

### THE EAGLE'S VIEW MIKE BLOHM

#### A Look Back at 2017 and the Upcoming 2018 And a Local Hero Passes

First off, I want to thank the outgoing members of the 2017 E-Board for their

service to the club: Jerry Little as Vice President, Victor Maestas as Contest Director, and Bob Henderson as Pro Tem. Our most excellent 2017 was due in part to their hard efforts.

Speaking of 2017, here is a short recap of what the club accomplished over the year. A few pictures of these events are included with this article. We put on a great **IPMS Region 10 Convention** and Model Contest with "Chile Con IV" held at a new

venue on June 16-17. It went quite well, with seventy entrants and 466 models from six different states. A good time was had by all.

The next big event was the ASM-sponsored 2017 **New Mexico State Fair Model Contest** on August 26 – 29. We set a new record for model en-

tries with a total of 77 by 51 entrants. Our displayonly exhibit of "Star Wars—40th Anniversary" models was also a record with 35 models that filled two whole cases. Thanks to everyone for making

December Meeting highlights, left to right: Members setting up the contest entries, our annual end-of-the-year cake, and the business meeting in progress.















that truly impressive and a great display of the modeling skills of the ASM membership. For the 2018 display-only theme we are planning to do "1918" (100th Anniversary of the end of World War I).

ASM next put on a model display supporting the Folds of Honor Foundation at their annual fundraising Gala on September 23 at the Sandia Resort and Casino. That display had forty models representing all the US services spread out over six tables. All the attendees enjoyed looking at the models, and we are planning to do a display again in 2018, with a couple of ASM-built models to be raffled off.

We had an **ASM Group Field Trip** to the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History here in Albuquerque on December 15 to close out 2017. There is a separate article on that event in this Newsletter. Finally, ASM won the IPMS/USA 2016 **Website of the Year Award**, and I would like to thank everyone in ASM that contributed articles, kit reviews, and field trip reports for posting on the website, and participated in activities and events conducted by the club. Overall, I think we did a great job of promoting scale modeling and the club

Top to bottom: A look at the Chile Con IV setup; the State Fair Model Contest on display; ASM members at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History (L) and at the Folds of Honor Gala (R).

with the public and having fun in 2017.

ASM also had a pretty productive set of club meetings in 2017. We had two presentations by book authors: The New Mexico Space Trail by Joseph Page in March, and the Desert Storm Air War by Douglas Dildy in October. We also had four model clinics and two presentations on field trips taken by ASM members. We plan to conduct a similar amount of clinics and presentations in 2018 including a whole meeting dedicated to multiple clinics on April 6. Please let the E-Board know if you have a presentation that you would like to give to the club. Contest-wise, we had seven Theme (points) contests, three Special (non-points) contests, and five Sponsored Contests—thanks to all who hosted those. If you have an idea for a sponsored contest in 2018, please let the Contest Director (John Tate) know and we will try to fit it into the schedule.

To close, here is another short story of an American "ace"—when you count both aerial and ground victories—Edward B. Giller, who recently passed away here in Albuguerque on October 1, 2017. ASM does have a connection with Major General Giller, in a round-about kind of way. Most modelers might recognize Giller's famous P-51D Mustang named "The Millie G" after his wife, Mildred. There were actually eight different "Millies" including P-38s and P-51s. During World War II he scored three aerial victories, including an Me-262 jet on April 6, 1945. His other two victories were a Ju-88 on November 13, 1943, and an Me-410 on November 25, 1944; these two were scored in a P-38 Lightning. He also had six ground kills, including a "triple" on Apr 16, 1945, and a "double" on Apr 9, 1945. These ground kills were included in overall victory totals at that time to encourage strafing, thus making him an "ace."

He flew both the P-38 and P-51 with the 343rd Fighter Squadron (FS) of the 55th Fighter Group (FG), 8th Air Force, out of Wormingford, England. He would eventually serve as 343 FS commander and then 55 FG deputy commander. Giller remained in the USAF after WWII and was involved in nuclear weapons research and in the USAF Offices of Scientific and Aerospace Research. From June 1954 to June 1959 he was the Special Assistant Director and later the Director of the Research Directorate, Air Force Special Weapons Center, at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

He retired as a Major General in June 1972, but remained involved with the Atomic Energy Commission and the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties (SALT) I and II, and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

General Giller and his wife retired to Albuquerque in 1998, where he lived to his death at the age of 99. Several ASM members, including myself, attended the Giller estate sale conducted in June 2016 when he moved into an assisted living facility. I acquired some photo albums, books, and scrapbooks. John Tate acquired a display set of four P-51 "Millie G" models that had been presented to General Giller at the 1967 IPMS/USA National Convention where he had been a guest speaker. These models were detailed in an article by John in the August 2016 ASM Newsletter. The individual model pictures accompanying this article include a Tamiya 1/48-scale P-51D kit in Giller's markings built

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Year 2018 Contest Quick Reference Chart
      Titles in blue indicate contests for points
I 05 Jan Special Contest #1:
          SCI-FI/SCIENCE/REAL SPACE/FANTASY
          Sponsored Contest: "Frickin' Laser
          Beams" (Patrick Dick)
 02 Feb ASM Swap Meet—no contest.
O2 Mar Open Contest—Any kit/subject/scale.
 06 Apr ASM Clinic Night—no contest.
 04 May Special Contest #2: Tamiya vs.
          HASEGAWA SHOWDOWN.
          Sponsored Contest: "1918" (John
          Tate)
 01 Jun O Canada!—Any kit/subject/scale
          representing a Canadian subject.
          Sponsored Contest: "Stormy Weather"
          (Jack Garriss)
06 Jul
          Bare Metal—Any kit/subject/scale.
          Sponsored Contest: "Adversaries II"
          (Mike & Matt Blohm)
  10 Aug ASM Swap Meet—no contest.
 07 Sep Special Contest #3: Post
          APOCALYPSE.
          Sponsored Contest: "Global War on
          Terror (GWOT)" (ASM E-Board)
 05 Oct Middle East Conflict—Any
          kit/subject/scale, 1948 - present.
          Sponsored Contest: "Get Your Fix—
          Airfix, That Is" (Gil De La Plain)
 02 Nov Open Contest—Any kit/subject/scale.
          Sponsored Contest: "Blackbirds"
          (Dave Epstein)
■ 07 Dec Special Contest #4: Pearl Harbor.
          Plus Model of the Year competition!
 Note: 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
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by Larry Glenn. He used BaracudaCals BC48011 decals for the markings. This model received a 3rd Place award at the 2017 IPMS/USA Nationals, fifty years after the display models had been presented to General Giller in 1967.

Also included are pictures of the Revell ½2-scale P-51D kit that I built in Giller's markings in 1971. Back then this was the best ½2 P-51 kit available. I believe the decals were from ESCI and Microscale, with some items hand-painted. Fortunately P-51 kits have gotten a whole lot better since then. Coincidentally, which makes the connection circle with ASM complete, to build Giller's "Millie" in 1971 for my Aces Gallery collection at the USAF Academy, I used the 1969 article in the IPMS/USA Journal that detailed all the research that had been done on

his aircraft to build that "Millie G" display presentation set that John rescued at the Giller estate sale. That *Journal* article was reprinted as part of John's article in the *ASM Newsletter*, and I recommend you check it out.

I do not know why the USAF Academy Library had a subscription to the *IPMS/USA Journal* and *Quarterly*, but I spent a lot of time researching schemes in all the magazines they had on file. That was my first exposure to IPMS/USA and I subsequently became a member.

To finally close, I hope that everyone has a Happy New Year and can spend a lot of time building models in 2018. You had better get moving, as the IPMS/USA Nationals is only seven months away!

For further information on General Giller, his obituary in the *Albuquerque Journal* can be found on the web (https://tinyurl.com/asm1801a).

### IN THE BONUS PAGES! JOE WALTERS

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

(Somebody was a little verbose this time around!)

- Photos of the 2017 Model of the Year winners
- Photos from Mike Blohm's article above
- Contest Director's report
- Fred's Foto File
- A Field Trip Report by Mike Blohm
- Ken Piniak returns to his Shelf of Doom!

Master  John Tate Chris Kurtze Larry Glenn Ken Liotta Bret Kinman Frank Randall James Strickland Brian Peck Ray Ayles Dave Straub Patrick Dick Josh Pals Mike Blohm Tony Humphries Victor Maestas John Patterson . Glen Bingham Jerry Little Danny Williams . Steve Brodeur Dave Miller		Pavid Epstein Chuck Hermann . Robert Meeker, Jr. Robert Henderson Len Faulconer Scott Williams Michael O'Brien Aaron Kreltszheim David Haskins Ken Piniak Ethan Schwartzma Adrian Montaño . Henry McHarney. Don Goodrich Tom Scholer Mark Yoder Scott Jaworski Gil Johnson		Jim Mesco       4         Theron Brawley       2         Blaine Couch       2         Chris Kurtze, Jr.       2         Basic         Logan Carbin       2095         Charles Petrilli       657         Jeannie Garriss       435         Elias Clark       410         Aaron Schmiedicke       410         Richard Shryock       325         Anthony Weaver       210         John Dodd       150         Steve Miller       100         Rolf Nitsche       6          Junior         Aleya Montaño       435         Marie Smith       150         Josh Kinman       2         2017 MODELER OF THE         YEAR POINTS FINAL
CONTACT	President: Vice President: Secretary/Treasurer: Contest Director: Members Pro-Tem: Webmaster: Newsletter Editor:	Mike Blohm Josh Pals Frank Randall John Tate Jack Garriss Chris Kurtze Keith Liotta Mike Blohm Joe Walters	823-9404 344-4761 681-5158 908-1231 823-9404 821-3751	BlohmM@aol.com jpals871@gmail.com fcr40.fr@gmail.com jtlynwood@hotmail.com jgar319113@aol.com aggressivekill@yahoo.com theemodelstarter@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! 2017 MODELS OF THE YEAR

Top to bottom: Logan Carbin's T-55A (Basic); David Epstein's  $Xuan\ Class\ Submarine$  (Intermediate); and Chris Kurtze's  $F-5E\ Aggressor$  (Masters). There were no Junior entries. Photos by Frank Randall and



## BONUS PAGES! SPECIAL CONTEST WINNERS

From the Special Contest "Supersonic," top to bottom: David Epstein's X-15 (Intermediate) and Victor Maestas's  $Bell\ X-1$  (Masters). Photos by Frank Randall and Joe Walters.





## Bonus Pages! The Eagle's View

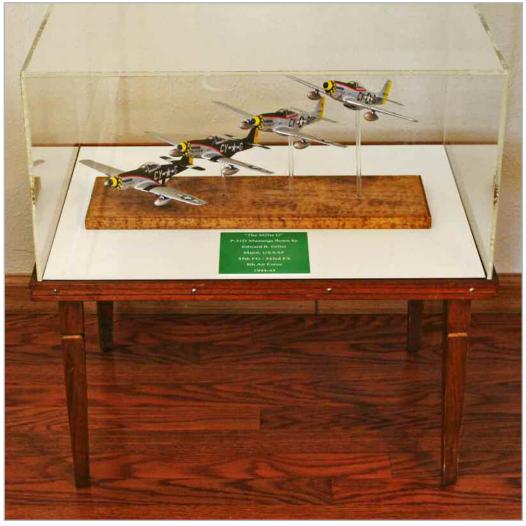
MIKE BLOHM

Photos to accompany the General Giller section of the lead article in this issue.



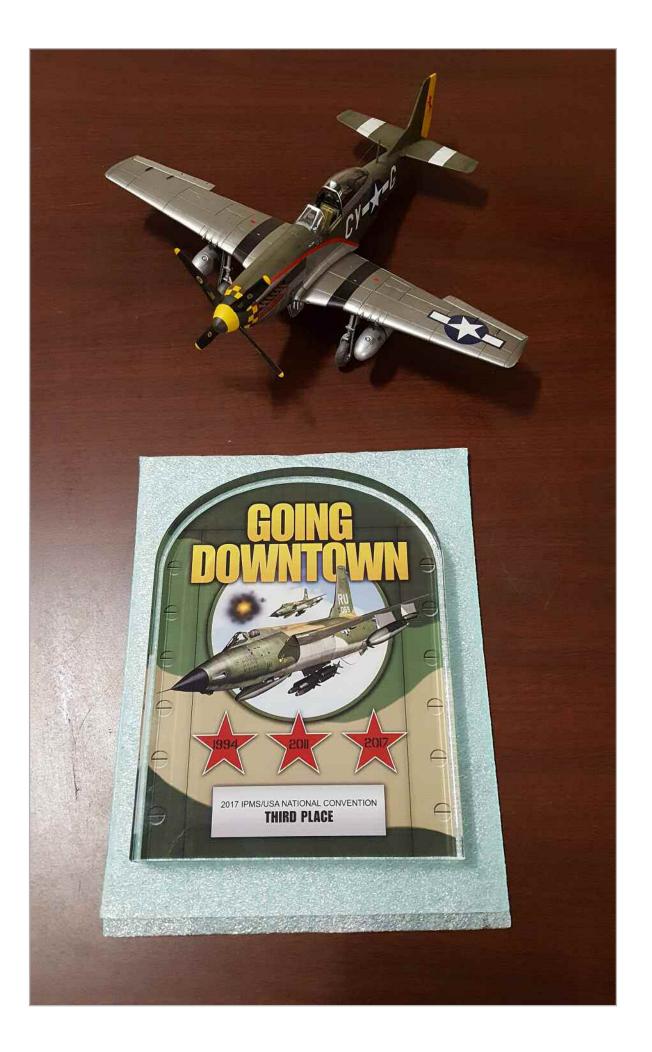














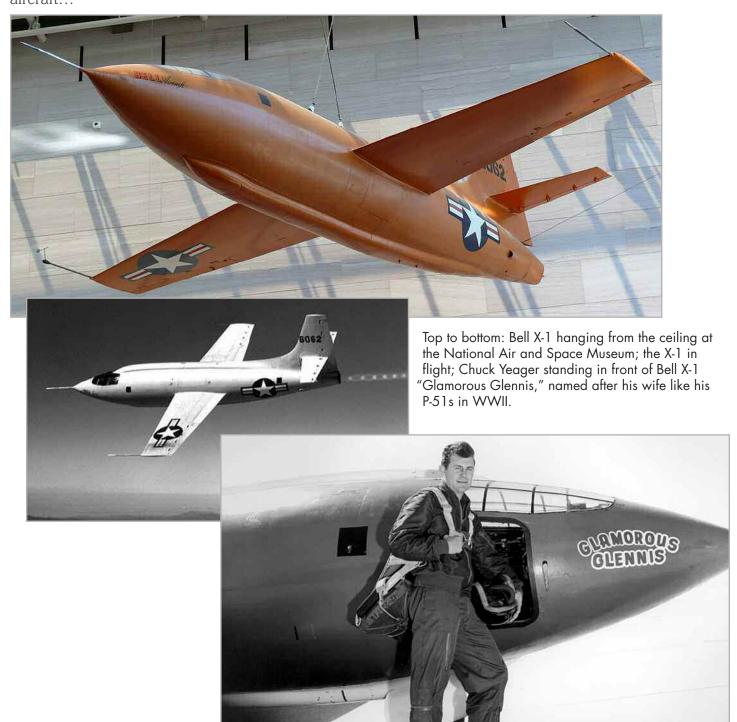


#### BONUS PAGES! ERRATA

#### MIKE BLOHM

[Editor's Note: Somehow I failed to notice these attachments to Mike's lead article last month. Here's the relevant text from that article, and the images that should have accompanied it in the first place. Sorry about that, Mike! My bad. -JW]

We just passed the 70th anniversary of the first official supersonic flight on October 14, 1947. Most modelers know about Chuck Yeager "breaking the sound barrier" in the rocket engine-powered Bell X-1 aircraft...



...here is another short story on an American ace. I have so far neglected the P-47 Thunderbolt aces since I started writing this column, so here is a story on one of them: Major William Dunham of the USAAF. "Dinghy" Dunham is the second-ranking ace of the 348th Fighter Group (FG), "Kearby's Thunderbolts." He is the 32nd-ranking US ace (tie) and 27th-ranking USAF ace (tie) with 16 total victories. Dunham initially served with the 53 FG in Panama before transferring to 348 FG in Nov 1942 where he would serve two combat tours in the Southwest Pacific. He scored fifteen victories with the P-47D, including seven kills on his first tour, with a "double" on 16 Oct 1943 (2 Haps) and a "triple" on 21 Dec 1943 (3 Vals). He scored nine more victories on his second tour, with a "quadruple" on 7 Dec 1944 (2 Zekes and 2 Oscars). His final kill was in a P-51K against a Frank on 14 Dec 1945.

During his second tour he commanded both the 342 Fighter Squadron (FS) and 460 FS, and rose to Lieutenant Colonel and Deputy Commander of the 348 FG. Dunham remained in service and later commanded several jet wings. He retired from the USAF as a brigadier general in 1970, and died in 1990. This model of his P-47D is the ½-scale Hasegawa kit with Aeromaster decals (AM 72-008). All of his aircraft were named "Bonnie" or "Mrs. Bonnie." The black wing and fuselage bands were a theater recognition marking. Some sources show the glare panel and spine as olive drab, and others have those as

black.

This page and following: Side view of Dunham's third P-47D at Leyte, the Phillippines, in December, 1944; Bill Dunham in the cockpit of that aircraft; and Mike Blohm's model of this plane.













## BONUS PAGES! CONTEST DIRECTOR VICTOR MAESTAS

The December meeting held the Supersonic themed special contest as well as the Model of the Year showdown. For the Supersonic contest, in Intermediate, David Epstein's X-15 took best entry and Victor Maestas's X-1 took best entry in Masters. These models were also then put into consideration for the Model of the Year contest for all of the Best of Show models from 2017. There were a lot of great entries to judge from this year's contests.

The following models took Model of the Year:

Basic: Logan Carbin's T-55A Russian tank Intermediate: David Epstein's Yuan Class submarine

Masters: Chris Kurtze's F-5E aggressor

With the November contest completed, the final points tally has been compiled and the Modeler of the Year for each division is now decided. Congratulations go to the following people in each division:

Juniors: Aleya Montano Basic: Logan Carbin Intermediate: David Epstein Masters: John Tate

This year's contest tables had a lot of entries and here are a few statistics:

#### Contests:

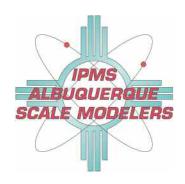
Contests, spread over 10 contest nights: 7 points / 3 special / 5 sponsored

#### Model entries:

Total number of models entered (points, sponsored and special contests): 187

Work in Progress entries:

WIP entries: 105



## BONUS PAGES! FRED'S FOTO FILE FRED FRANCESCHI

#### The Photo I Can't Find

This Foto File is a bit different. I have several silk maps from the Second World War. These maps could be used as scarves, which helped a pilot prevent getting his neck rubbed raw from constant head turning during flight. And if a pilot bailed out, he had a map of the area with him.

The first map is a World War II map of the Western Pacific, and was given to me by Hugh Batten, a friend of my father. The map includes Japan, the Marianas, Korea, The Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Borneo, and other combat areas of the Pacific. And it shows the winds and ocean currents so someone floating around in a life raft could get an idea of where they were headed between November and March. The other side of the map has the same land masses, with the wind and current patterns for May through September.

Somewhere I have a photo of Lt. Hugh Batten, US Navy, that I took in (probably) 1954, sitting in my father's lounge chair, and, if I remember correctly, smoking a cigarette. I did a bunch of unsuccessful searching for that photo, but his story should be told.

US Navy Lieutenant JG (at the time of the encounter) Batten was an F6F pilot in the Pacific. He shot down four Japanese aircraft during one flight. The story of how he shot down the four aircraft has stuck in my memory ever since the day in 1954 when he told it to me. And I bet that the real story is not in any official documents.

During that combat, Lt JG Batten was an Element Leader in a four-plane flight, and the flight spotted nine Japanese aircraft flying among clouds. The Flight Leader ordered Lt. JG Batten and his wingman to follow the enemy planes at a distance, while the Flight Leader circled around through the clouds to intercept the enemy planes. Hugh "misunderstood," and as soon as the flight leader was off, Batten and his wingman attacked the nine enemy planes. Because of the clouds, the Flight Leader couldn't see the fighting, but could see burning planes crashing into the ocean and couldn't tell if the burning planes were American or enemy. When the Flight Leader got to where one plane had hit the water, there would be another burning airplane hitting the water somewhere else. Hugh shot down four airplanes and, if I remember correctly, his wingman shot down one or two also. And the Flight Leader spent the entire battle chasing around after burning aircraft hitting the ocean. Lt. JG Batten received the Navy Cross for this action.

At that time, Lt. JG Batten was attached to VF-83 on the *USS Essex*, CV-9, and the date of the encounter was April 6, 1945. I found this info on a website called "Hall of Valor" (http://valor.militarytimes.com). Lt. JG Batten received the Navy Cross for the action. Batten continued his career, later fighting in the Korean War, and I think he also fought during the Vietnam war.

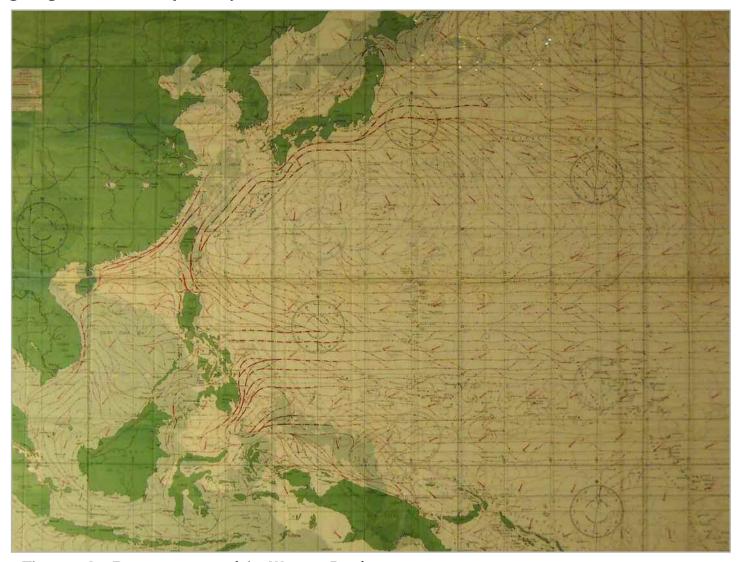
Lt. JG Batten shot down three more aircraft during World War II, becoming a seven-plane ace. His family and my parents continued to communicate and exchange Christmas cards until their deaths.

Hugh Batten and other men I met who fought in that war, risking their lives to protect their country, were the heroes of my youth. Highly-paid men who have difficulty standing for the National Anthem are not my heroes.

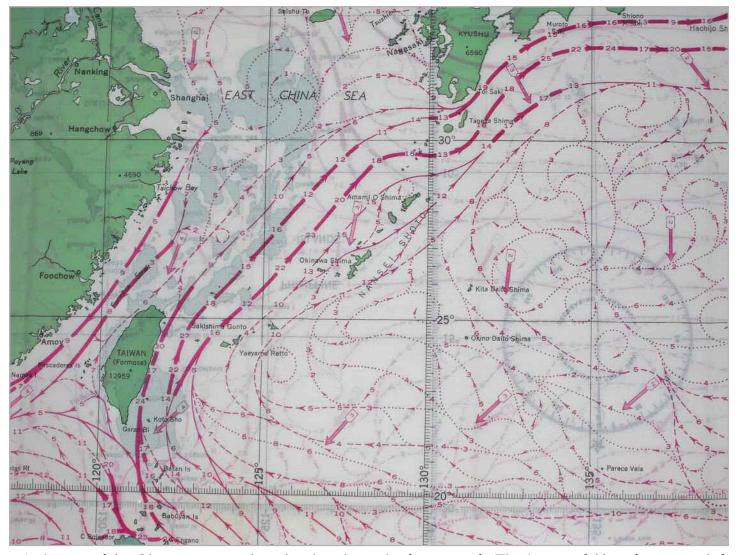
The next map is also a World War II cloth map, but this one is of the European theatre. One side is Holland-Belgium-France-Germany. The other side is France-Germany-Switzerland. I remember swapping something for the map with a kid at school in the early 1950s, but don't remember what I gave away. And I don't know what stories this map could tell. But it feels very used, and has several marks of what look like cigarette burns on it.

And when I was in Japan with the Army in the 1980s, I bought several silk maps of Honshu at a depart-

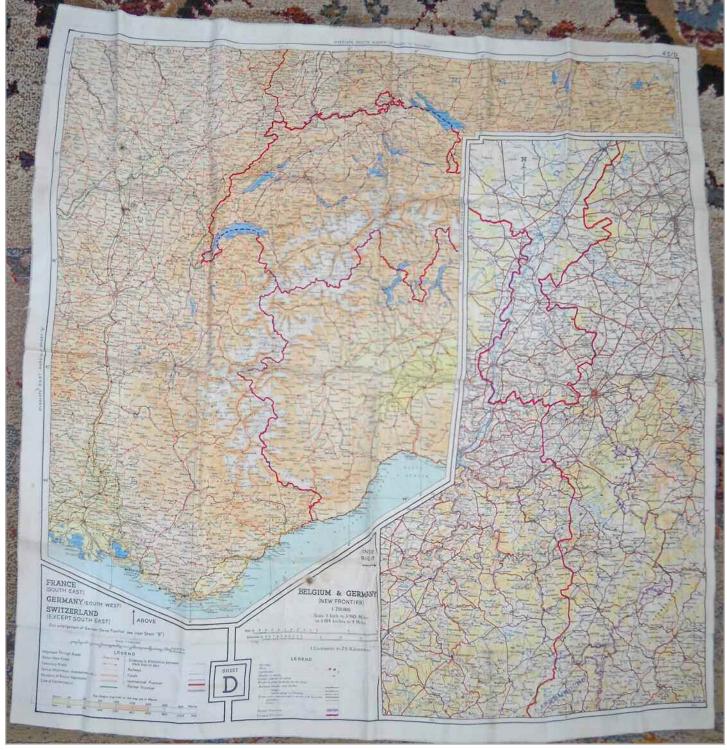
ment store, with all writing in Japanese, and gave them to my daughters. And I really screwed up by not getting one of those maps for myself also.



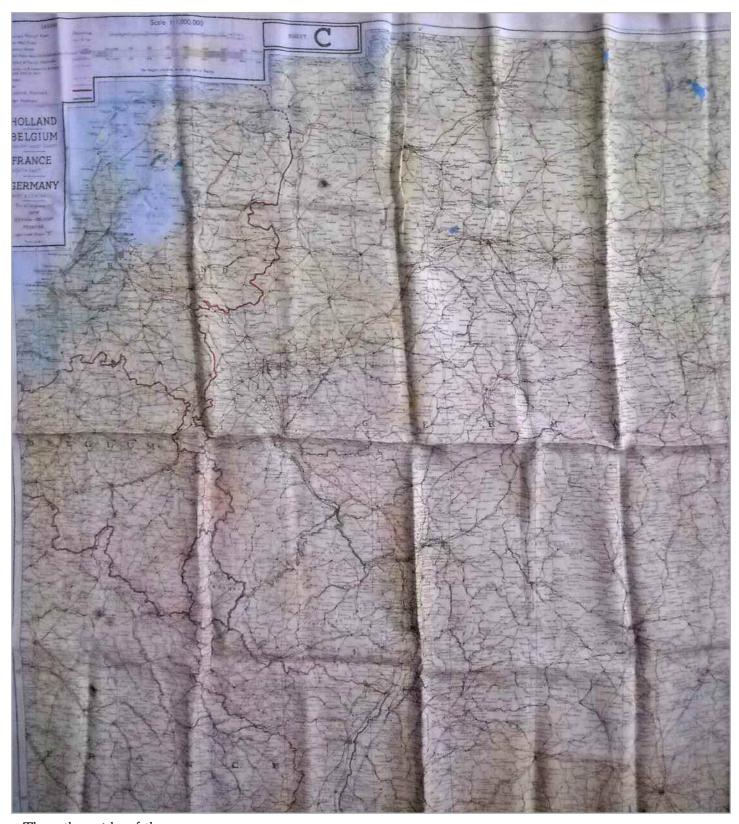
The map Lt. Batten gave me of the Western Pacific.



A closeup of the Okinawa area, where he shot down the four aircraft. That's an awful lot of water to drift around in if you do get shot down.



One side of the silk map of Germany, France and Switzerland.



The other side of the same map.

Closeups from the "Germany" map.



## BONUS PAGES! FIELD TRIP REPORT MIKE BLOHM

#### National Museum of Nuclear Science & History

ASM members conducted a group field trip on Friday, December 15, 2017, to the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History in Albuquerque. We had seven ASM members participating. Andy Rogulich, ASM member and docent at the museum, allowed us to piggyback on a tour that he was giving for the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center.

The tour was concentrated on the development of nuclear weapons during World War II and the Cold War. Andy gave overviews of the information presented in each of the displays—he definitely knows this subject area.

The group then went outside to get a tour of about half of the items on display there, due to time limits. A selection of pictures is included below. More pictures will be available on the *ASM Website's* Field Trips webpage. The sun angle was not the greatest so some of the pictures are pretty dark. Definitely recommended to visit (FYI, ASM *did* contribute funding for the paint used to refurbish their B-52!).

ASM will be planning to conduct another tour of this museum in 2018, as well as the Defense Nuclear Weapons School's Nuclear Weapons Instructional Museum at Kirtland Air Force Base. ASM has been contributing and loaning models for their displays, and we want to keep that effort going in 2018.





























#### **BONUS PAGES!**

# TALES FROM THE SHELF OF DOOM

KEN PINIAK

#### Part II

I had wanted to get this finished up by the December 2017 ASM club meeting, but that didn't happen. I did take what I had as a WIP display.



The helicopter itself is basically done. The fuselage is complete, and the stub wings are in place. If I was building this to the standards of 1982, it would be done by now. But I am building it to my standards of 2017, which are now much higher. And perhaps I am a bit of a glutton for punishment, as I keep adding things that I would not even have thought of in 1982.

First up is the chin turret. In the '80s I had improved it a little bit, but looking at it now it was just not good enough. I took the guns from the old turret, and using a resin piece from Cobra Company as a



guide, built a whole new one. It may not be quite as good as the one from Cobra Company, but it is a whole lot better than the original kit part, and it still moves! The stub wings are from the kit, but I cut off the end pylons and replaced them with the pylons from the Supercobra, to fit the TOW missile launchers.

#### More cockpit details:

I made a new canopy removal system pull handle using strip styrene and a "T" handle from Verlinden. The tubing is wire. In 1982, seat belts were not even a consideration; I was going to have the pilots in the seats. Remember the motor for the rotor? That has changed. I used seat belts from HGW, in the Czech Republic. These are printed on a micro-weave fabric, with photoetch hardware. They are small, complex, and a royal pain to work with, but are very realistic. I used a real belt as a reference to get the "right" look.





#### TOW missile racks:

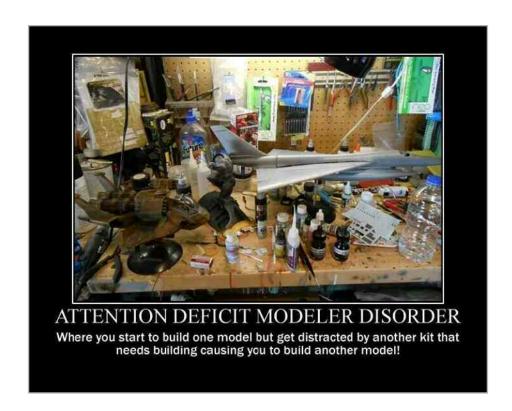
At first I planned to just use the stock missile racks from the Supercobra kit. But helicopters in Germany usually flew with empty racks, and the MRC kit has full racks for Desert Storm. Foolish me, I decided that to do it right, I need empty racks. The MRC kit does not have the parts to show empty racks. The Eduard PE set does, but they would have you build it all using brass. I don't know about anyone else, but I have never been able to bend, fold, roll, curve, or otherwise massage all those little brass pieces to do what Eduard says they should do. So I combined the Eduard brass with MRC plastic along with some creative styrene bits to make something that at least looks like some TOW missile launchers. At this point they don't look half bad, and certainly look better than anything I could have scratch built back in the 1980s.



#### Canopy:

Now the only major obstacle to finishing this thing is the canopy. Again, this was not even a consideration back in 1982. Then, the only option was to use the kit canopy (hey, it's not that bad). Today, there is another option; Werner's Wings makes a beautiful vacuform canopy. Unfortunately, vacuform canopies can be difficult to work with. But they do look sooo good in place. I already messed up my first attempt to use one of these and had to get a new one. So here goes round two.

Stay tuned...





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#### 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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