# ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS ALBUQUERQUE SCALE MODELERS

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January 2015

## THE FEZ SEZ TONY HUMPHRIES

How soon January comes around! I hope that you all had a wonderful holiday season and are all suitably refreshed and ready to build for the New Year. There are a host of contests coming up this year, including a Region 10 regional contest in nearby Colorado, that I hope many of us will be able to attend, so there's plenty to build for. The contest schedule for 2015 will be released shortly, but the first three meetings of this year will follow the familiar pattern of Sci-Fi, Swap Meet and Open Contest, respectively. So while you wait for the finalized schedule you can still get those tools out and get working.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed the talk given by the WWII vets at our last meeting in December. I thought that it was interesting, informative and entertaining and I hope that you did

December meeting highlights, left to right: members looking over the models prior to the meeting (guest speaker Bob Bryan, in the white cap, is checking out the P-51s); our guest speakers (L – R: Bob Bryan and John Perkins) are presented with models of their associated aircraft following their presentations; and Perkins and



too. Also I believe that both Vets were happy to receive the models that were built for them as souvenirs of their visit. My thanks go to Victor and John for completing those builds and to Tim Estes for arranging the visit. Once again I am sure that you will join me in thanking these men for their service. At this time of year in particular, I am sure that we appreciate

the sacrifices and service of our armed forces, both past and present. Many currently in the military cannot be with us to celebrate the Holidays as they are on active service in many corners of the globe. You have no doubt seen the greetings



on local TV sent back by serving members of the military to their families in New Mexico. Maybe one day we will live in a world where service far away from their families and lovedones is no longer necessary. We can but hope. But until that happens (if indeed it ever does) then we salute them for the sacrifice that they are making on our behalf.

In December and January every year, I always think of those who serve not just in our own time, but those who have served in previous wars too. This year is of course the 100th anniversary of the short-lived Christmas truce of 1914. What a different world it would have been if the men on both sides had simply refused to return to the fighting. Many encountered the enemy and found that the propaganda they had been fed was entirely false. The enemy were ordinary men too—from a different country certainly, but in reality much the same as themselves. We could have avoided another four years of senseless slaughter and the names of two distant members of my own family (and maybe yours too) would not now appear on the memorials at Thiepval and the Menin Gate as a result. Sadly of course, that didn't, and probably couldn't, have happened.

Spare a thought also for those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge—this is the 70th anniversary of that momentous battle also. The Battle of the Bulge is often seen as America's greatest battle of WWII and with some justification. Remember that some British troops also served, though, albeit in a more minor role. I had two relatives myself who served with the British XXX Corps, guarding the bridges over the Meuse River as a backstop to the American forces fighting further forward. I also had a relative on my wife's side who was in Bastogne throughout December and January and was wounded during the fighting. Many of the veterans that I've spoken to from the Bulge remember the cold and will often comment that however cold this latest winter may be, at least they are not in Bastogne! My wife's grandfather had a different view in that he was grateful for the cold as he credited it with saving his life—he firmly believed, until he passed on several years ago, that he would have bled to death in that foxhole if it hadn't been so cold. Whether that's true or not, I of course will never know. But the sacrifices of him and men like him both then and now seem particularly poignant to me at this time of year, when we are all celebrating and enjoying ourselves. There's not much to be jolly about when you're in a foxhole with bullets and shells whistling around you, after all!

So hopefully you will all have something to enter in the Battle of the Bulge contest in January to commemorate the service of these men. Also of course, we have the annual Sci-Fi extravaganza and at least one special contest, so there is plenty to look forward to at our January meeting and I hope to see you all there. In the meantime you'll have to excuse me while I grab a glass of something suitably festive, don my kilt (not a sight for the faint-hearted) and launch into a rowdy version of "Auld Lang Syne." Cheers everyone!

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT MIKE BLOHM

I would like to thank the members of ASM for the support they gave to our major club projects during

Year 2015 Contest Quick Reference Chart Titles in **blue** indicate contests for points **09 Jan** Special Contest #1: SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY Sponsored Contest: "Battle of the Bulge Plus 70" (ASM E-Board) Sponsored Contest: "Fanta-storical" (Josh Pals & Patrick Dick) Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser Beams" (Patrick Dick) **06 Feb ASM Swap Meet**—no contest. **O6 Mar** Open Contest—Any kit/subject/scale. 03 Apr Special Contest #2: "April Fools" **01 May May Day**—Any kit/subject/scale. **05 Jun** Open Contest—Any kit/subject/scale. 10 Jul SPECIAL CONTEST #3: 1945 Sponsored Contest: "Adversaries" (Mike & Matt Blohm) **07** Aug ASM Swap Meet—no contest. **04 Sep** Open Contest—Any kit/subject/scale. **02 Oct** Trainers—Any kit/subject/scale Sponsored Contest: "Hawker" (John Tate) **06 Nov** Open Contest—Any kit/subject/scale. Sponsored Contest: "Best Little Fokker" (Don Smith) **04 Dec** Sponsored Contest: "Steampunk" (Jerry Little) Plus Model of the Year competition! Note: The schedule is still under develop-

Note: The schedule is still under development. The most complete and up-to-date details on the contests, as well as detailed rules, as always, are on the ASM Website: http://tinyurl.com/asmsched

2014. These included conducting a great model show at the 2014 Albuquerque Comic Expo in June (over 140 models), and sponsoring and judging the 2014 New Mexico State Fair Model Contest in September that included a great ASM display-only "70th Anniversary of D-Day" and "100th Anniversary of World War I" model exhibit (32 models). The biggest ASM undertaking of 2014 was the very successful "Chile Con III" IPMS/USA Region X Convention and Model Contest in July, with around 83 entrants and 600 models. At the Chile Con awards banquet, ASM was awarded both the Region X Chapter of the Year Award for 2013 and the Region X Website of the Year Award for 2013. ASM conducted a Group Field Trip to the Pima Air Museum in Tucson, Arizona, in April that was well attended. ASM also supported the Cavalcade of Wings Model Display by setting up and hosting a model display during the City of Albuquerque's Durand Open Spaces celebration in May. And lastly,

we had a great turnout and good audience participation for the World War II veterans' presentation and the accompanying "Mustangs and Corsairs" contest (24 models) at the December meeting. So all in all, I think ASM had a pretty good 2014. Thanks again for supporting the club, and let's all strive to continue to have fun building models, and promoting the hobby in 2015.

For more details and pictures of the above activities, check out the *ASM Website* (http://tinyurl.com/asmpix)

## CONTEST DIRECTOR UPDATE JOHN TATE

Just a brief article on the December meeting as the Contest Director job is handed over to Jerry Little—thanks to all who participated in the Mustang/Corsair Special Contest. Turnout was impressive, with many excellent models on the contest table; our membership did a great job honoring the service of our WWII veteran guests. Congratulations to all who participated.

In the Model of the Year contest, Aleya Montano won Best Junior model with her Gundam with Lightsaber; Jeannie Garriss won Best Basic model with her '33 Willys Gasser, Steve Brodeur picked up Best Intermediate model with his Proteus inner-space ship from *Fantastic Voyage*, and the Best Masters model went to Brian Peck for his outstanding ½ F4U-1 Corsair.

Modeler of the Year honors went to Aleya Montano in Juniors, Jeannie Garriss in Basic, Adrian Montano in Intermediate and Victor Maestas in Masters.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2014 ASM contest year- as ever, this club has some great members and great modelers and 2015 will be another enjoyable year for scale modeling.

## THE FINER POINTS JERRY LITTLE

It is not every day that we as hobbyists get to sit down and talk with men of our gener-

### FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

#### **Postcards**

These are photos of postcards that I bought at Fort Knox in 1980 or 1981, when I was taking a course at the Armor School. I was informed that there were warehouses full of both American and captured enemy armored vehicles from the World War II era. I also was told that many of the vehicles were paraded for the public one day each year. I suspect that it was on the July 4 holiday, but don't remember for sure.

Kubelwagen and Hetzer:



M20 Greyhound:



Halftrack:



[Editor's note: The full text of Fred's article and all of his photos of these postcards (larger and in full resolution) are in the Bonus Pages. -JW]

ations past who have made a measurable impact on our country. The opportunity to talk with both Mr. Bob Bryan (Mustangs) and Mr. John Perkins (Corsairs) and hear of their exploits during World War II and the first-hand experience working with the aircraft that we strive to model was priceless.

When the call went out to build and display P-51 Mustangs and F4U Corsairs, our club members responded overwhelmingly! We displayed 24 models for our guest and scales ranging from ½2 to ½2. In fact, there were so many models; we had to split the categories classes to recognize the great works everyone did. Starting with the Cadillac of the Air, the Mustangs represented fourteen of the group. In ½2-scale Masters, Brian Peck was recognized with his build of the Tamiya kit. Tim Wood took those honors in the Intermediate category also with a Tamiya Mustang. In ¼8 Masters; Glenn Bingham presented a well done Tamiya Mustang. Mike Blohm's P-51D was the best ½2 Mustang for Masters and Len Faulconer had the best ½2 Mustang in Intermediate class.

The quality builds were just as strong in the Bent Wing Bird category. In the Junior class, Aleya Montano built a clean looking ½ F4U that was best in class. Brian Peck showed up with ½ Birdcage Corsair that

was best in Masters. Adrian Montaño represented the best in Intermediate class with his well build  $\frac{1}{32}$  Trumpeter F4U-1D. For  $\frac{1}{48}$  Corsairs, Larry Glenn built two outstanding Tamiya kits, but his folded wing bird was the best in Masters. Finally, Frank Randall built the best  $\frac{1}{12}$  Corsair in Intermediate class.

Finally, it must be said that the "best of the best" goes to John Tate and Victor Maestas for the hard great work they did on the Corsair and Mustang presented to Mr. Perkins and Mr. Bryan for taking the time to come and talk with the Albuquerque Scale Modelers! All of the models can be seen on the ASM Website.

## IN THE BONUS PAGES!

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

- Photos of the winners of the December contests (Model of the Year, Mustangs & Corsairs)
- All of Fred's postcard photos and the full text from his Foto File
- John Tate's extensive and impressive article on his visit to sites of the Battle of the Bulge
- Part 3 of Mike Blohm's Battleship Memorial Park Report

Master		ntermediate		Bret Kinman 125
Victor Maestas.  Larry Glenn  Tony Humphries  Ken Liotta.  James Guld.  James Strickland  Brian Peck  Patrick Dick  Mike Blohm  Dave Miller.  Glenn Bingham		Adrian Montaño Gorham Smoker Don Smith Jerry Little	800 768 529 410 354 300 210 210 154 150	Gil Johnson       104         Ken Piniak       18         Tim Wood       4         Basic         Jeannie Garriss       875         Michel Wingard       4         Rolf Nitsche       2
CONTACT	President: Vice President: Secretary/Treasurer: Contest Director: Members Pro-Tem:  Webmaster: Newsletter Editor:	Tony Humphries Mike Blohm Frank Randall Jerry Little Jack Garriss Larry Glenn Victor Maestas Mike Blohm Joe Walters	764-0046 823-9404 681-5158 280-9038 771-0980 823-9404 821-3751	abkhumphries@gmail.com BlohmM@aol.com fcr40.fr@gmail.com bravo52@aol.com ebgarriss@comcast.net l.glenn2@comcast.net vmaestas@aol.com BlohmM@aol.com jwalters22@comcast.net

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 the 20th of the preceding month.

## BONUS PAGES! 2014 MODEL OF THE YEAR WINNERS

Top: Aleya Montaño's Bandai 1/100 Gundam with Lightsaber (Junior). Bottom: Jeannie Garriss's Revell 1/32 '33 Willys Gasser (Basic).



Top: Steve Brodeur's  $\frac{1}{48}$  Fantastic Voyage Proteus (Intermediate). Bottom: Brian Peck's Tamiya  $\frac{1}{32}$  F4U-1 Corsair (Master).





#### **BONUS PAGES!**

#### DECEMBER'S "MUSTANGS AND CORSAIRS" SPECIAL CONTEST WINNERS

Top: Glenn Bingham's P-51D (Cpt William Whisner 382 FG), Best  $\frac{1}{48}$  Mustang, Masters. Bottom: Brian Peck's P-51D (Cpt Henry Brown, 354 FG), Best  $\frac{1}{48}$  Mustang, Masters.



Top: Mike Blohm's P-51D (Cpt. Robert Foy 387 FG), Best 1/12 Mustang, Masters.

Center: Tim Wood's P-51D (RAF 3 Sq), Best 1/32 Mustang, Intermediate.

Bottom: Len Faulconer's P-51B (Maj David Tex Hill, 23 FG), Best 1/12 Mustang, Intermediate.



Top: Brian Peck's F4U-1 (1Lt Wilbur Thomas, VMF-213), Best  $\frac{1}{42}$  Corasir, Masters. Bottom: Larry Glenn's F4U-1D (LtCdr Roger Hedrick, VF-84), Best  $\frac{1}{48}$  Corsair, Masters.



Top: Adrian Montaõ's F4U-1D (VMF-312), Best 1/32 Corsair, Intermediate.

Center: Frank Randall's F4U-1A (LtJg Ira Kepford, VF-17), Best  $\frac{1}{12}$  Corsair, Intermediate.

Bottom: Aleya Montañor's F4U-1, Best 1/12 Corsair, Juniors.



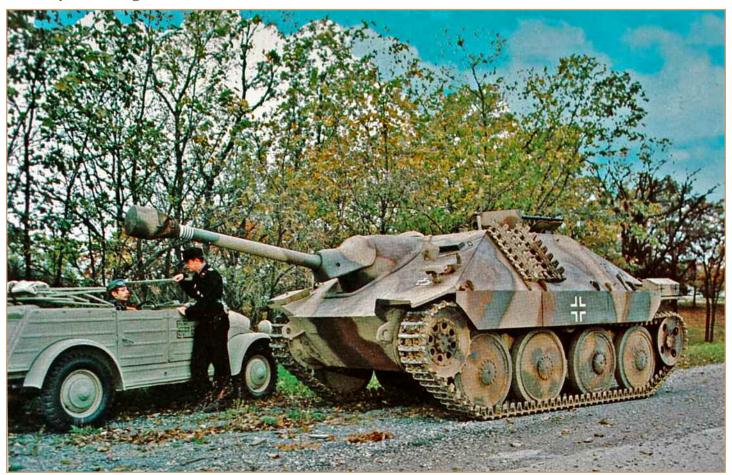
# BONUS PAGES! FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

#### **Postcards**

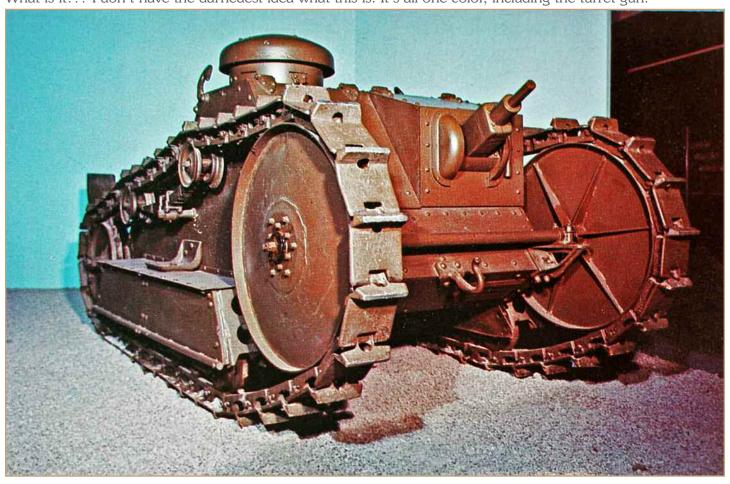
These are photos of postcards that I bought at Fort Knox in 1980 or 1981, when I was taking a course at the Armor School. I was informed that there were warehouses full of both American and captured enemy armored vehicles from the World War II era. I also was told that many of the vehicles were paraded for the public one day each year. I suspect that it was on the July 4 holiday, but don't remember for sure.

As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure commission (BRAC), the Armor School was moved to Ft. Benning and merged with the Infantry Center to create the Maneuver Center of Excellence. A brigade of the 1st Infantry Division and some non-combat commands are relocated or are relocating to Ft. Knox. And I don't know what happened to the World War II vehicles. Did they get moved to another base or are they gathering dust in the Fort Knox warehouses, never to be seen again?

First up: Kubelwagen and Hetzer



What is it??? I don't have the darnedest idea what this is. It's all one color, including the turret gun.



M20 Greyhound:



#### M3 Lee:



M7 Priest:



#### Halftrack:



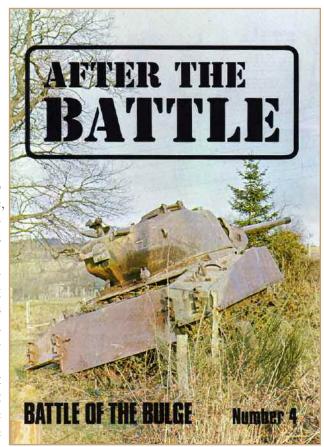
# BONUS PAGES! BATTLE OF THE BULGE: THEN AND NOW JOHN TATE

**Malmedy** 



Most WWII buffs have seen the above photo, of an SS Schwimmwagen in the Ardennes during the Battle of the Bulge, ominously headed towards the Belgian town of Malmedy in December 1944. It is one of the most recognizable German photos from that battle and captures well the sinister nature of the German advance. But how many have thought about where the picture was taken? More than a half-century after the War, finding the location surely must be an impossibility. But on a business trip to Europe seven years ago, I decided to find out, using a Michelin map and old issue of After the Battle featuring the Battle of the Bulge.

The magazine showed an image of the site from 1974; at that time, little had changed since 1944. A caption mentioned that the Schwimmwagen had emerged onto the N23 road from the direction of Born and turned right towards Lignueville. So the first step was figuring out this area was in southeastern Belgium, midway between St. Vith and Malmedy.







Looking more closely, I discovered the road "N23" no longer existed, having been redesignated N62, and was just west of a new expressway (E42 on the above map). But the original intersection looked like it might still be there, so after pinpointing the spot, off I headed. On the below map, the location of the Schwimmwagen photo was at the end of the small stretch of road between the N659 and N62 blue boxes, where it intersected N62.

When I reached the intersection of the road from Born with N62, this is what I found.



A surprise—instead of the road crossing being in a dark forest filled with the distant echoes of a long-ago battle, it was now the site of a light industrial park. It even included a tire store, which both American and German troops would have found useful back in 1944. Seeing this modern location was a good lesson that just as the US had changed since the 1940s, so had Europe. In the above picture, the SS Schwimmwagen would have made a right turn and headed towards Lignueville and Malmedy.

While I was snapping a photo of the intersection, I decided to have a look at the forest across the highway. What I found was no less interesting—these aren't the old growth forests we're familiar with in the US, they are stands of trees that are grown and harvested, which is apparent even in old wartime photos. A little detail to keep in mind if ever modeling a Battle of the Bulge diorama.

Two photos of this forest appear on the following page.





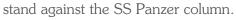
I drove several kilometers up the N62 to the Baugnez Crossroads, known to GIs as Five Points, site of the infamous Malmedy massacre on December 17, 1944.

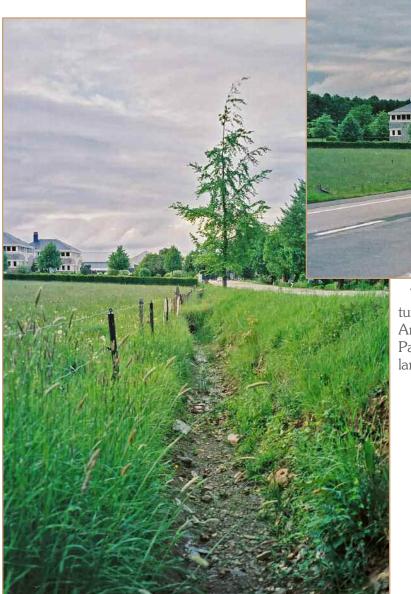






A short distance down the N62 from the Five Points crossroads is the site where American troops made a brief

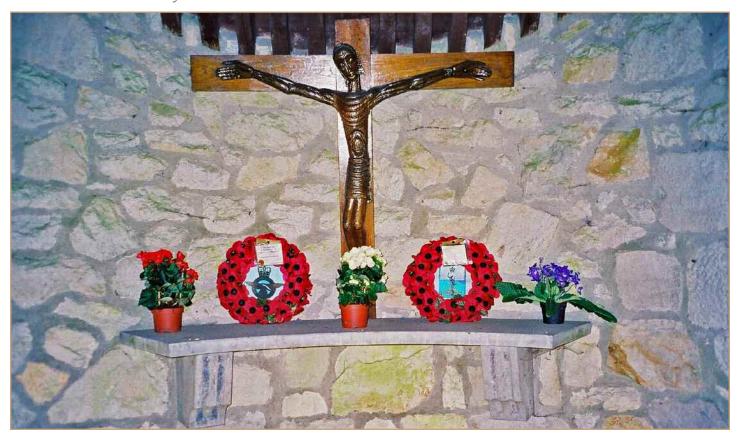




The Five Points crossroads is at the top of the picture; the ditch on the other side of the road is where American troops fought with small arms against Panzers before surrendering to the Germans. The large farmhouse in the picture was built after the war.



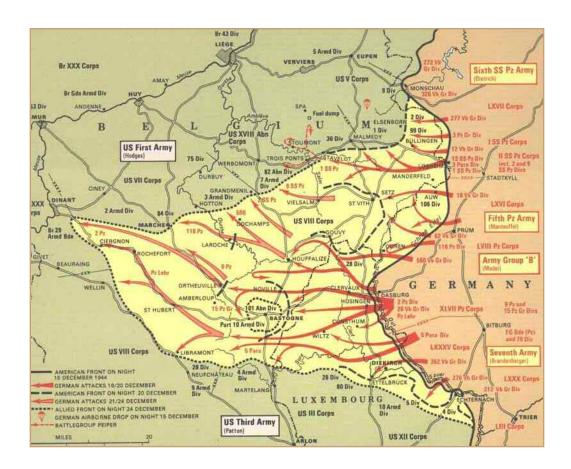
On this page: The memorial, which is located at the crossroads across the street from the massacre site. When I visited, it was heartening to see a poppy wreath had been laid there by members of a RAF squadron; a real touch of class from our finest ally.



In this 70th anniversary year of the Battle of the Bulge, give some thought to the American GIs who gave everything, in bitter cold far from home, to stop, hold, and push back Hitler's war machine. Malmedy is a reminder of the risks any American in uniform faces in wartime, and especially the merciless treatment our POWs can receive at the hands of their captors. If you find yourself in a similar forgotten corner of a foreign field, make a point to visit and pay your respects to the memory of our fallen.

#### **Bastogne**

Around the time I visited Malmedy, which was on the northern perimeter of the German advance, I visited Bastogne, which is located south/southwest of Malmedy and was right in the middle of the German offensive during the Battle of the Bulge.

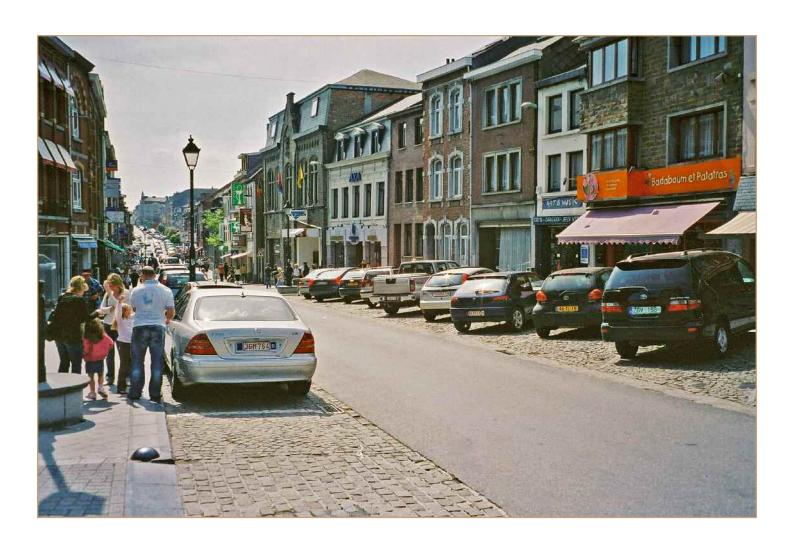


Today, Bastogne is a peaceful and prosperous regional city but it took a helluva beating during the German siege.







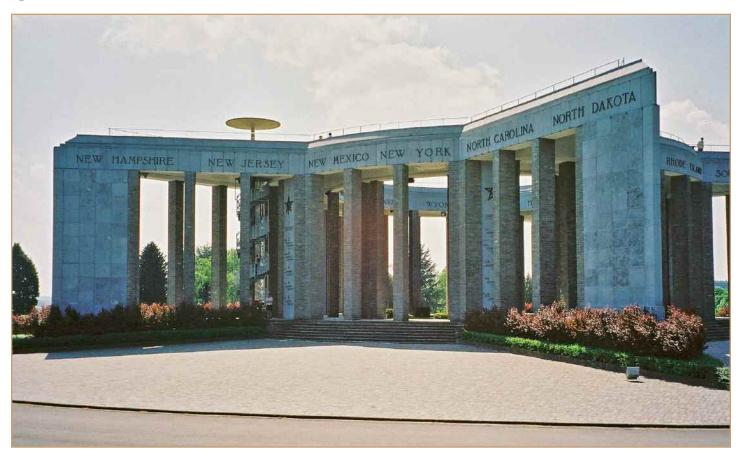


I had it a little easier on the outskirts of Bastogne than these guys did.





Outside the city, there is an excellent museum, the Bastogne Historical Centre, which is full of artifacts from the Battle. It's located next to the Mardasson Memorial, a Belgian monument to the Americans who defended them against the Germans.





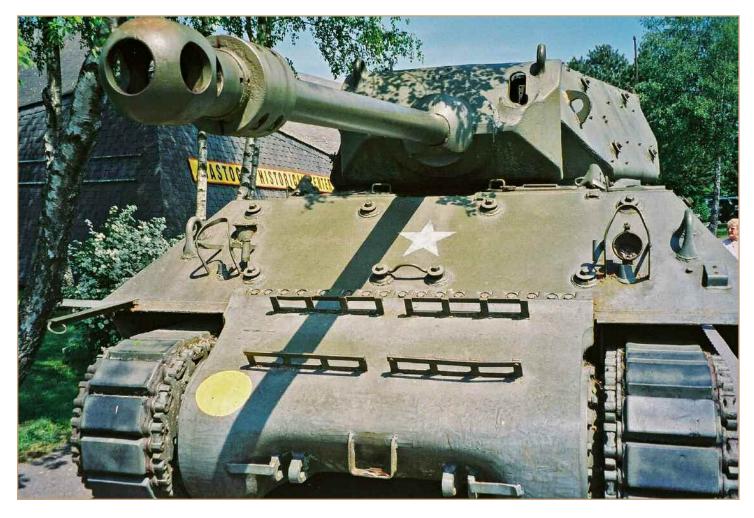


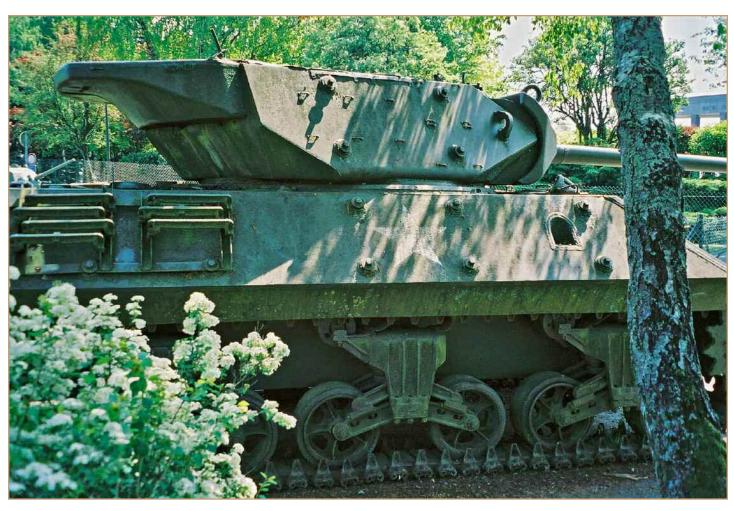




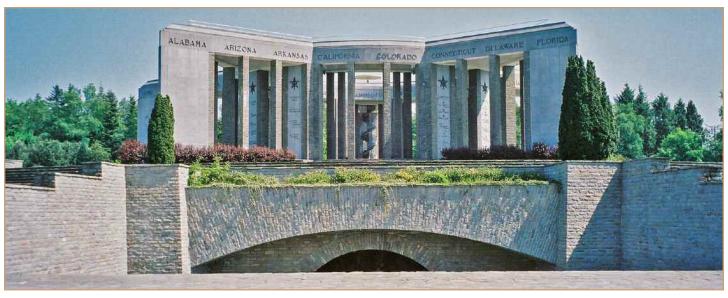
There are a couple of tanks parked outside, but I'm not sure if these were veterans of the Battle of the Bulge or sentinels provided by the Belgian military after the War.











Today the countryside around Bastogne is the picture of beauty and tranquility, probably the best monument possible to the GIs who gave their lives here.





#### **National Museum of Military History**

A good museum to visit in the vicinity of the Ardennes is the National Museum of Military History in Diekirch, Luxembourg. The primary exhibits are of US and German military equipment and uniforms of the 1944-45 period and give a useful impression of how the opposing armies were equipped during the Battle of the Bulge.























This was an interesting display—a model of the German V-3 multiple-propellant gun, used by the Germans to bombard Luxembourg during the Battle of the Bulge. About 180 rounds were fired but the weapon was not particularly effective. The rocket gun site was south of Trier in nearby Germany; unfortunately I was never able to pinpoint the location.





One last shot—this image gives a good idea of what the Belgian Ardennes looks like, in summer at least. If you're a WWII military history buff and have a chance to see this part of the world, do yourself a favor and pay a visit-there are few places on earth where the war still feels as close as it does there.



## BONUS PAGES! FIELD TRIP MIKE BLOHM

## **Battleship Memorial Park—Part 3**

This is the third installment of a multi-part trip report on a visit to Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama, in October 2014. The park is located on the eastern edge of Mobile just off Interstate 10. This report covers the largest attraction at the park: the battleship USS Alabama.



The USS Alabama (BB-60), a member of the South Dakota class of battleships, was laid down on February 1, 1940, and launched on February 16, 1942. It is the sixth vessel to bear the name Alabama. Its first tour of duty in early 1943 was protecting lend-lease convoys to Britain and Russia, while operating with the British Home fleet in the "Murmansk Run." She then joined the Pacific Third Fleet in the New Hebrides in September 1943 and participated in activities against the Gilbert Islands. Actions in 1944 included Truk, the Marianas, Palau Island, Saipan, the battles of the Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf, and Guam. She returned to Bremerton, Washington, for an extended dry-dock from December 1944 to May 1945. Returning to the Pacific, she supported strike operations on the Ryuku Islands and Kyushu, and bombarded engineering works on Honshu Island fifty miles north of Tokyo on July 17, 1945. She was anchored in Tokyo Bay for two weeks at the end of the war in September 1945 before returning to the US. The ship earned nine total Battle Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal. She was decommissioned on January 9, 1947, and sent to the Bremerton Group of the United States Pacific Reserve Fleet. She remained at Bremerton until stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on Jun 1, 1962.



In May 1962, the USS Alabama had been ordered scrapped along with her South Dakota-class sister ships, USS South Dakota, USS Indiana, and USS Massachusetts. Citizens of the state of Alabama formed the "USS Alabama Battleship Commission" to raise funds for the preservation of the Alabama as a memorial to the men and women who served in World War II. The ship was awarded to the state on June 16, 1964, and was formally turned over on July 7, 1964, in ceremonies at Seattle, Washington. The Alabama was then towed to her permanent berth at Mobile, Alabama, arriving in Mobile Bay on September 14, 1964, and opening as a museum ship on January 9, 1965.

There are three self-guided tours available of the ship, each shown in the Visitor's Tour Guide handout that you get after you purchase a ticket. The Red tour is below decks to the stern of the ship. The Green tour is also below decks, at the forward area of the ship including the engine room. The Yellow tour is the main and upper decks, including the main 16-inch and 5-inch gun turrets, the anti-aircraft guns, the bridge, and the fire control tower. We ended up doing just the Yellow tour because of time constraints and those were the main areas that we wanted to see. The Guide has a pretty detailed route spelled-out and gives you basic information on all the areas that you are visiting. Be careful climbing around in the turrets as they are very cramped spaces.

Plan on several hours to tour the Alabama, depending upon how much you want to see. The Park is open every day except Christmas Day, from 8:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M., April – September, and 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M., October – March. Check out the Park's website (http://www.ussalabama.com).

More information and photos of the USS Alabama are available at:

http://www.history.navy.mil/photos/sh-usn/usnsh-a/bb60.htm

http://www.navsource.org/archives/01/60a.htm

Photos by Mike Blohm; more photos, including several by Matt Blohm, are available on the ASM Website (http://www.abgscalemodelers.com/asm\_field\_trips.htm).







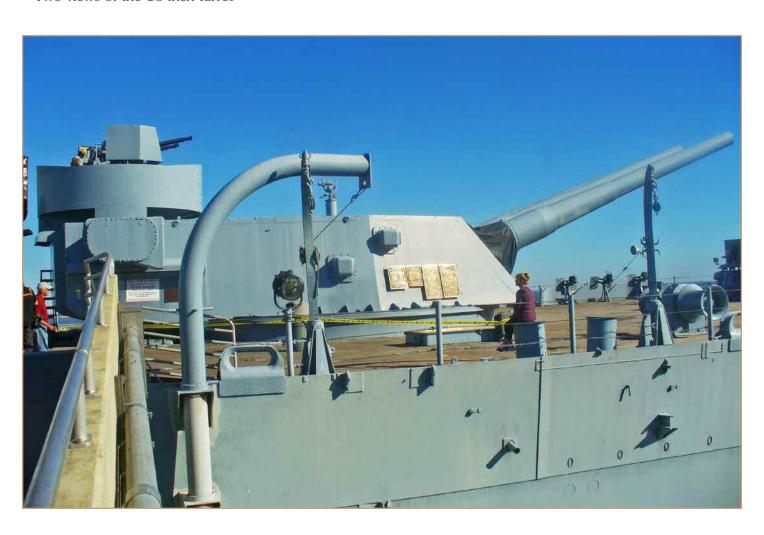


Above: Ship's stern. Below: Bow and AAA guns





Two views of the 16-inch turret





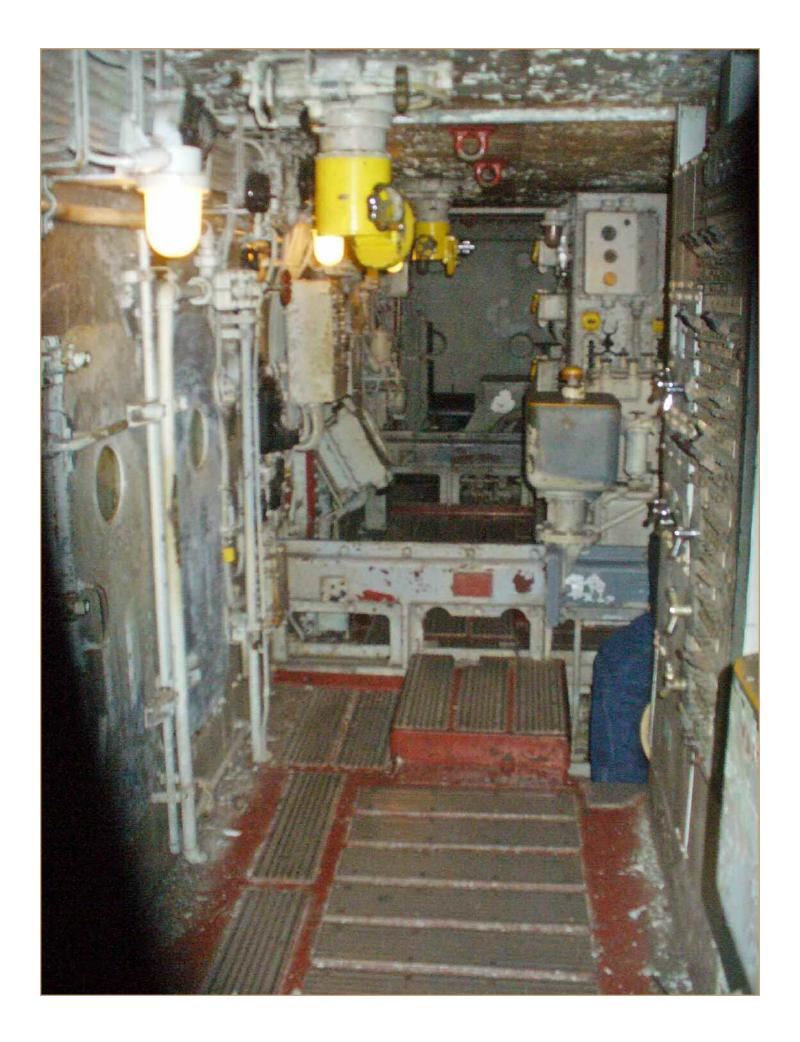
















Below: Aircraft launch ramp



















## Join IPMS/USA!

The International Plastic Modelers' Society is an organization dedicated to the fun of Scale Modeling. Started by Jim Sage of Dallas, Texas, in 1964, there are now IPMS branches all over the world.

As part of your IPMS/USA membership, you will receive the IPMS Journal six times a year. In it you will find stories of interest on subjects such as aircraft, armor, automotive, ships, and figures. You will also find listings of IPMS contests and swap meets, hints and tips, and reviews. Membership also qualifies you to participate in IPMS/USA-sanctioned Regional Contests, as well as our world-famous National Convention, held each summer.

As a member, you'll also be able to access our online Members' Forum, where a wide variety of society and modeling topics are discussed. In addition, many hobby shops around the country offer discounts to IPMS/USA members. To join IPMS/USA, simply use the form below or join online (http://www.ipmsusa.org).

For any questions or problems regarding your membership application or renewal, please contact the IPMS/USA Office Manager (manager@ipmsusa.org).

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