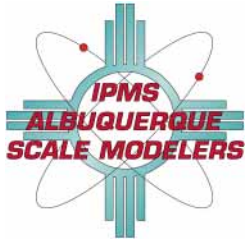


ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS



<https://abqscalemodelers.com>

August 2020

No AUGUST MEETING!

The August ASM meeting is cancelled. You can probably guess why. Stay tuned for September news...

THE FEZ AT HOME TONY HUMPHRIES

Thoroughly Fezzed Off

Well here we are again. Another month, another quarantine newsletter. Another month spent muttering to yourselves and waiting for messages in a bottle to wash up on the banks of the backyard fish-pond. As you will be by now aware, there is no let up in the quarantine restrictions that we are "enjoying" and no physical meetings happening for the foreseeable future. A number of you took the chance to compete in our latest virtual competition at least, to stay in practice and the board would like to take this chance to thank you for your participation. The results should have been published on the website by now, and appear in this newsletter also. Such was our intention at the time of writing anyway.

The number of entries was fairly low this time around. Whether that is because you didn't really feel like building anything, maybe the subject (the Korean War) didn't appeal to you, whether there was a knock-on effect from the State Fair (and our display there) being canceled, or perhaps other life events just got in the way. I don't know. These competitions obviously are far from perfect, as much depends on the quality of photographs sent in for the judges to delib-



erate over, and these can look quite misleading at times when compared to the real thing. But at least this way we can keep something on your workbenches and give you something to work towards.

Something that I have noticed a few other clubs doing is hosting virtual Zoom or Webex meetings over the internet in place of meeting face to face. So far I have not suggested that we do this, since anyone who has been in a meeting of this kind at work with more than about six people will likely attest to the difficulty of people being able to speak clearly and without technical difficulties. How many times do you have to tell people they are still muted, before it starts to get

frustrating, for example? Then you have to take into account the questionable sound and vision quality, the lighting issues and the cat on the keyboard factor as well. How that would scale up to a club with about ninety members on the roll is open to some question. I have concerns that it would not be really viable for us to do, but we can explore the possibility of doing it if any of you have a burning desire to do so.

I don't know if the issue of future viability has been bothering anyone else, but the current (and continuing) situation has certainly given me some pause for thought here. Once things eventually return to normal (assuming that they ever do) then we need to ensure that we work to keep the momentum of the club and IPMS itself going when meetings resume. I am worried that we might see a spike in meeting attendance for a couple of months both here and nationally, before people start to remember how they managed without the club meetings and events, how this was the norm for quite some time and then start to drift

away having become used to spending their time at home instead. For a hobby that is packed full of miserable and anti-social buggers (myself included) this is a real risk. I hope it doesn't come to pass, but it is a possibility that we need to bear in mind and try to counter in whatever way we can.

Obviously we have to do this in a safe manner and only commence meetings when we are confident that it is right to do so, without endangering the health of our members. I think that time is still some way off, but I guess only time will tell. We must wait, watch, remain as safe as we can, keep on building and stay as optimistic as possible. Ultimately a new approach to meetings, events, competitions etc. may be necessary in the post-Covid world, a new mindset may be required and we may need to think in fundamentally different ways to keep the hobby alive. So please bear that in mind and let's try and make sure that the rest of the world doesn't leave us behind.

VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS KEN LIOTTA & TONY HUMPHRIES

[Photos are in the [Bonus Section](#). -JW]

Basic

Gold: M24 Chaffee (Italeri) 1/35 by Mark Vaughn
Silver: F9F (Revell) 1/48 by Jake Stoner

Intermediate

1st: M4A3E8 Sherman (Tamiya) 1/48
by Bob Henderson
2nd: F4U-5 Corsair (Monogram) 1/48 by John Wyer

Masters

1st: F9F (Hobbyboss) 1/72 by Frank Randall
2nd: Canadians in Korea diorama (Tamiya etc.) 1/35
by Tony Humphries
3rd: Yak 9 (Encore) 1/72 by Mike Blohm

(There were no Junior entries)

IN THE BONUS PAGES!

In this month's **Bonus Pages**:

- Photos of last month's contest winners
- An article about the Berlin Wall by Ken Piniak
- And more!

Master

Brian Peck	425
David Epstein	379
Chuck Hermann	350
Scott Jaworski	125
Frank Randall	100
Casey Ruplet	100
Larry Glenn	75
Glenn Bingham	50
Steve Brodeur	27
James Strickland	6
Mike Blohm	2
Victor Maestas	2
Josh Pals	2

Intermediate

Bob Henderson	350
Danny Williamson	329
Logan Carbin	304
Michael O'Brien	225
Jim Medina	208
Adrian Montañó	200
Don Smith	185
David DeYoung	125
Charles Petrilli	79
Ken Piniak	77
Jeff Frickstad	25
Steve Miller	25
John Wyer	25
Dave Tingley	2

Basic

Mark Vaughn	525
Brandan Brown	350
Jacob Stoner	350
Stephen Stearns	250
David Paul	225

Junior

Aleya Montañó	425
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2020 MODELER OF THE YEAR POINTS

As of 23 Apr 20

CONTACT INFO

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Vice President:
Secretary/Treasurer:
Contest Director:
Members Pro-Tem:

Webmaster:
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David Epstein
Bob Henderson
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ASM members are encouraged to submit articles, reviews and other items as appropriate. Contact editor Joe Walters for details and specs. **Submission deadline for each issue is now ten days prior to the next meeting (that's a Tuesday). Items I receive by Tuesday night will be in the newsletter, and items received after that will be in the following issue.**

BONUS PAGES!

VIRTUAL CONTEST RESULTS

KEN LIOTTA & TONY HUMPHRIES

Basic

Gold: M24 Chaffee (Italeri) 1/35 by Mark Vaughn



Silver: F9F (Revell) 1/48 by Jake Stoner

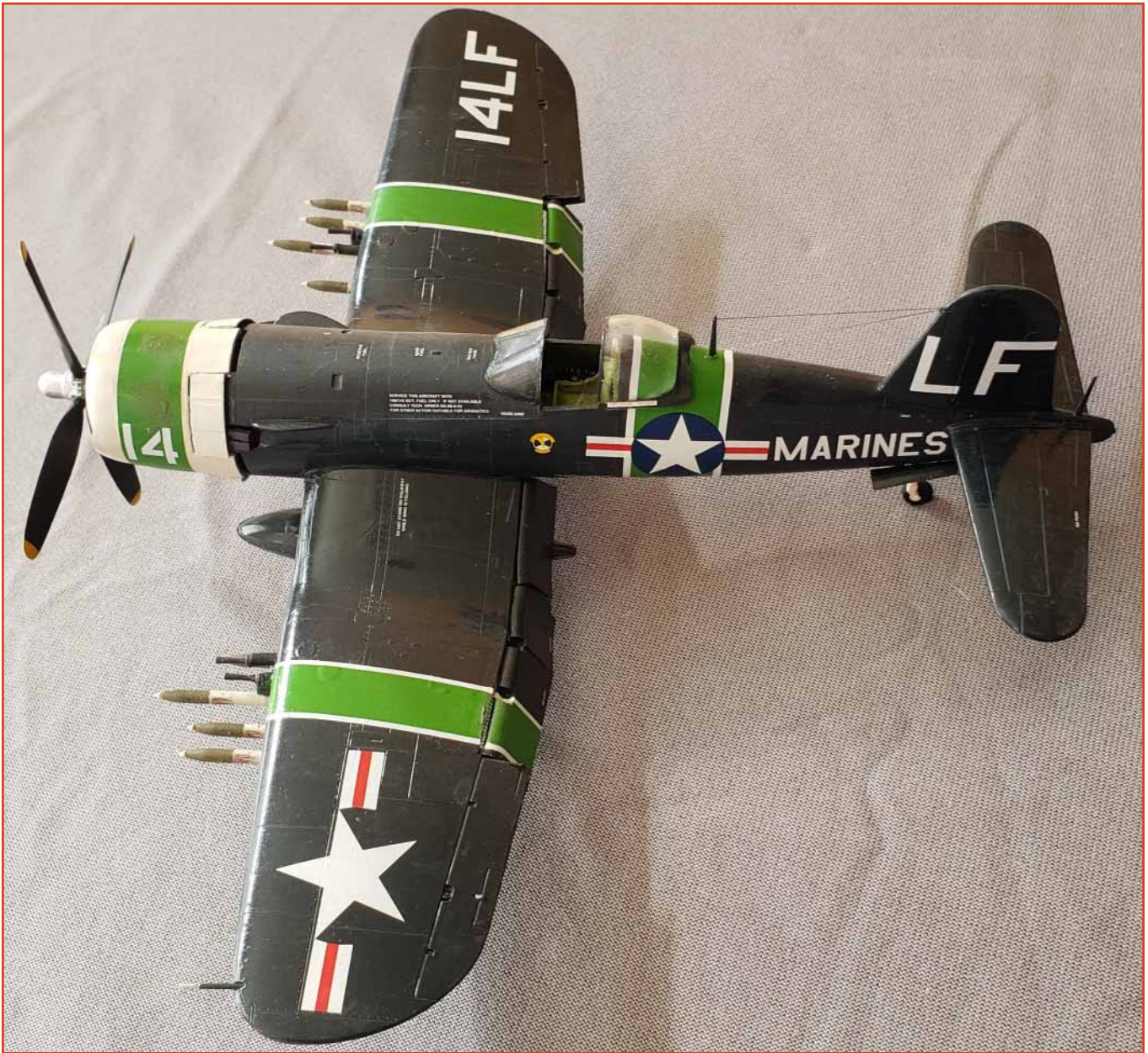


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2nd: F4U-5 Corsair (Monogram) 1/48 by John Wyer

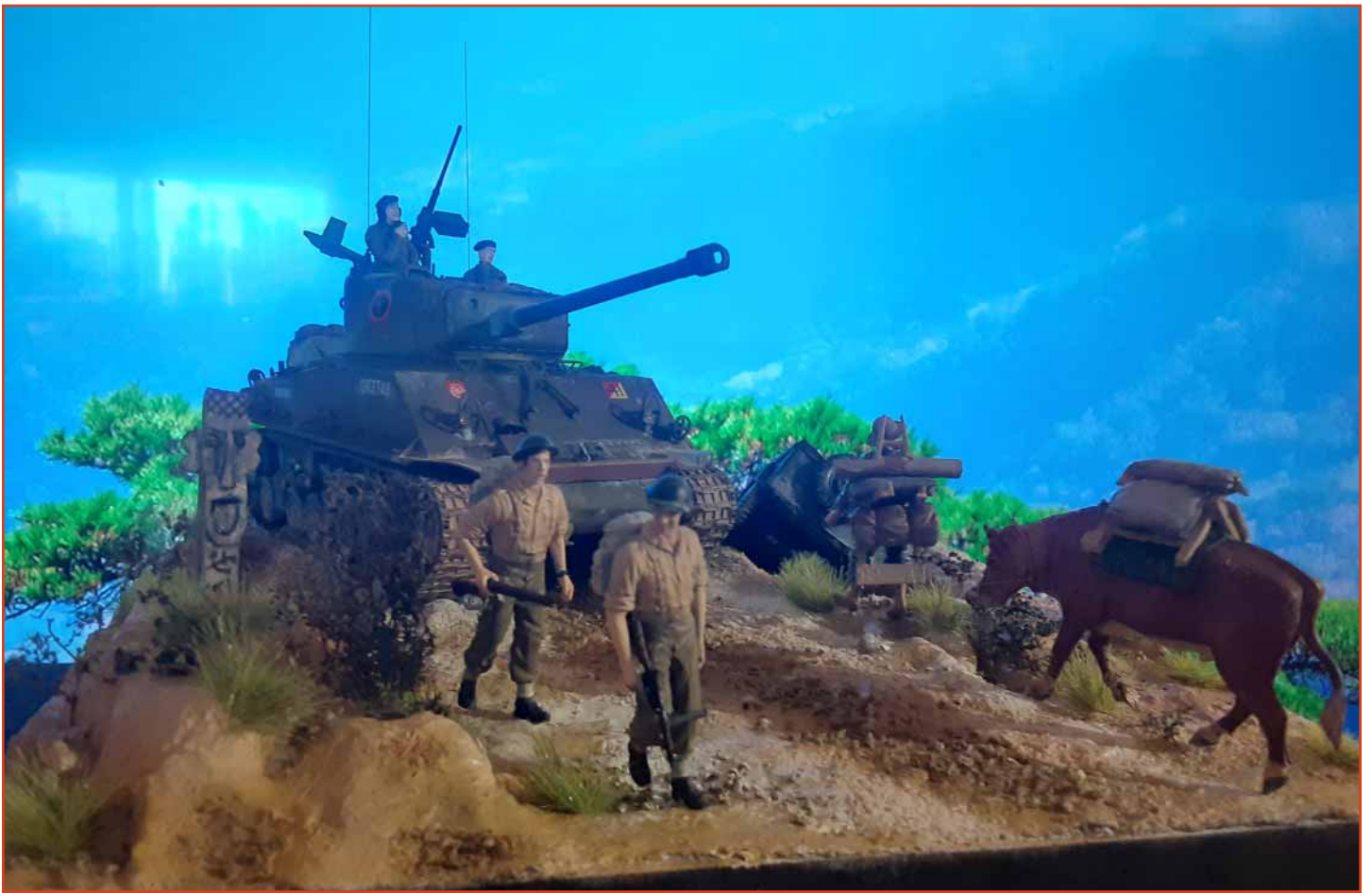


Masters

1st: F9F (Hobbyboss) 1/2 by Frank Randall



2nd: Canadians in Korea diorama (Tamiya etc.) 1/35 by Tony Humphries



3rd: Yak 9 (Encore) 1/2 by Mike Blohm



(There were no Junior entries)

BONUS PAGES!

KEN'S ARMOR FILES

KEN PINIAK

The Inter-German Border

I was inspired to write this after reading Bill Huffman's review of the AFV Club kit of the Berlin Wall Section in the March 2020 issue of the Seattle Chapter News (it looks like a pretty neat kit!). In it he says: "The Berlin Wall became the physical manifestation of that imagined Iron Curtain." Well I can tell you from my own experience that the "Iron Curtain," in the form of the Inter-German Border, was anything but imaginary.

As an American soldier stationed in West Germany in the 1980s, I was not allowed to go to West Berlin (I still have never been there) or to approach within one kilometer of the border. Doing so was a Court-Martial Offense. The only US soldiers allowed within the "1 KM Zone" were those assigned to the 2nd and 11th ACR, who performed border patrol duty in the US sector. The only exception to this policy was the border tour, part of the "Headstart Program" which was mandatory for all newly arrived US soldiers. During this tour, which usually lasted a couple of hours, you could see the "Wall" up close, but under strictly controlled circumstances. The important thing was to avoid any kind of "International Incident." Due to the rampant use of propaganda and the fear of an "international incident," we were not even allowed to wave to the soldiers on the other side during the tour. We were at least allowed to take pictures. Seeing the wall up close gave us the chance to see what we were there for, protecting the German people





(and the rest of us) from the Communists. The funny thing is, the Soviets always maintained that the fence was to protect the people of Eastern Europe from us coming in, but everything was set up to keep them from getting out!

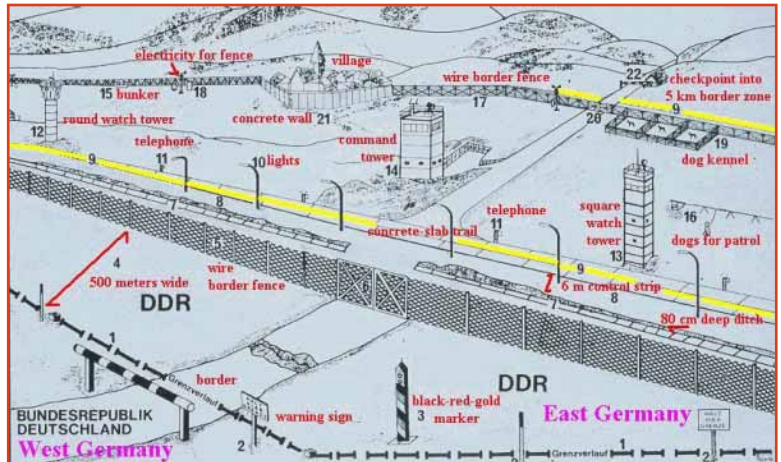
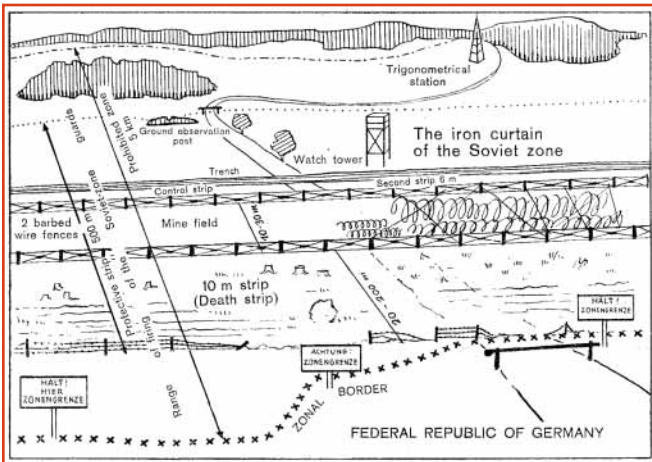
The Soviets and East Germans were constantly upgrading and improving the wall, to keep people from escaping to the west. Originally little more than a barbed wire fence, by

the end it was mostly a high fence made of steel mesh and concrete or a concrete wall. The fence was usually set back from the actual border, which was marked by a variety of signs. These ranged from a simple "Hier Grenze" sign to a DDR marker stone to the famous





“Barber Pole” marker in black, red, and yellow. These markings were often spaced some distance apart and overgrown with brush; making it difficult sometimes to know where the border actually was. It was not unheard-of for the East Germans to kidnap or “snatch” civilians or US soldiers who had accidentally crossed over the border but were still outside the fence. This would then become one of those dreaded





“international incidents.” From the border east was a 5km “Forbidden Zone” that civilians were not allowed to enter. Inside this zone were command posts, bunkers, watchtowers, guard patrols, and dogs.







To keep people from crossing the zone it contained barbed wire entanglements, mine fields, and anti-vehicle ditches. The fence had directional mines—we called them shotgun devices—mounted on it at intervals and operated by tripwire.



I have seen different statements as to the killing range of these devices, it may be that they were improved as time went on. In any case, they were spaced out at distances far less than the killing range. This was to ensure that having one or two go off would not leave a space or gap in the lethal coverage. Many of the escape attempts were done by family groups. The East Germans found that in many instances; one person, usually the father, would deliberately set one off (sacrificing himself in the process) to create an open space for the rest of the family to escape through. The overlapping coverage stopped that.



Picture 6, 6a "SM 70" automatic shooting device

The soldiers had “Shoot to Kill” orders; and over the years quite a few civilians were shot and killed trying to get across. One of the most famous was Heinz-Josef Große, who was shot to death in 1982. He



managed to get over the fence but was killed before he could reach the actual border. Despite the dangers involved, it is estimated that around 150,000 tried to escape and about 40,000 people managed to successfully cross the border to West Germany.

The most famous successful escape was in 1979 when Peter Strelzyk, his friend Günter Wetzels, and their families, eight people in all, crossed the border in a homemade hot air balloon. They supposedly got the idea after reading a magazine article about the Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta!

Today, the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain are nearly forgotten. A few sections remain as memorials, the rest is long gone. Most people around now weren't even born when the wall came down. For them it is just a page in the history books. But I was there; and I remember. I think I will have to build that kit of the Berlin Wall.



BONUS PAGES! MISCELLANEOUS

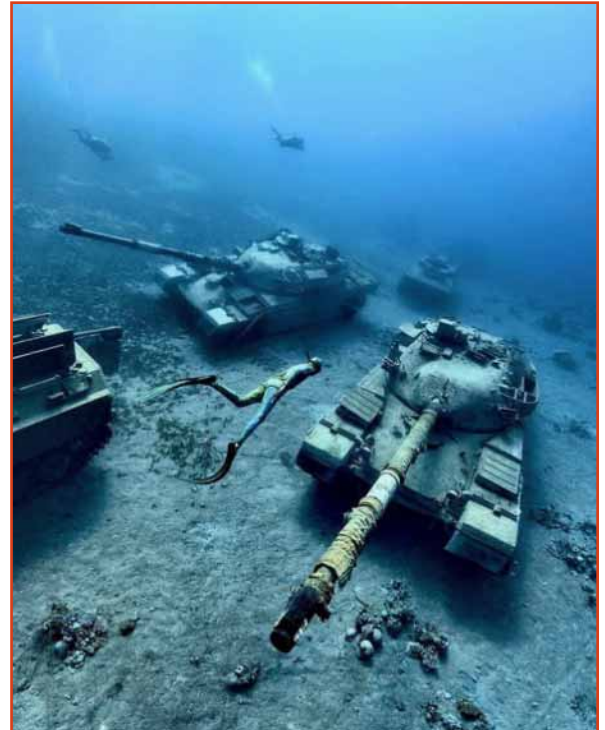


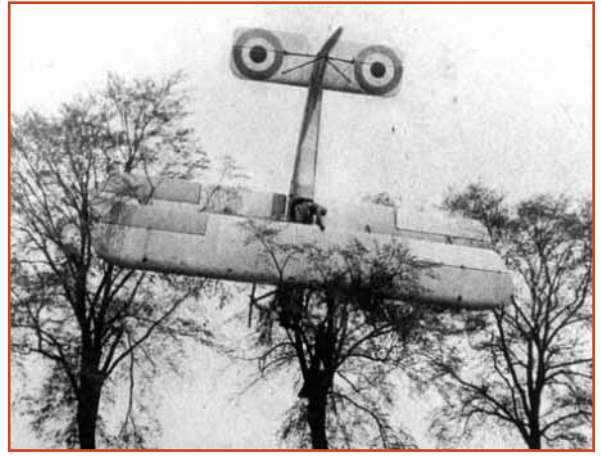
The image at left, a sign of our times, was submitted by John Tate.





ABRAMS TANKS
ALWAYS have the right of way.





Left: Who knew Ted Kennedy owned a seaplane?



Hey fellas
if your girl,



likes red clothes,

wears high
heels,



has an attractive
body,

that's not your girl.

THAT'S THE
RUSSIAN
T-72B



girlfriend

t34/85 tank

might cheat on you

always loyal

cant protect you

protects you with
its 85 mm cannon
and 47mm armor

might not like your
friends

has enough room
for all your friends







Something is *definitely* wrong with these two images...



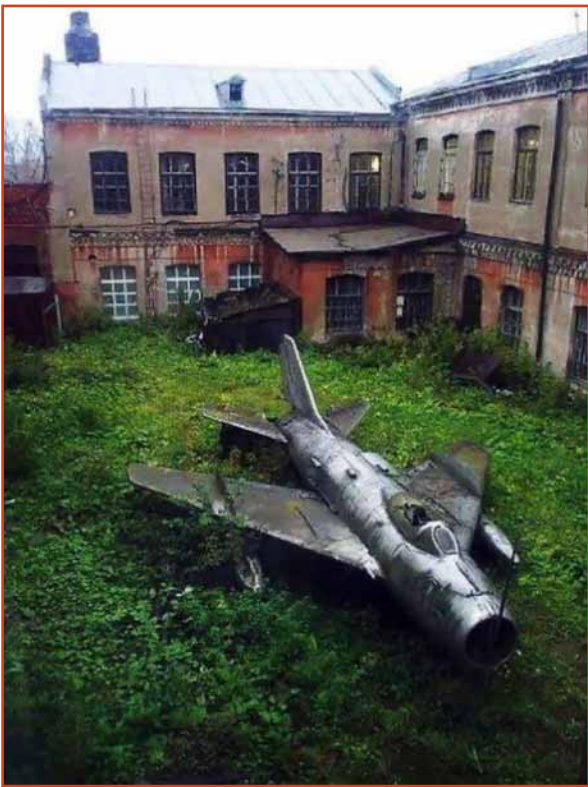




Photo taken July 16, 1969. You should know the rest.

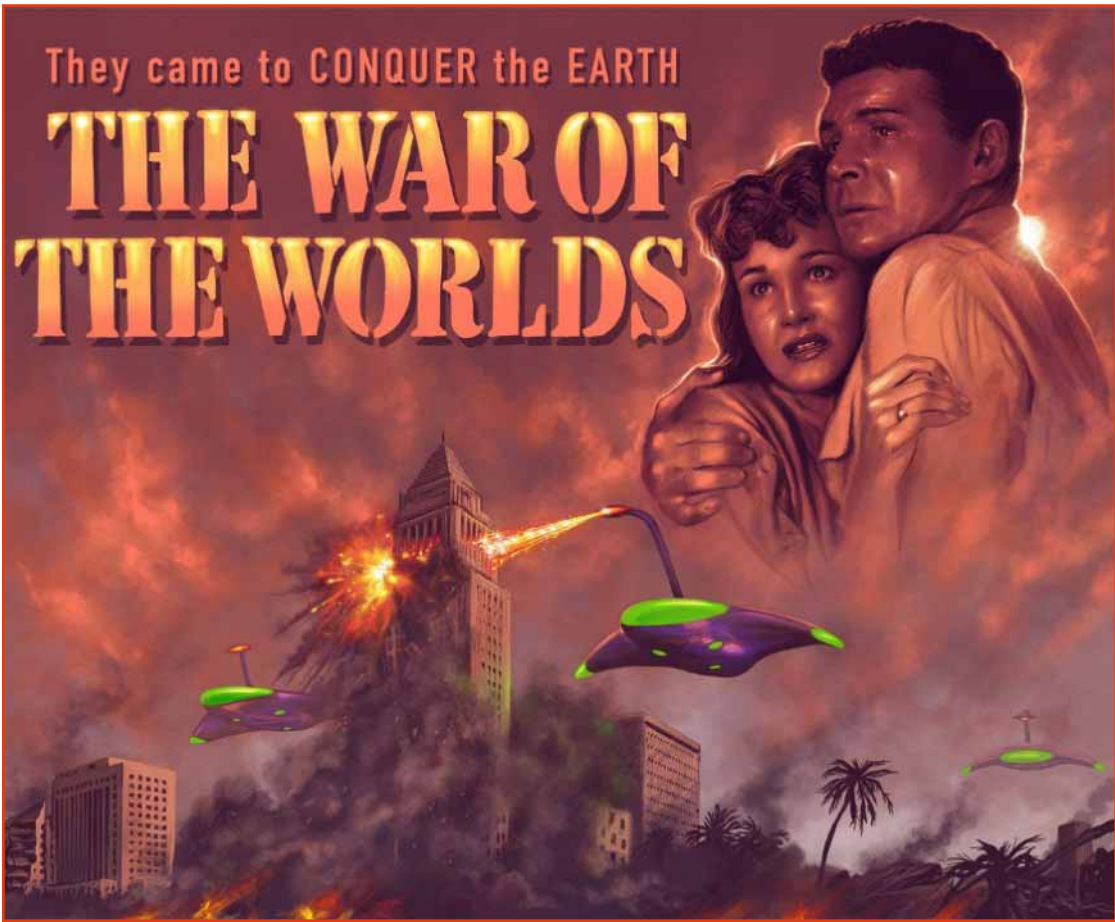
The McDonnell-Douglas Model 199, the early concept for the F-15 Eagle. Initial requirements called for a Mach 3 top speed









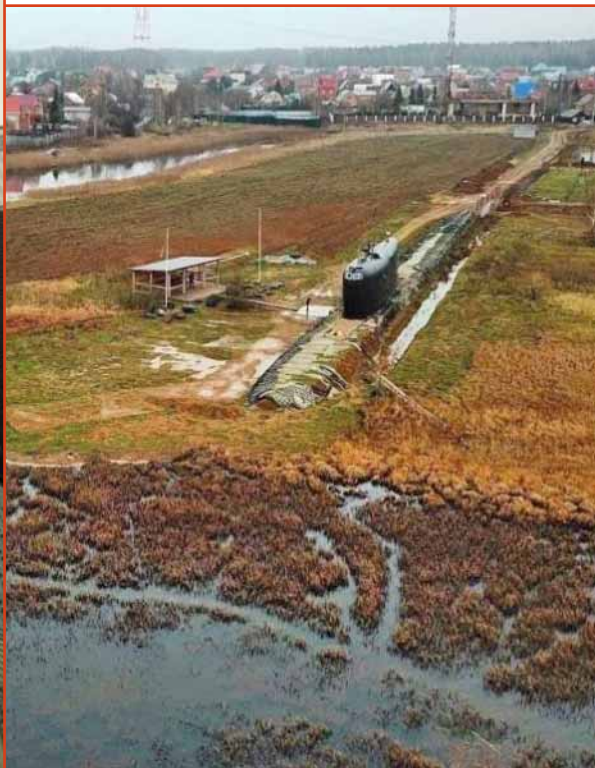






Left: F-35 pilot helmet

Below: Minor navigational error?



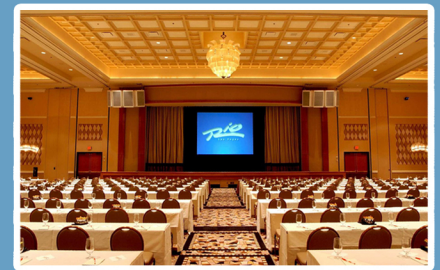
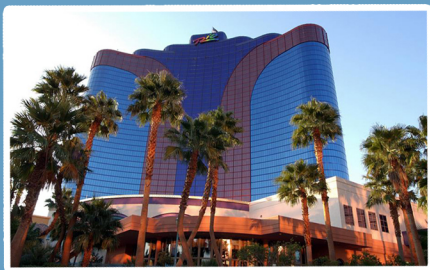


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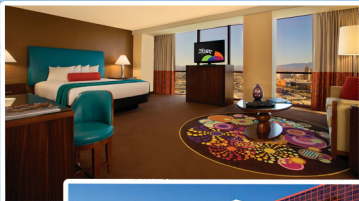
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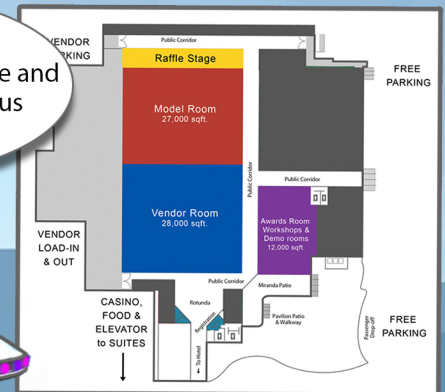
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