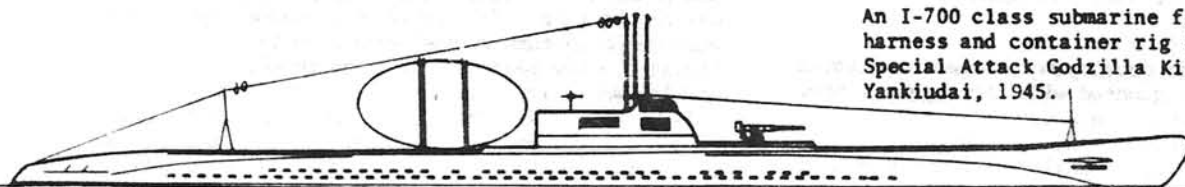
Mottled
Green N 17



Dark
Green N 18



Beastly
Black B 17



An I-700 class submarine fitted with the special harness and container rig for carrying three Special Attack Godzilla Ki-110's during Operation Yankiudai, 1945.

I-700

The Type 97 Attack Lizard

by
O. Takigaya

Captain O. Takigaya served as assistant Godzilla keeper in the Imperial Japanese Navy from 1943-1945. Following the war, he converted to Christianity and became a minister in the order of holy rollers. Today he lives with his wife and children in Honolulu where he teaches at the University of Hawaii's Institute for Instant Ramen Noodles Research. His article here was translated by Raymond Burr.

It has now been over 30 years since my colleagues and I worked on the little known Godzilla Project, that unprecedented plan to breed an army of reptilian war beasts. In the years after the war, we who worked on the project have been surprised and amused to see the sole remaining product of our labors achieve fame and notoriety on the motion picture screen. As the creature screamed and raged on film, destroying paper mache cities and with its size greatly enhanced by trick photography, the world came to acquire a colorful but distorted view of this remarkable beast.

Many times my colleagues and I have wanted to speak out and tell the truth, yet we remained silent for fear of misunderstanding and ridicule. But with the rerelease of *King Kong* in the United States, we hope that now the American people will have a better understanding of our actions and indiscretions in East Asia three decades ago. At the outset, I would ask the reader's indulgence for possible inaccuracies or lack of details in this account. Memories fade with time, and many valuable documents have been lost, including my diary which disappeared when they levelled my house in 1958 to make a golf course. Where recourse to surviving official documents was no longer possible, frequent consultation was made to tarot cards, ouija board and the I-Ching. Nonetheless, despite such diligent research, some minor factual issues have defied solution, and in such areas I have done my best to make it all up.

The use of animals in war goes back to man's first use of horses, donkeys and large sea turtles for military transport. Hannibal and the Indian rajahs used elephants in a military role, and Soviet troops in WW2 used dogs for anti-tank mines when they weren't eating them.

In Japan, the idea of developing a breed of animals for offensive purposes originated with the Imperial Army at the turn of the century. Such a project was seen as an effective counter-balance to the technological superiority of the West. In 1902, a small plot of ground near the Ichigaya Army Training Grounds was set aside as an experimental farm for research under the direction of Capt. T. Hashimoto and Dr. Y. Yurashitsu, a famous agronomist and bestiality buff of the time. Progress was slow, and it was not until the late 1930's that

the right combination of breeding species was discovered. By that time, the project had become a joint Army-Navy affair, the Navy having considered the idea of using such a beast with the special landing teams. The intervening years had seen some personnel changes as well. Capt. (later Buck Private) Hashimoto retired from the service to take up sea-weed farming, and Dr. Yurashitsu came to an untimely end after suffering a fatal hernia brought on by a period of intense experimentation. They were succeeded by Major Hayawatha (Army) and Lt. Cdr. Gitchigumi who was formerly attached to the Yokosuka Naval Shrimp Hatchery. The entire project was now officially under the control of an operational formation designated *Daiichi Rinji Yasen Kyoryu Oyobi Etai-no-shirenai Bakemono Kenkyujo Fuzoku Butai* (Unit Attached to the First Joint Army-Navy Provisional Field Combat Dinosaur and Nasty Things that Go Bump in the Night Experimental Laboratory)

At last, on 17 July, 1936, the historic event took place. The first working prototype egg (given the Army *dota* (carcass) number Do-21 and laid to a Navy 9-Shi specification) was rolled out on the lawn at the Ichigaya station and sent to the Yokosuka Naval Shrimp Hatchery for further processing. There, the entire midshipman class of 1936 was assigned egg-sitting duty on a rotation basis until hatching occurred in September. As hatched, the creature weighed 60 kg. (118 lb.) and measured 72cm. from stem to stern. There followed one year of intensive rearing and training and the prototype was certified ready for service trials on 23 Sep 1937 and was officially designated Type 97 Long-Range Attack Lizard (Army Designation Do-21 I-ko; Navy Designation CRI Yhl Model 11 * (CR=Combat Reptile)) and given the popular name "Godzilla" (Vermillion Plum Blossom).

Despite the outbreak of war in China, the prototype creature remained in Japan undergoing tests. Fully grown it stood 5.8m (17.6 ft.) high and weighed 376 kg. (780 lb.) Equipped with a row of 18" incisors in its jaw and each of six 24" and 5" claws in triple mounts on its hind and forearms, and protected by a further belt of dermal plate ranging from 12 to 24" thickness along its torso, the beast was indeed a formidable weapon.

With the outbreak of the border conflict with Russo-Mongolian forces at Nomonhon in May, 1939, the Army finally decided to test the creature under combat conditions. It was flown to Manchuria in early June and on the 18th of that month, took part in a reconnaissance in force across the Khalkin-Gol river. Unfortunately, the animal's speed and agility proved woefully inadequate. It was quickly surrounded by a platoon of BT-7M tanks and overwhelmed by concentrated gun fire from the rear. According to the memoirs of the Soviet commander, Gen. G.K. Jerkov, the remains were deposited with the 852nd Guards Mobile Field Kitchen (Heavy) which made it into a diced stew for the auxiliary Outer Mongolian labor troops to augment their usual staple diet of yak dung patties.

The Army dropped the project with disgust after this episode, but the Navy still thought the design had promise. The early stability problems during trials was traced to bipedal instability caused by pelvic warp which in turn caused excessive tail flutter leading to the beast flopping on to all fours. This problem was solved by surgically implanting steel rods in the pelvic marrow. Another disturbing feature of the animal was its tendency to lose control and taste its trainers. Despite such teething troubles, the trials led to a vastly improved version, bred in 1942, and designated the CRI Yh2 Model 22, or better known as the "Godzilla-Kai" While of roughly the same dimensions and weight as the earlier model, its new stability and speed features were further enhanced

by markedly more aggressive temperament brought about by surgically blocking the animal's anal orifice for a period of six months after hatching. The beast was now ready for quantity production.

The combat debut of the Godzilla-Kai occurred on 6 September, 1942 when the submarine I-27 landed a breeding pair of these creatures on the Oregon coast. Recent reports of a large bi-pedal creature seen in this region may in fact point to the continued existence of this pair or their offspring. Subsequently, CRL Yh2's were deployed in limited numbers with the garrison forces on various Pacific atolls, but Japan's worsening situation did not allow for the maximum exploitation of this weapons type. Nevertheless, one of the beasts was spotted by an Allied Limited Intelligence Officer, a one P. Roland, and given the code name "Ralph".

In a desperate attempt to stave off defeat, the Godzilla-Kai were converted for special attack operations. Since 1943, the Japanese had been building three I-700 class submarines which could each carry three of the beasts, and they were ready by May, 1945. Following on the heels of the Kikusui (Crysanthemum and Water) Operation the I-700, -701 and -702 departed Japan on 2 August to carry out Operation Yankiyudai (Cherry Blossom and Rice

Water) Originally conceived of as an attack on the toll booths of the Los Angeles County Freeway, the destination was changed at the last minute to the American fleet anchorage at Ulithi. As a precaution, the beasts had been fed an all-liquid diet to prevent the problem of a trail of solid waste floating for miles behind the subs. The Ralphs were trained by basic Pavlovian techniques to home in on the smell of burnt Spam, and then go berserk, with the hope that they would cause significant damage before inevitably succumbing to a concentration of bad movie reviews. However, the war ended before they arrived at Ulithi and the submarines and their cargo were subsequently barbecued during the Operation Crossroads A-bomb tests at Bikini atoll in 1947. Rumors still persist among the natives that one of the beasts still lurks in the deep waters off the atoll.

The last surviving beast was turned over to Allied intelligence and it was examined for a short while before being sold off as protoplasmic surplus scrap to a California junk dealer, Ed Baloney. In the mid-1950's it was purchased by Toho Motion Pictures K.K. and has starred in its films ever since, replacing the less-than-successful Ignatius the Iguana. Such is the true and remarkable story of the Type 97 Long Range Attack Lizard.

ANNUAL AWARDS

Few years within recent memory have produced so ripe a crop of fellow hobbyists, kit manufacturers and others so richly deserving to be singled out for our annual awards. Our judges this year have been chosen for their pulchritude, wet displacement and torque, and include such hobby notables as: Kidney Shivers, Broocie-Woocie Culvert, Joe Deleted, Bruce Beamish and several intoxicated fresh water frogs. So without further ado, to the awards!

THE ANNUAL STALE MODELER VERY GRAND PRIZE, a handsomely carved statuette of Kidney Shivers executed in bat guano, goes to Gary "The Simp" Sampson. Gary, as you will all remember, offered to obtain photos for any ICMS member of tanks in any South American museum he visited in return for unlimited use of the respective ICMS members' wife for the duration of the trip. A very sporting offer old sod!

THE ANNUAL JIMMY HOFFA AWARD goes to any ICMS member with information leading to the location of former ICMS Historian Tad Takemtothejohnson. The prize consists of a 1/35 scale 55 gallon drum encrusted in simulated New Jersey crud.

THE ANITA BRYANT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AWARD goes to the Confederate Air Force for their 'tasteful' Hiroshima bomb simulation. The prize consists of a quart of condensed Florida sunshine or a 1/35 plated clenched fist, whichever their choice.

THE P. ROLAND SELF-PROFESSED EXPERT AWARD goes to the eminently qualified Dr. Don Alberts whose series of articles on figure modelling was prefaced by a note indicating that the series would tell modelers anything they need know about figure modelling. From Shep Paine, maybe... The prize consists of a set of fifth generation xeroxs of his own articles.

THE FDR MEMORIAL "LEND YOUR NEIGHBOR A FIRE-HOSE" AWARD goes to Frog Models for pawing off their molds to the Soviet Novo firm. The prize will consist of a current set of Soviet automobile tires pressed on a Lend-Lease 1933 Ford AA mold, if we can find any.

THE ANNUAL 7 FACES OF DR. LAO AWARD goes to WW2 Journal, or Military Enthusiast or GHL or International Graphics or whatever their name is at the moment for their extreme dedication to keeping future hobby bibliographers busy. The prize is the above plug for their current mag, whatever its name.

THE MARIE ANTOINETTE LET THEM EAT CAKE AWARD goes to Heller for the price tag on their current Gnome-rhone 1/35 motorcycle. The prize is some pickled pieroga warmed in the mouth of one of Zaloga's Polish water gnutes.

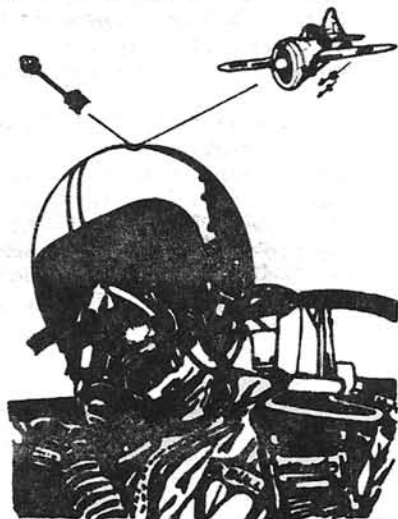
THE MARGARET TRUDEAU CANADIAN NATIONALISM AWARD goes to Burry Bedlam for his valiant attempts to maintain the ethnic purity of *Random Thoughts*, and consists of the latest solo Mick Jagger album executed in Canadian bacon.

THE ANNUAL TRUTH IN ADVERTISING AWARD goes to Revell Models for the photo of their 1/32 Mirage kit on the box of their 1/72 scale Mirage kit. Their prize will be a signed letter from Ralph Nader on a cease and desist order if they keep it up.

THE PERCIVAL LOWELL CANALS OF MARS AWARD goes to Matchbox Models for their diligent efforts to keep the makers of Green stuff in business. Their award will consist of a photo of a real airplane, or a tube of Green stuff which ever comes first.

The Bullpen

Capt. Ed
BULL Talks



.....and there I was, eyes squinting into the sun as I banked my gleaming F-16 onto the tail of the Russki MiG 25. One flip of the trigger switch would send that commie..... Oops, sorry folks, just day-dreaming. Since last time a couple of things of note have occurred in ICMS. First off, you'll be happy to learn that this year's Canadian ICMS convention will be sponsored jointly by the Ottawa and Quebec chapters, and held on the provincial border between Armpit, Ottawa and Merde, Quebec. The Quebecois have taken over responsibility for the model contest, and as a result of recent provincial legislation, certain changes are needed in the usual ICMS contest rules. First off, all contest categories will be divided in two- the first category to consist of models of planes or tanks piloted by a French Canadian which will be given extra affirmative action bonus points in the judging. The second half of the category will consist of all other non-French Canadian models which must be accompanied by a related French model. In other words, if you bring in a Spitfire, you must also bring in a D-520 or MB-152, etc. The locals have generously offered to consider Haitian, Algerian, Madagascarian or Moroccan vehicles or aircraft as "French". This ought to be one heck of a convention.

We are happy to report that the East Jesus Montana Chapter of ICMS has provided our new Q editor with enough material to fill up a whole special issue of the Quarterly. Among the articles enclosed were: "Pitot tube covers of the Montana Air National Guard"; "Colors and markings of the guard dogs of the Montana Air National Guard", and for the AFV nuts, "Tire Pressure Markings on the airfield jeeps of the Montana Air National Guard". Speaking of publications, we were happy to hear that our good friend in Canada, Joe Suave has finally published his long awaited book on AFV's of Canada entitled "Gay Rams in Bondage- A Guide for Modellers." Congratulations, Joe!!! Now on to our monthly question and answer session....

THE ANNUAL "THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE BRITISH EMPIRE CUZ THE LORD DON'T TRUST THEM FOLKS IN THE DARK" AWARD goes to the kit reviewers of the various British hobby publications, Scale Models, first and foremost, for their perceptive insight that kits of aircraft which carry RAF roundels are generally more accurate, better value for money, more detailed and generally niftier. Their prize consists of a world map from 1910 with an overlay of current boundaries, or a kit of the TSR 2, whichever comes first.

Dear Capt. Bull;

I have just bought a sheet of hawk markings for Phantoms from Microscale and noticed that the hawk beak is speckled with little clear spots. What can I do?

Ralph "Styrene" McTwit

-Capt. Bull replies;

Take off your glasses and the resultant astigmatism will take care of the problem.

Dear Capt. Bull;

I have recently been scratch-building a model of the Soviet BA-34 armored car based on Steve Zagloba's scale plans, but certain of the parts don't fit. What can I do?

Mike "Cellophane" Grupson

-Capt. Bull replies;

The problem is that Zagloba based his plan on a well-known fuzzy photo of the BA-34. His mistake was that he assumed that the photo was fuzzy- not so, as is now known, the Soviets have been building their tanks fuzzy for years to fool Western observers.

Dear Capt. Bull;

I just picked up the Matchbox Walrus and noticed that it was molded in bright blue, white and canary yellow. Was this the usual scheme?

Bob "Bakelite" Pinkstein

-Capt. Bull replies;

Usualty they were finished in dull grey and green, but when they were flying with the Red Arrows, well....

Dear Capt. Bull;

I have noticed that in your column you occasionally run a list of rumored new kits with a number after them. What does this number stand for?

Mark "Polyethylene" Ert

-Capt. Bull replies;

The number is based on the Canadian ICMS Rumor scale of 1 to 10, 1 meaning that it is available in the shops, 2 that it is advertised in the catalogs, 5 that somebody saw someone measuring down a who-see-what-sit at a museum, finally down to 10 which indicates that Greg Marshall learned about it after attending a seance whilst in a torpid state of mind induced by too much Molson's and a few sniffs of Testor's finest.