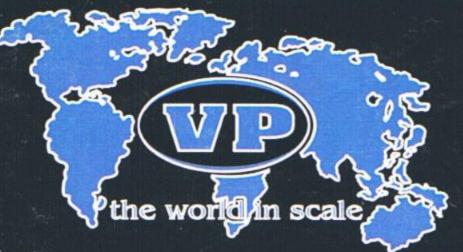
M10404 © July 1993 Volume 4 Number 4 Belgium 225.- Bfr

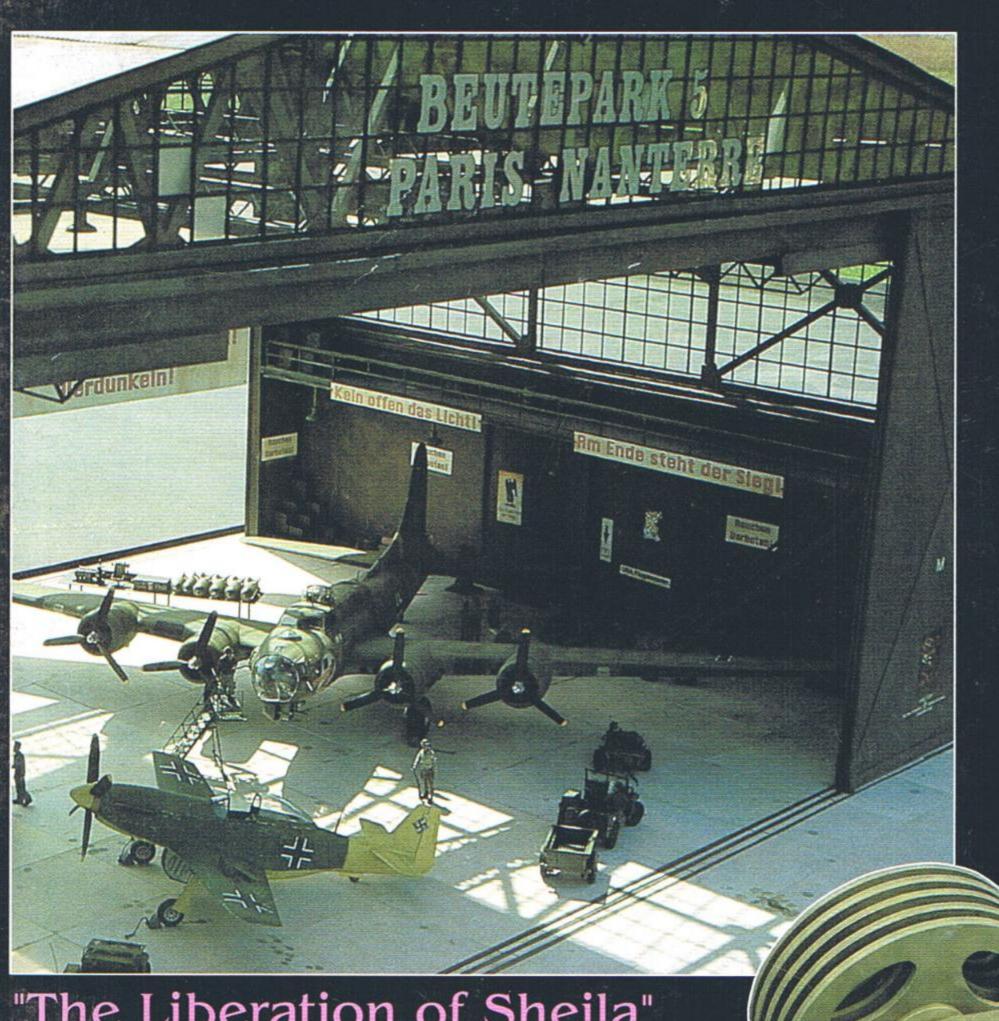
HERODUCTIONS !

Modeling

In this issue



Magazine





In focus: USAF Generator Set/ Gas Turbine APU

"The Liberation of Sheila" B-17G In 1/48th

the Press!!
Hot off the VP
Casting Machines

"Cross of Iron" a diorama by I. HILL, Australia

The Royal Museum of Military Science, Brussels

> Painting Guide: Roman Centurion

Objective: Kuwait City



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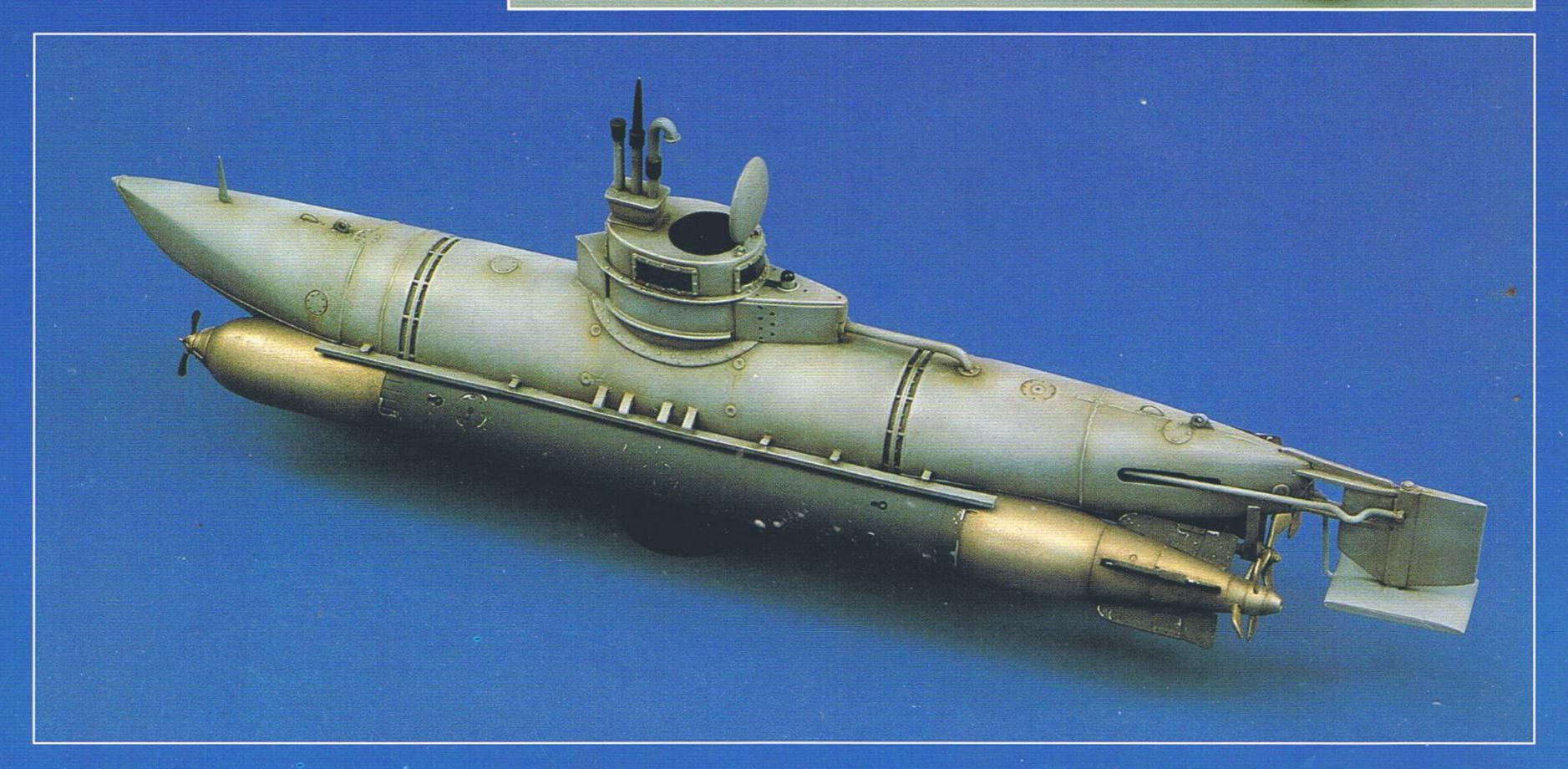
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Volume 4 Number 4

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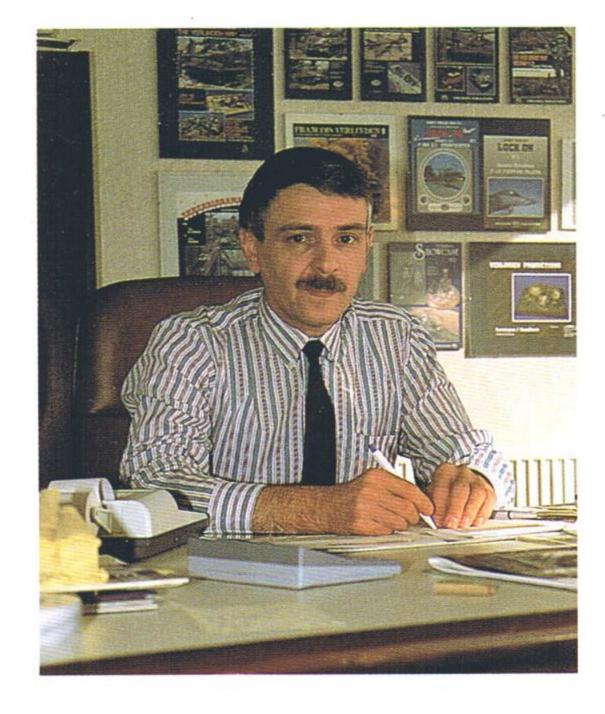
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From the editor

In my 18 years in the business, I have to say that I never thought I would witness things I have been seeing in the hobby industry lately. I suppose the current worldwide recession is partially responsible, however, I have experienced recessions in the past but never with such repercussions.

There have never been so many bankruptcies in every level of the business. Manufacturers, distributors, from the largest to the smallest, and many hobby shops. Just look around Europe and remember all the ads in modeling magazines from manufacturers who have since quietly disappeared, one at a time, over the last 24 months. I would guess that there are fewer than half the metal figure producers today that were around 2 years ago (Think



about it!). And the worse may be yet to come. Several states in the U.S. have made the sale of lead figures unlawful and others have similar laws before their legislatures. Some of you are probably thinking that I'm happy about this particular turn of events. No, I have never wished failure on an **honest** competitor. This is a real shame because these laws are aimed at protecting children from lead poisoning. The lawmakers don't realize that metal figures are painted by adults.

In past editorials we've mentioned practices such as 5-6 releases of the same kits with different box art. There are fewer new plastic releases than ever before. There are those who announce dozens of kits, which are never released, year after year and then suddenly disappear from their catalogs. A plastic manufacturer releases a new kit that is so bad the mold has to be recalled for retooling. What, I ask myself, when (and if) it is rereleased, will they do for all those unlucky modelers who bought the first version?

Recently, I was shocked to hear of an importer who, apparently out of desparation, began selling plastic kits direct to the consumer for lower prices than to their distributors. In the short run, it will help their cash flow and lower their inventory, but long term is another story. How will they get a distributor or especially a hobby shop to buy those items again? I love this hobby and I hate to see these things happen. I believe it is more than the recession, it is a sign of the times. The hard core modelers are a stable group, but the youngsters have always been the mass market which supported the plastic manufacturers. Today there are so many different things available for kids to buy and use in their leisure time, electronic toys, video games, computers, VCRs etc. If this trend continues and as modelers become older and grayer, perhaps the high tech kits that have been popularized over the last several years and which do not have to be sold in tens of thousands, as do plastic kits, will be the evolution of the industry.

François Verlinden

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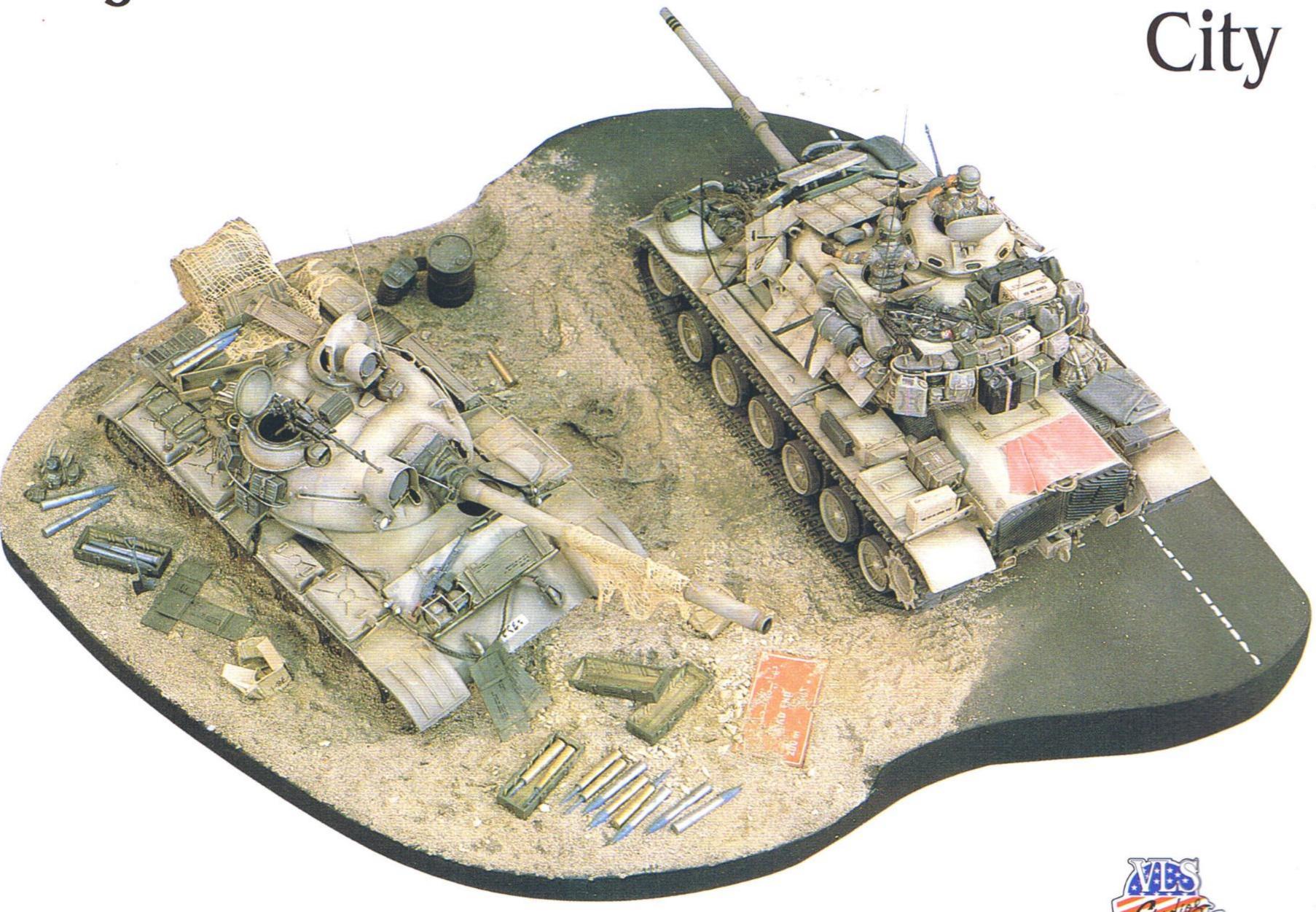
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Objective:



becoming "classics" such as WW II and Viet Nam subjects. Kits, accessories and reference are almost as numerous and as widely available as their predecessors.

This scene shows a US Marines M60 heading full speed towards Kuwait City and passing an Iraqi T-55 abandoned by its crew before it had ever fired a shot. The M60 from Tamiya has been converted and superdetailed with the VP M-48/M-60 update set and reactive armor. The T-55 is Esci/Ertl fully converted and updated with VP 705 update set.

This diorama consumed mass quantities of accessories, all from VP, which were selected, painted and stowed to give a realistic appearance. The Marine crew are adapted VP figures from kit 596.

Fig. 2 The converted and highly detailed T-55 ready for painting. Note the photo-etched sheet containing a wealth of fine detailing parts.

A classic "Desert Storm" tank diorama

Kuwait

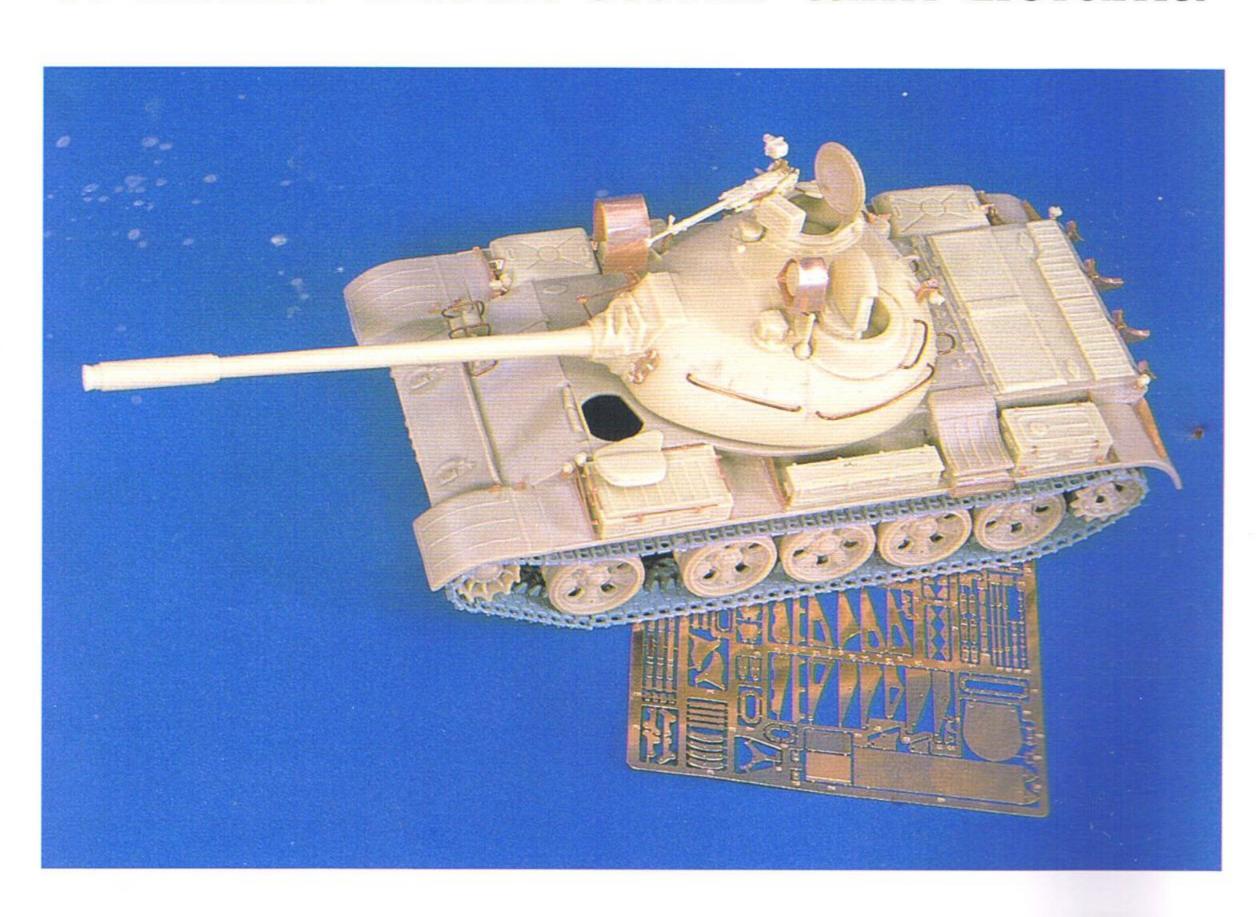




Fig. 4 T-55 Ammo and crates from VP set No.726.

The base was made from marine styrofoam. A relatively new approach to diorama bases, it is becoming quite popular because it offers many advantages.

Doing it this way creates the illusion there is no beginning or end. The diorama may be viewed from any angle, it eliminates empty corners and

gives the impression of a freeform shape cut out of the terrain. The styrofoam is inexpensive and very easy to work with. It can be cut in any form with a jig saw and shaped with a hot knife. Edges can be sanded with fine sandpaper. Any painting must be done with waterbased paint as enamels will attack and disolve the styrofoam.

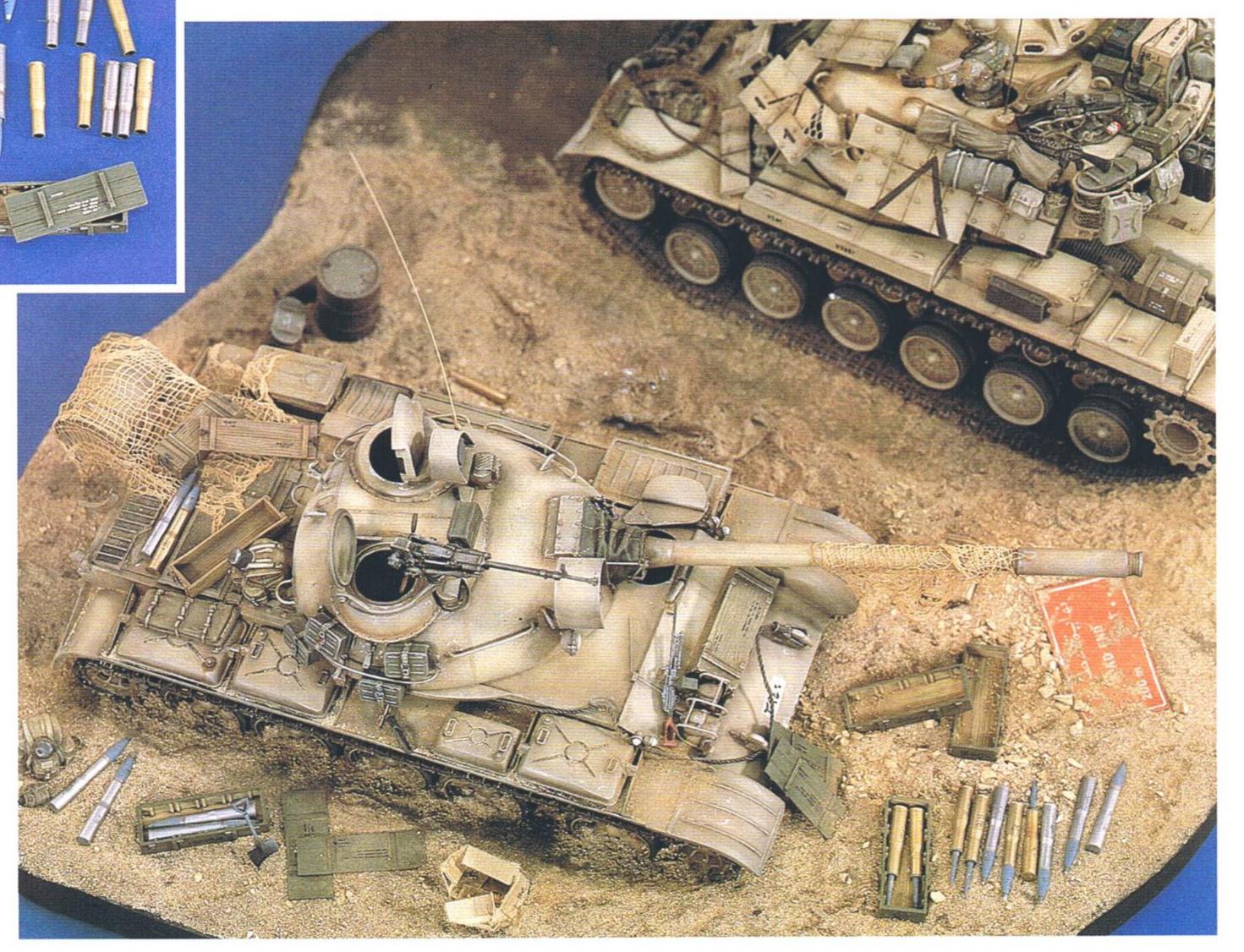


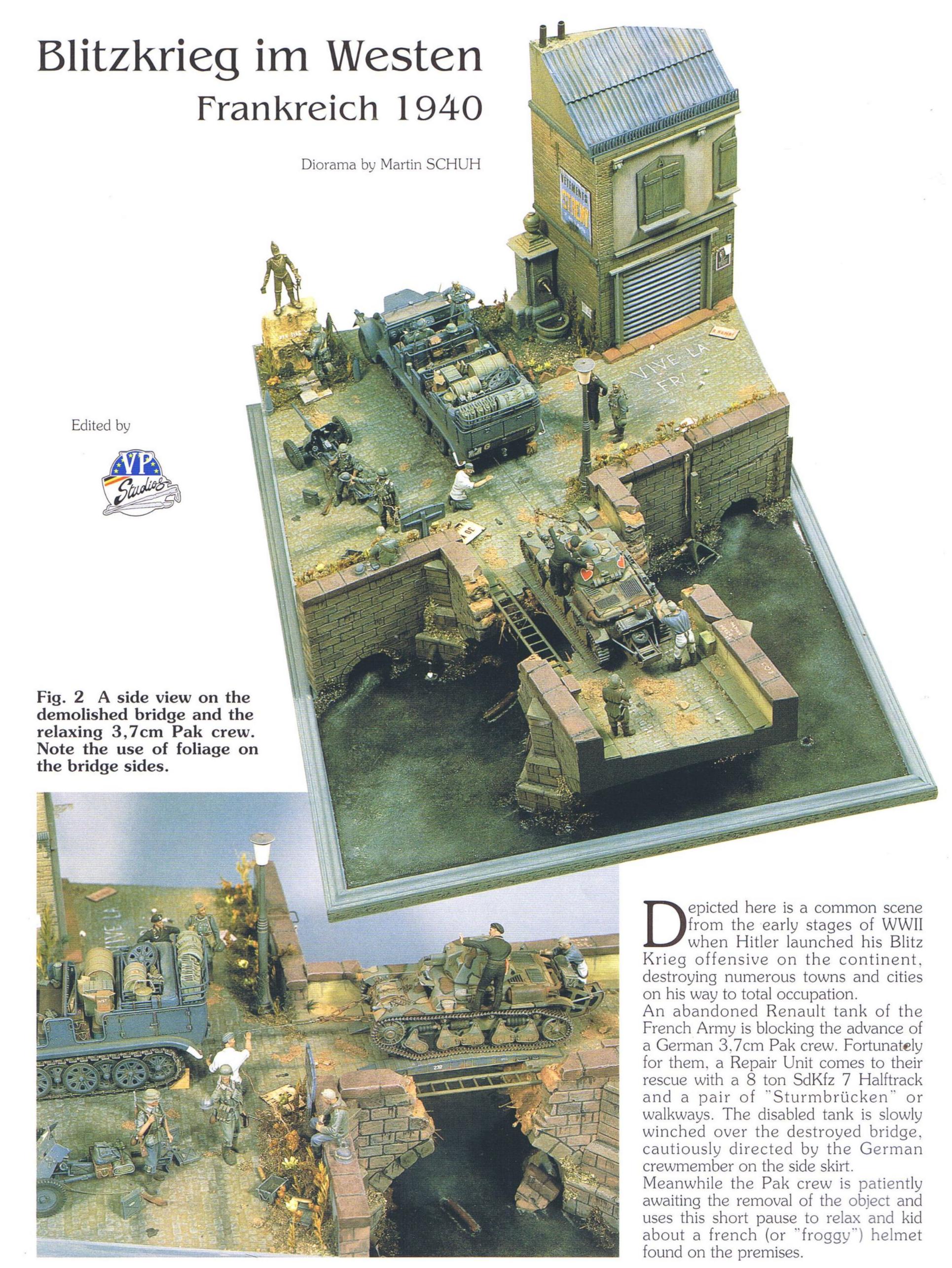
Fig.5 Top view of the T-55AM with its surroundings.

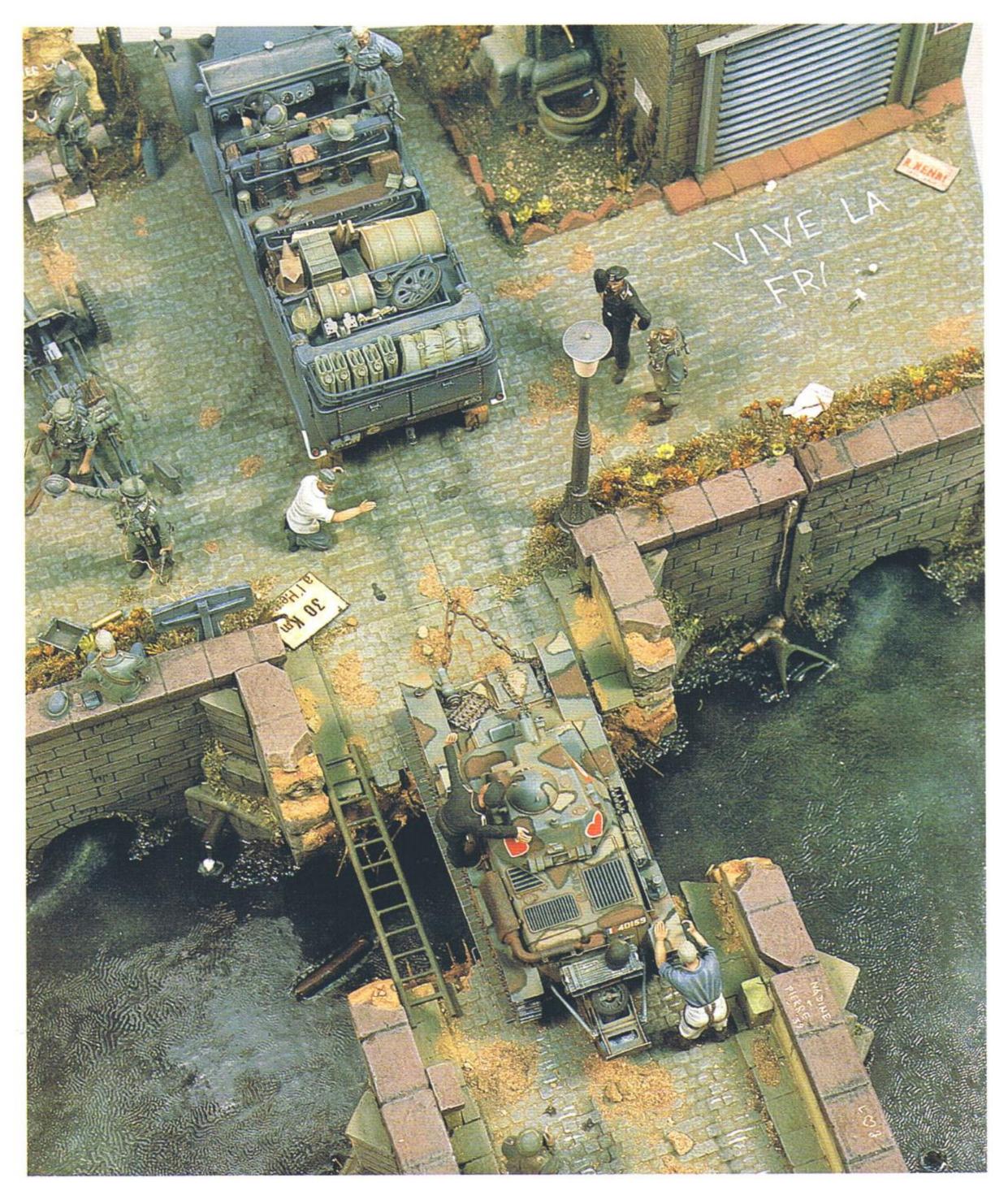
Compare this with actual photos taken during the recent Gulf war.

The Iraqis generally made a mess on and around their tanks.









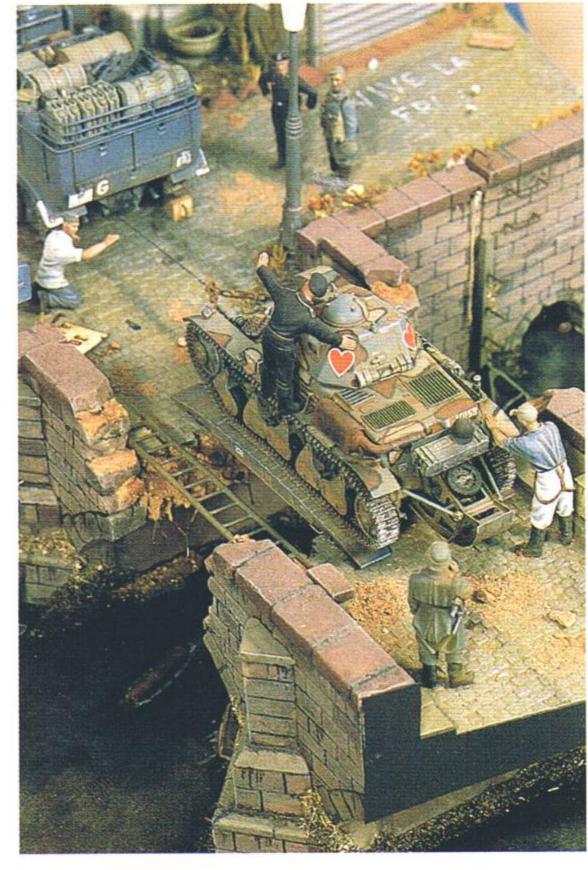


Fig. 3 & 4 A birdseye view of the bridge area with a fully loaded 8 Ton halftrack and part of the completely scratchbuilt building with VP commercial sign to the side. Note the realistic overgrowth in the water.

Fig. 5 A good view on the 3,7cm Pak and crew. VP roadsigns were used to locate the event.
Several sheets of vac-formed Trophy cobblestone sections were cut and glued in place.

ITEMS USED

From the Tamiya range: N°35148 - SdKfz7, 8Ton halftrack N°35035 - 3,7cm Pak.

From Heller:

Renault tank with TMP detail set and Modellkasten tracks.

From VP:

N° 23 French Commercial Signs

N° 88 US Small Arms Ammo Boxes

N° 637 German Infantry Equipment N° 652 German Tanker & Infantryman

N° 653 Feldgendarm & Infantryman

N° 662 German Soldier Resting

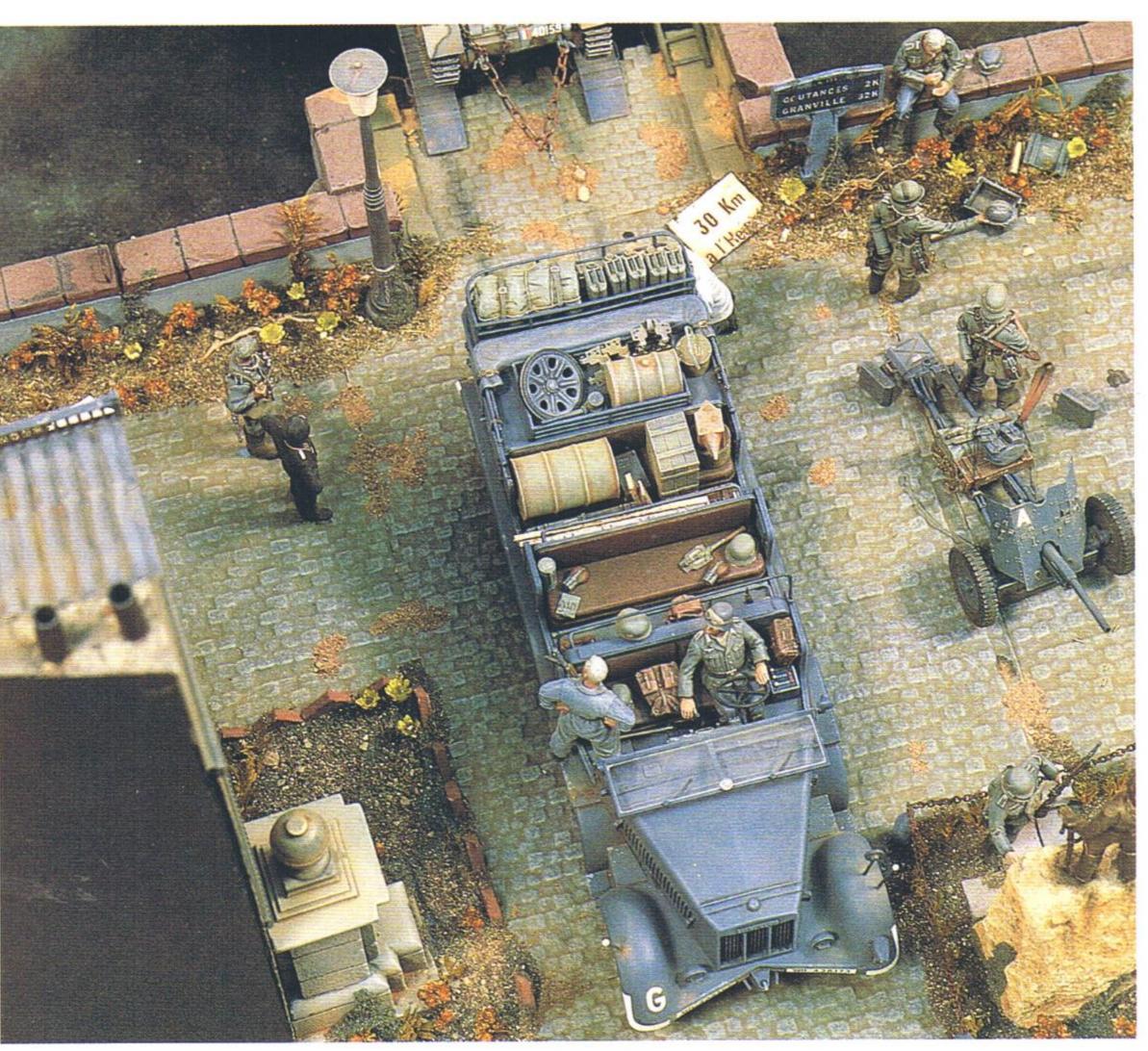
N° 682 German Heads No.3

From the Trophy Range : N° T20022 Cobblestones Sheet

N° T20022 Cobblestones Sheet N° T20034 Red and Gray Tyles

N° T20046 Bridge System Kit

and further figures from various sources.



Stop the Press!!

Hot off the VP Casting Machines!

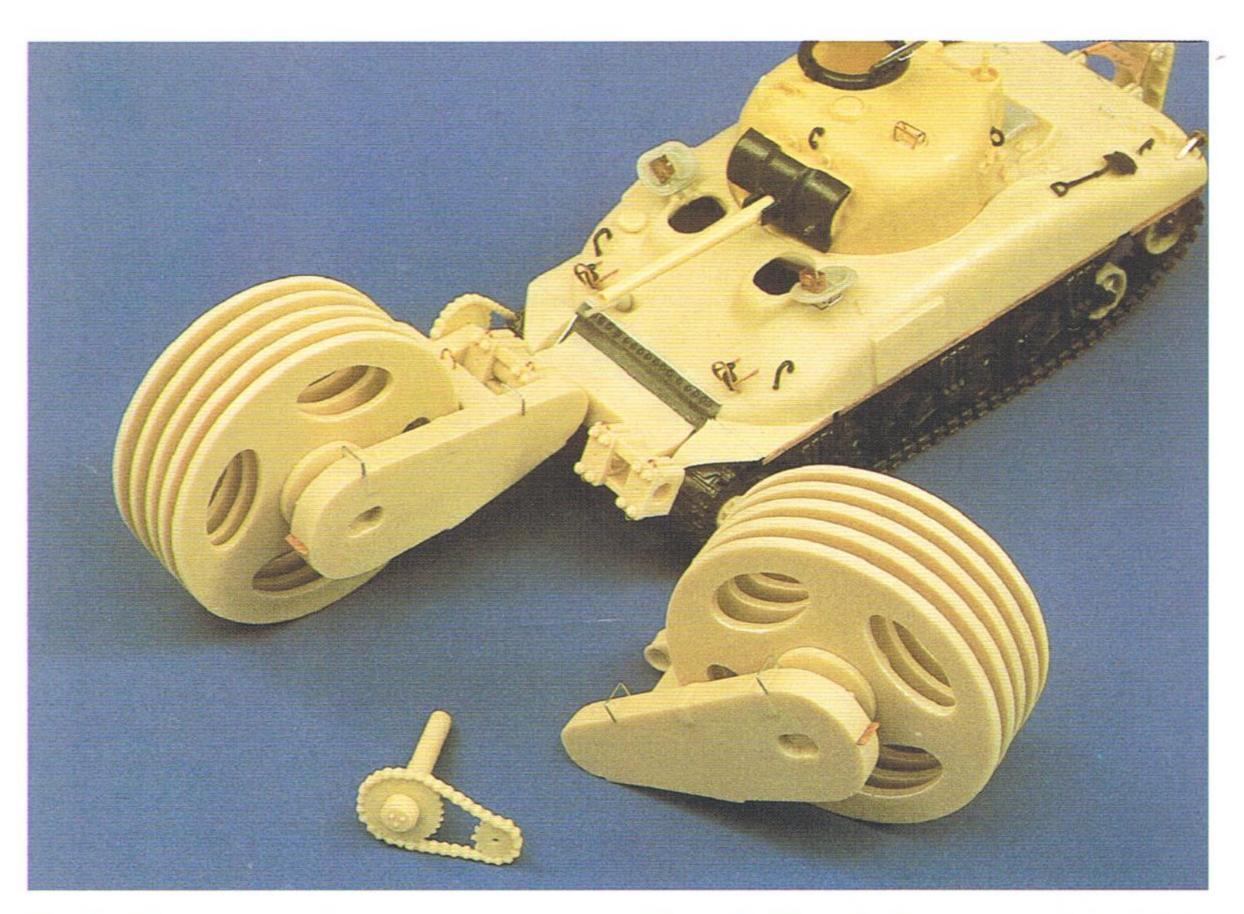
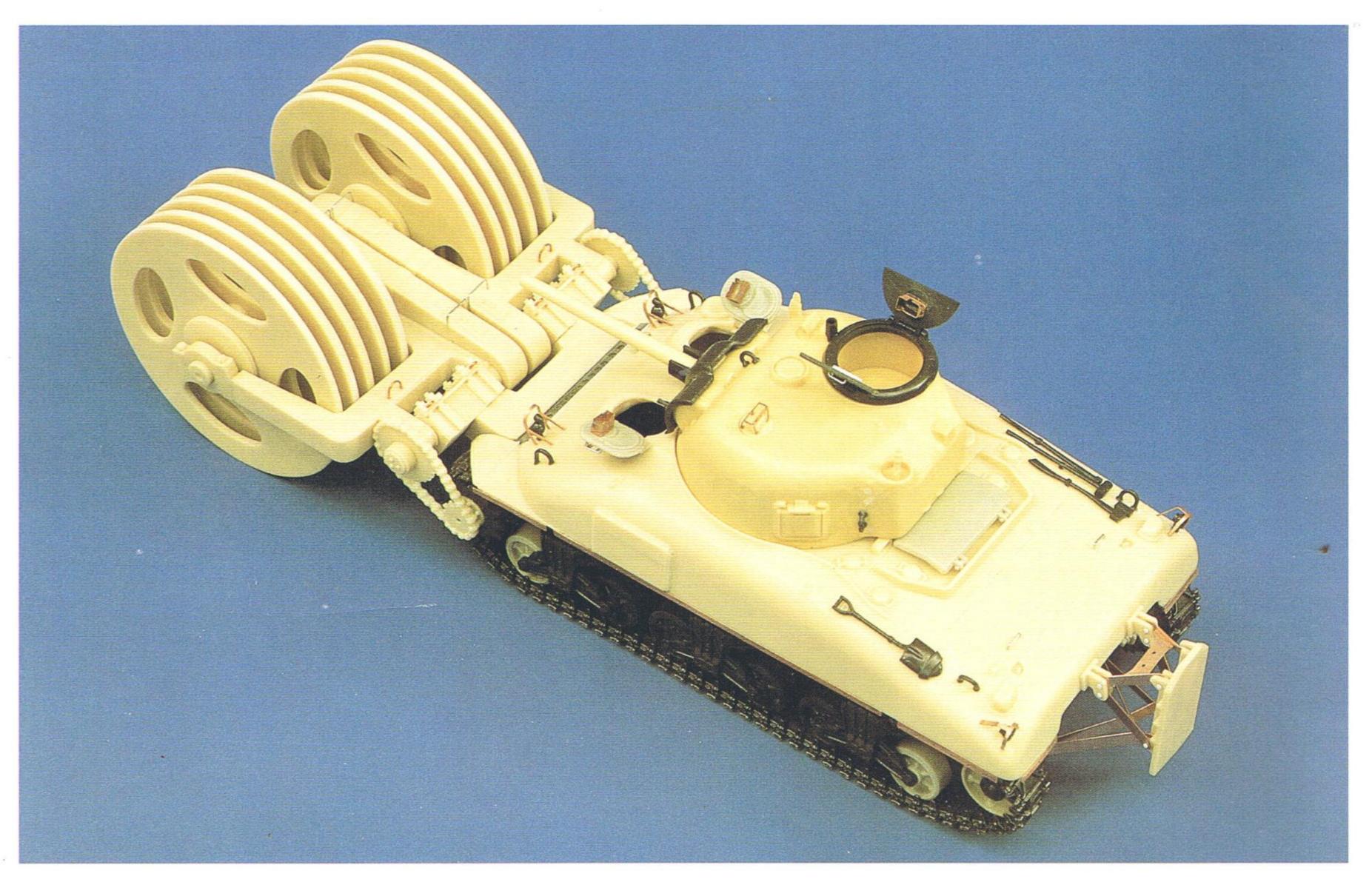


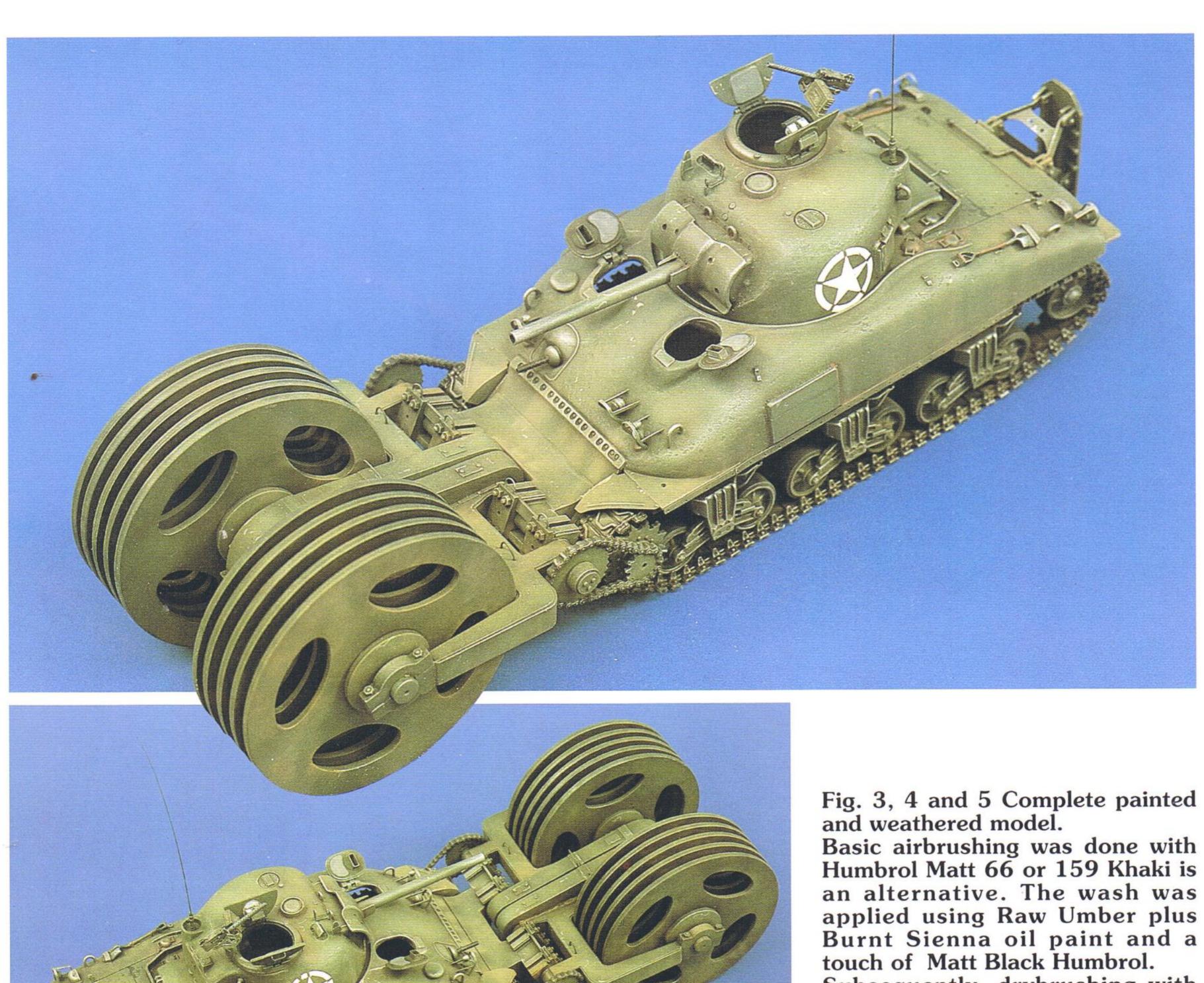
Fig.1 The mineroller just prior to final test fitting. The assembly can be taken apart by removing the axels and location pins for easy painting accessibility.

Fig. 2 The fully assembled kit prior to painting. Note the device at the rear of the Sherman used for a second Sherman to push on difficult terrain or on hills.

ne of the August, '93 new releases will catch the eye of the Sherman fanatics. The complete T1E3 Mine Clearing assembly, the long awaited mine roller used just after the Normandy Invasion to the end of the War is finally available. Our research photographs place this unit on the M4A1 (late), M4A2 and M4A3. It can be used with the Tamiya Sherman direct from the box or, as with our example, with the Tamiya kit fitted with the VP M4A1 cast hull (release date September, 93) and the VP M34A1 Turret. Only the end connectors/duckbills must be cut from the Tamiya track in order to mount the chain drive mechanism.

Building the assembly is a straightforward operation. After carefully removing the casting carriers from the large disks, and sanding those areas smooth on a large sheet of sandpaper, the sanded sides are positioned towards each other. They will not be visible after assembly and painting. Be sure to test fit all parts without glue before final assembly. The disk axels and chain drive location pins



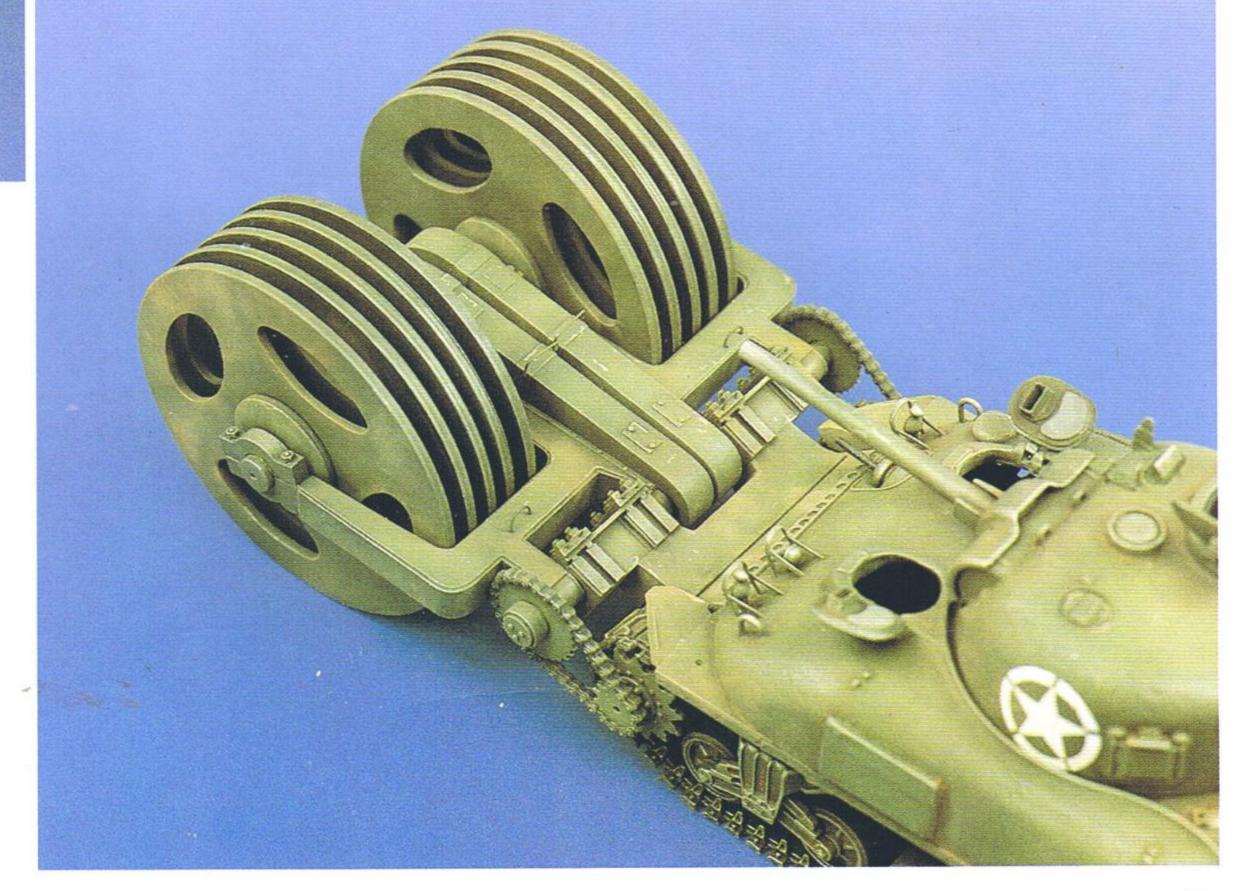


Subsequently, drybrushing with Humbrol 179 French Artillery Green plus Matt 72 was executed prior to the finishing touch with Dark Orange pastels for dusting.

should not be glued permitting dry assembly and disassembly during the painting and weathering process.

This relatively simple conversion makes a dramatic impact due to its sheer size and unique appearance. Die Hard Sherman fans will not be able to resist this one of a kind offering from VP.

Kits used -Tamiya M4A3 chassis -VP M4A1 (late) hull -VP M34A1 turret -VP Mineroller kit.





Edited by



Cross of Iron The final days of the War

a diorama by I. HILL, Australia

A pril, 1945. Members of the SS-Nordland Regiment stand in resignation, with their backs against the wall. They have regained ground, lost only hours before, and set up a temporary command post next to an abandoned supply wagon.

The officer leaning against the supply wagon questions: "What is their position?", as a call is received from their forward troops. The tank officer, manning the radio, replies: "The Russians have broken through..., that's all I got before we were cut off!".

The army veteran and the two SS men anxiously look down the street, straining to catch the first glance of the forward elements of the Russian advance.

These men hold no illusions, they simply know what fate has in store for them, but they'll fight to the bitter end.





Fig. 3 A low angle view on the building side with the deformed sidewall and the extensive debris next to it. Note the tension wire hanging from the building, linking the building to the rest of the diorama, and the VP chain on the supply wagon's tow bar.

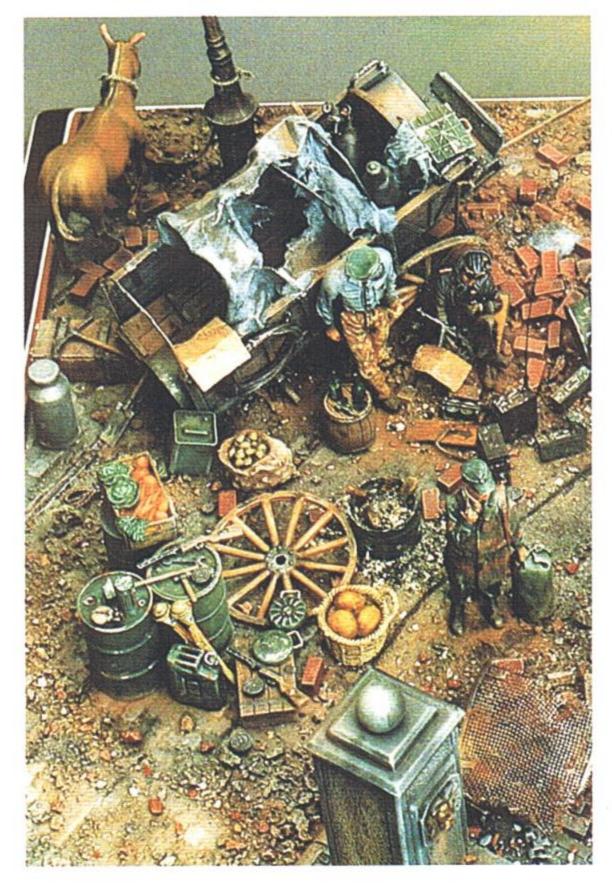


Fig. 4 Despite the shortage, these soldiers were able to get some bread, vegetables and wine.

THE DIORAMA

The Panzer MkIV is a Tamiya kit converted from a "H" version into a "J" type which was used during the final stages of the war. The color scheme is standard Yellow with Olive Green mottling.

The supply wagon is painted in an overall wood color with a peeling German grey paint job.

The Town Hall from Trophy was slightly modified to fit the diorama base and one wall was deformed to give the impression it is on the verge of

The paint job on the building was elaborate, inside as well as outside, to give it a real battered appearance. A lot of work went into scattering and painting the debris, which is extensively used throughout the diorama, at the

point of overdoing it.

Some of the figures carry Russian weapons as the end of the war induced great shortages in equipment for the German soldier. The VP POW's were perfect here for their facial expression and shabby clothing, representing poorly equipped soldiers facing their final hours. The other figures and almost all of the equipment and accessories came from the VP range.

All models (tanks and buildings) were painted in Tamiya water colors for a base coat, sealed, and finished in Testors Model Master paints, Humbrol and chalk for dusting.

Oil paints were used for all items needing a richer base color such as flesh, wood, food, etc.

Fig. 5 Much attention was given to the finish of the ruin inside.



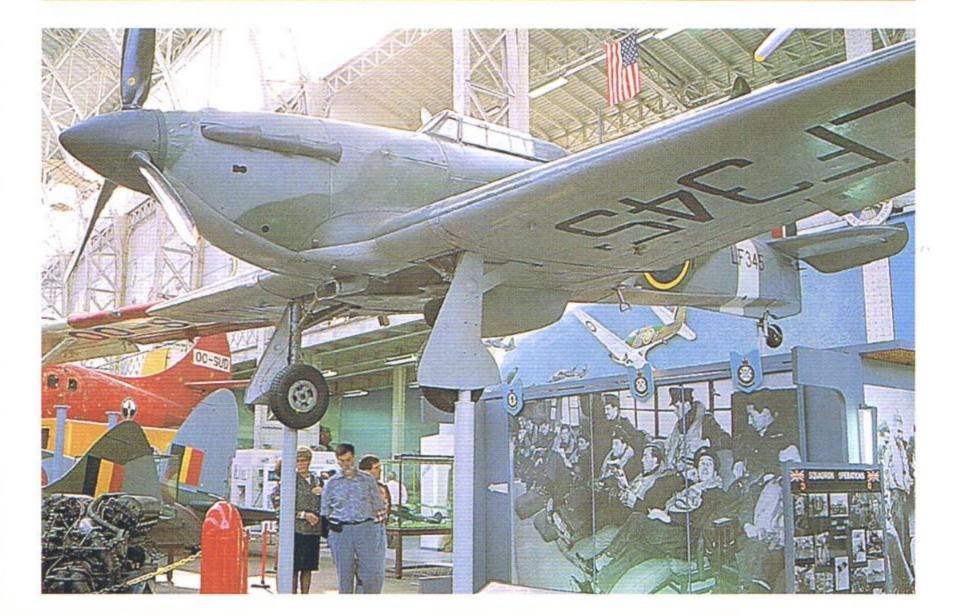


Visiting:

The Royal Army Museum

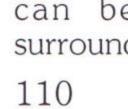


russels, the capital of bilingual Belgium, famous for its waffles, hand-made lace and chocolates. Visited by thousands of tourists from all over the world, attracted by the many historical sights in the 1000 year old city. Belgium, always in the middle of disputes between its neighboring countries, France, Holland and Germany; and England across the channel. But, the people (once called the bravest of the Gallic tribes by Julius Ceasar), never gave in and struggled for independance which was declared in 1830, following a bloody uprise in the streets of Brussels. To celebrate fifty years of independance, a colossal monument was erected in the center of the city, with buildings now housing numerous museums, recently supplemented by an impressive collection of vintage cars. If in Brussels, and with a day to spare, this museum is definitely worth a visit.





A huge hangar houses an impressive collection of aircraft, WWII aircraft are well represented from which many are still under restoration. One section of the hangar has a large collection of aircraft engines, mounted on stands to be studied closely. One of the most elaborate collection of WWI aircraft can be found on the gangway surrounding the hangar.





Located outside the aicraft hangar is a square packed with WWII tanks and AFV's of all nations, including the USA, Germany, France and some Soviet built tanks, whether or not in Soviet service. Not all of the collection is displayed here, a lot of it is still being restored and kept in Belgian Army hangars in the country, being shifted to and from the museum site regularly. Inside, some rare WWI tanks and a large collection of guns and cannons of both world wars are on display, together with uniforms and smaller weapons.

The Royal Museum of Military Science and the Army Jubelpark, 3 1040 - Brussel Open from 9-12 am 13-16.30 pm Tuesday to Sunday (Incl.)

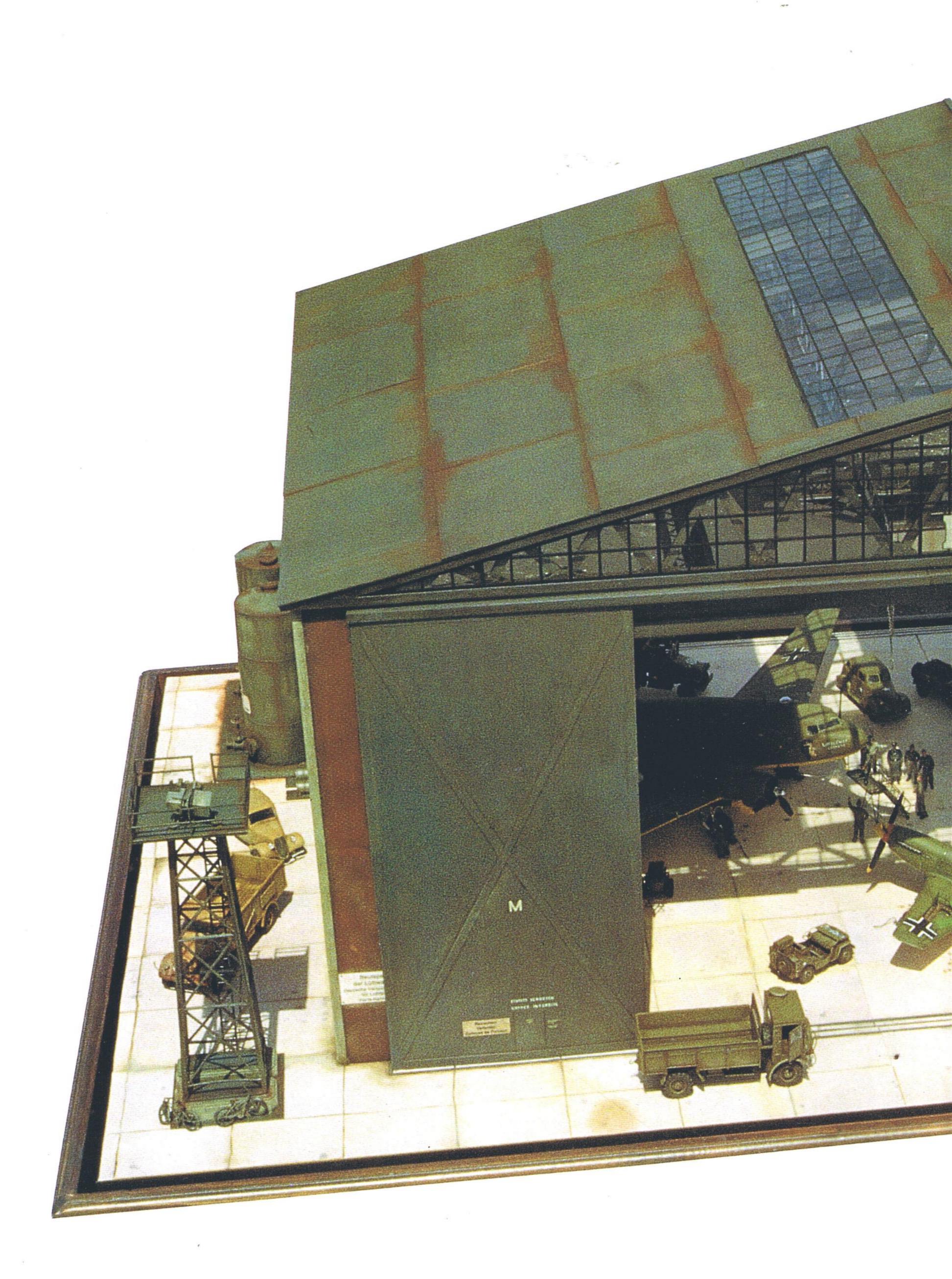
Closed 21st July -and 25th December



The most impressive collection of the museum complex can be found inside the large building at left of the monument where regalia, guns, uniforms, busts and wall-size paintings illustrate the wars fought on Belgian soil, including the illustrious Battle at Waterloo where Napoleon was defeated.



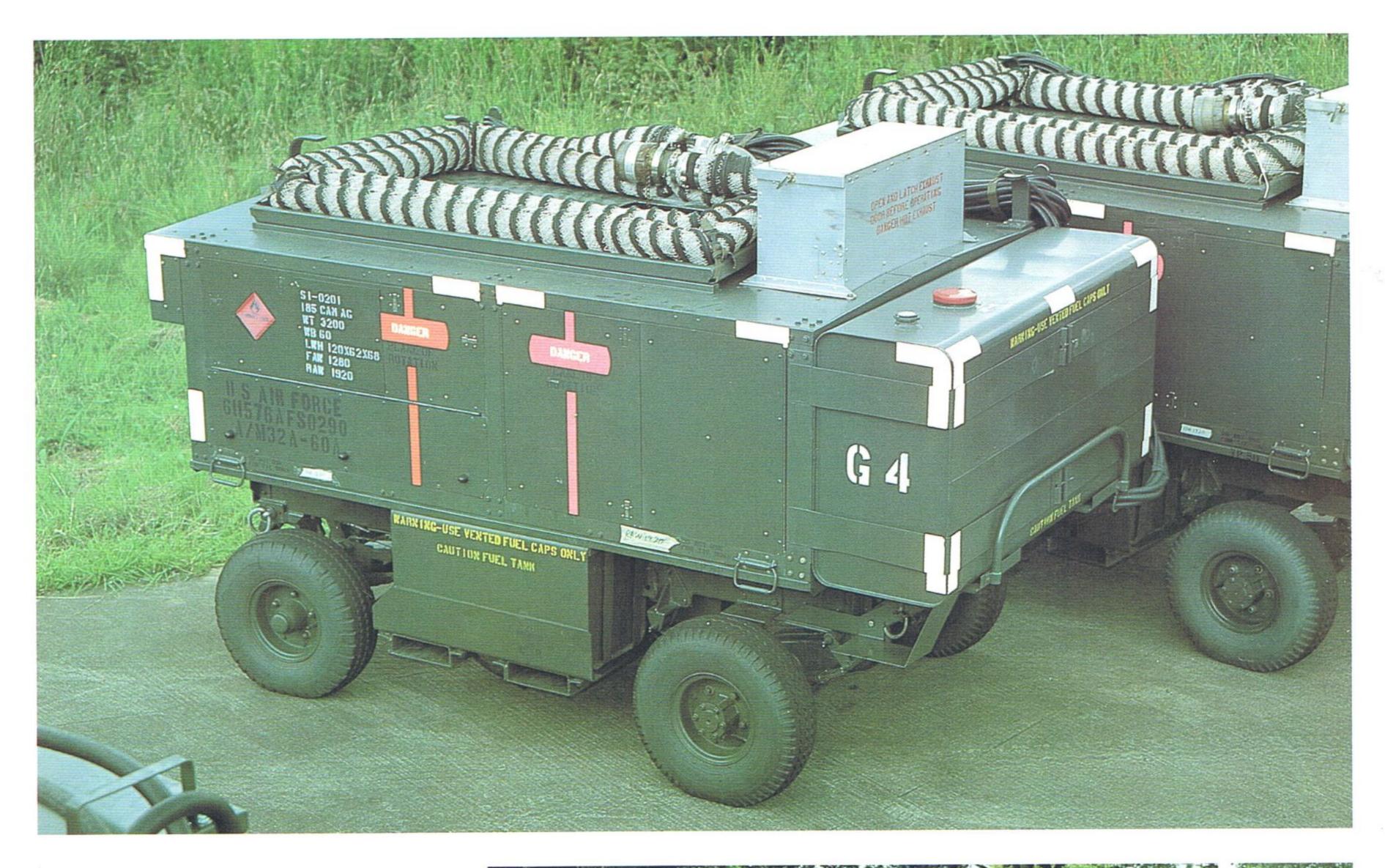






"The Liberation of Sheila"

The Capture of Beutepark 5 der Luftwaffe



In focus: U.S. Air Force Generator Set / Gas Turbine APU

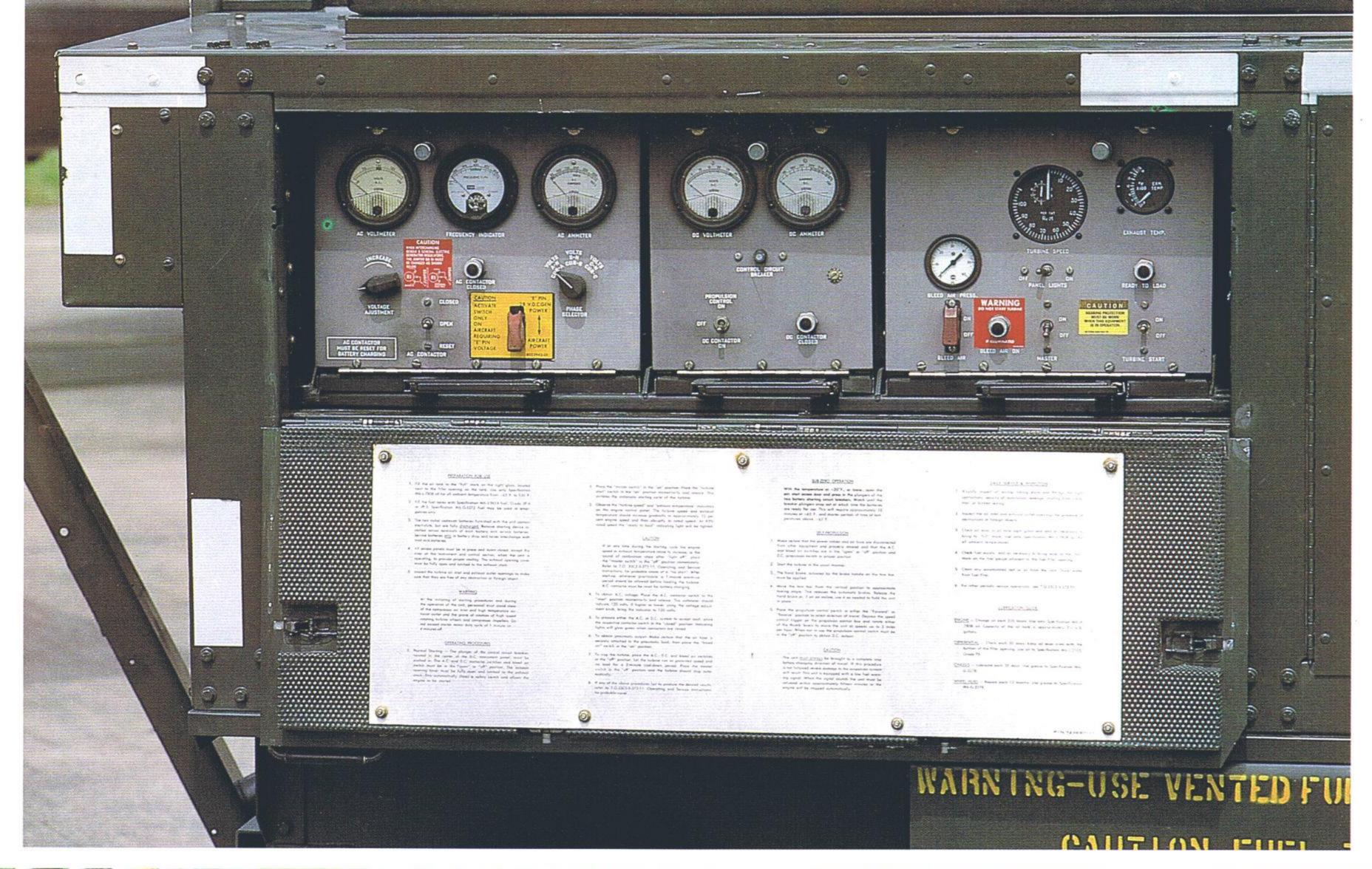






Tollowing the coverage of most of the US NAVY carrier utility carts, modern aircraft modelers will be pleased with the take-off of another series of articles devoted to aircraft related auxiliary equipment.

related auxiliary equipment. The first ground equipment in focus is the combined Generator Set/ Gas Turbine APU, in model form available from Hasegawa in both popular aircraft scales, 1/72nd and 1/48th. It is used to supply electrical AC and DC power to the aircraft while the gas turbine is used to crank-up the jet engine.







Both Hasegawa kits are very good but could use some extra detailing for which these photos will prove to be good reference. Colors used on the control panels may vary from one set to another and so does the application of stencilling and reflector strips on the sides and corners. Most of the panels will not be open while servicing the aircraft but are for random internal inspection of the unit itself.









"The Liberation of Sheila"
The Capture of Beutepark 5 der Luftwaffe

a Diorama by Bob Letterman

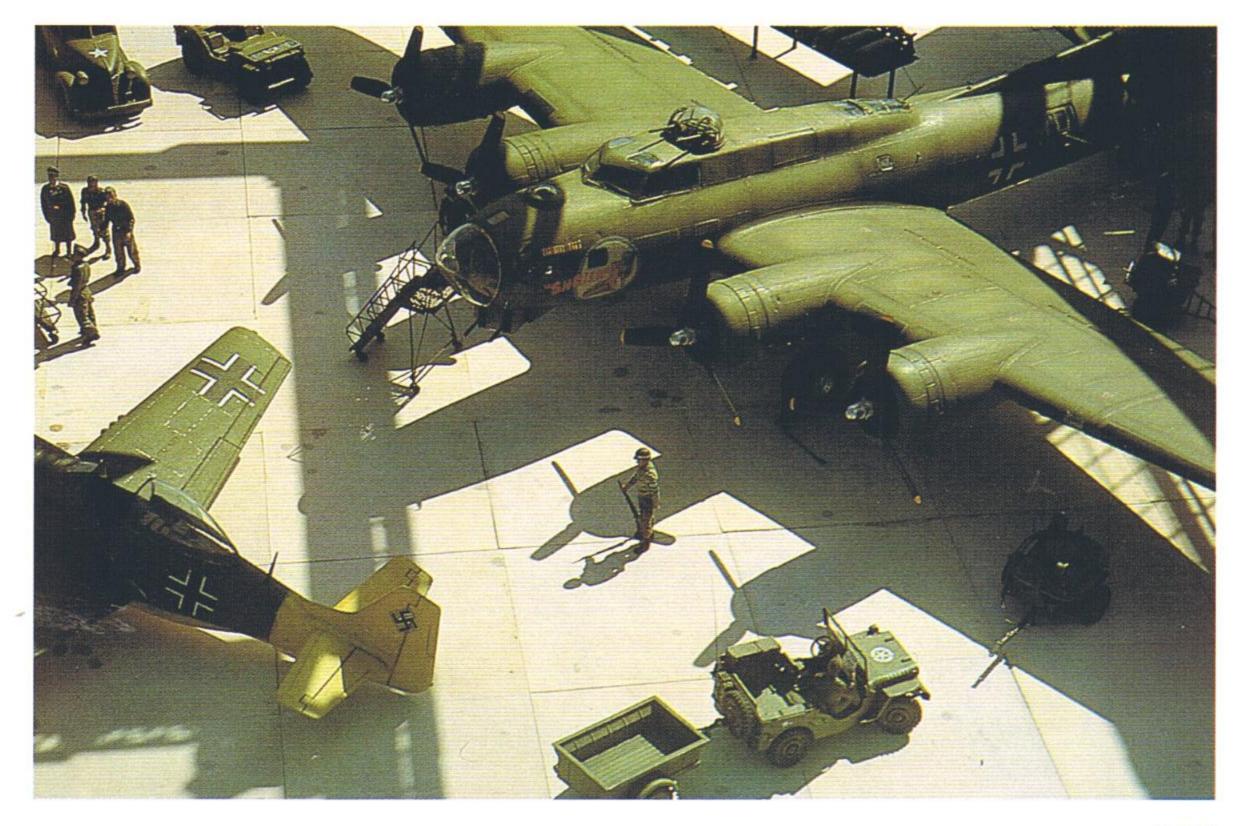


the Allies arrived, so, obviously this diorama is fictional. It depicts my idea of how photographs taken at the time would appear had it been captured intact. Set in Autumn of 1944, the Advancing Americans and British are given a tour of the facility by the German P.O.W. Officers and maintenance crew with their Military Police escorts.

After pushing VP to produce an update set for the Monogram B-17G for more than a year, I felt that the least I could do was build it. After deciding to do an aircraft diorama, I began looking around for ideas and came across "Strangers in a Strange Land" Vol 1, a book from Squadron Signal Publications about American aircraft captured by the Germans during WW II.

There were several "Beuteparks" (Sample Collections or museums) established in Europe by the Luftwaffe so their personnel could view, first hand, the weapons they would face in combat. The largest and best known of these was Beutepark der Luftwaffe 5 in Paris Nanterre.

Those of you who have read this book will be aware that the retreating



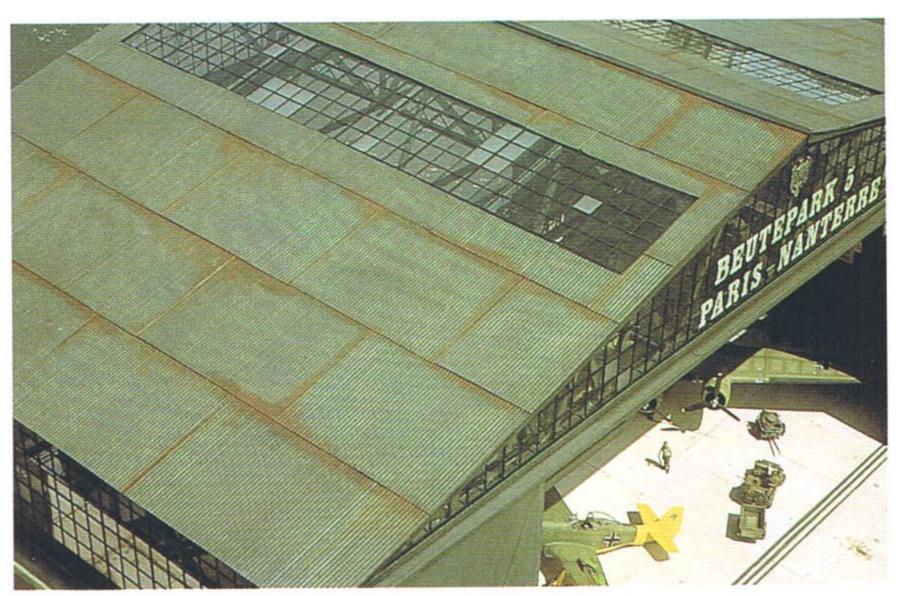
THE BUILDING

The masonry walls of the hanger were made from plywood and Plastruct building materials were used for the beams, girders and gantry crane.

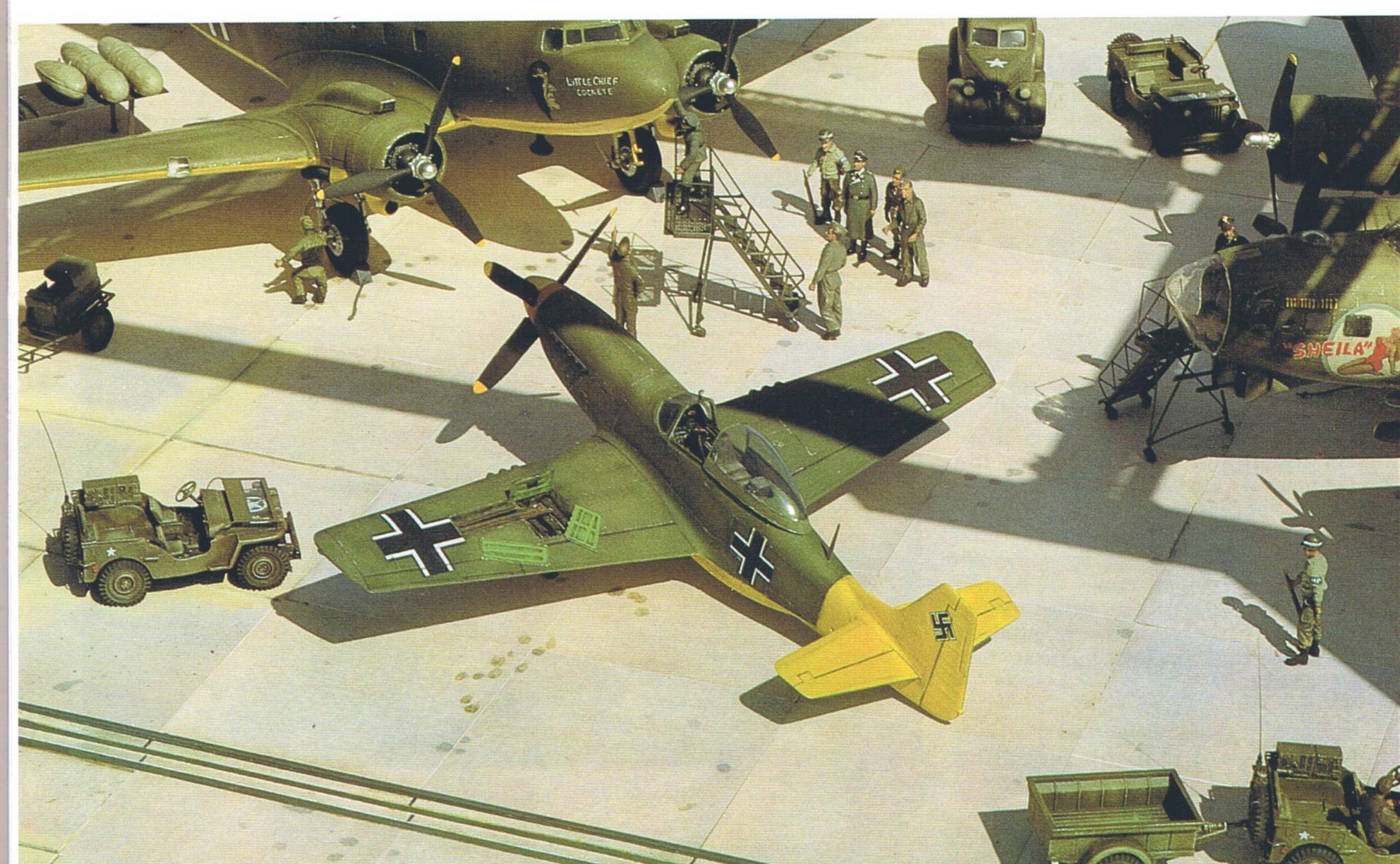
The mezzanines on each side were from Techstar brass treadplate and Plastruct railing and stairs. The roof is entirely from Trophy Corregated sheet. Plexiglass sheets were used for the windows, and the floor and tarmac from VP Concrete sections cut into 3 inch square panels and laid like tile.

All the accessories, signs and equipment are from VP, except the large red and white banners which were made on a computer. The Flak tower is from Plastruct materials and the 2cm Flak anti aircraft gun from VP.



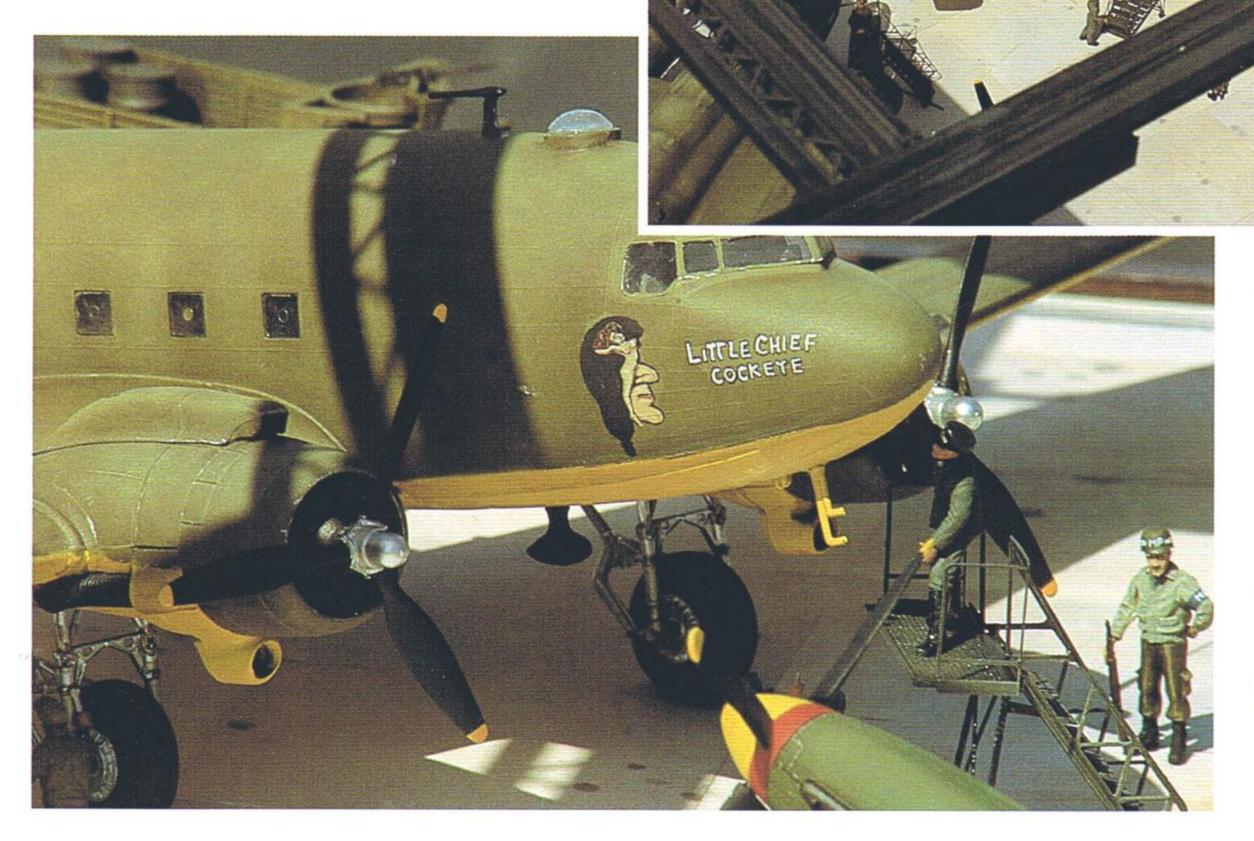






THE AIRCRAFT

Monogram's 1/48th B-17G with the VP B-17 Update set, and Monogram's C-47 with no modifications were used. The Nose Art on both were hand painted. The Hasegawa P-51D with the VP P-51 Update set is included. The markings on all three are a combination of VP dry transfers and decals from the scrap box. The paint schemes were typical for captured American aircraft and the Squadron book was used as a reference. The assorted equipment on display was selected from the scrap box and from several VP Update sets.



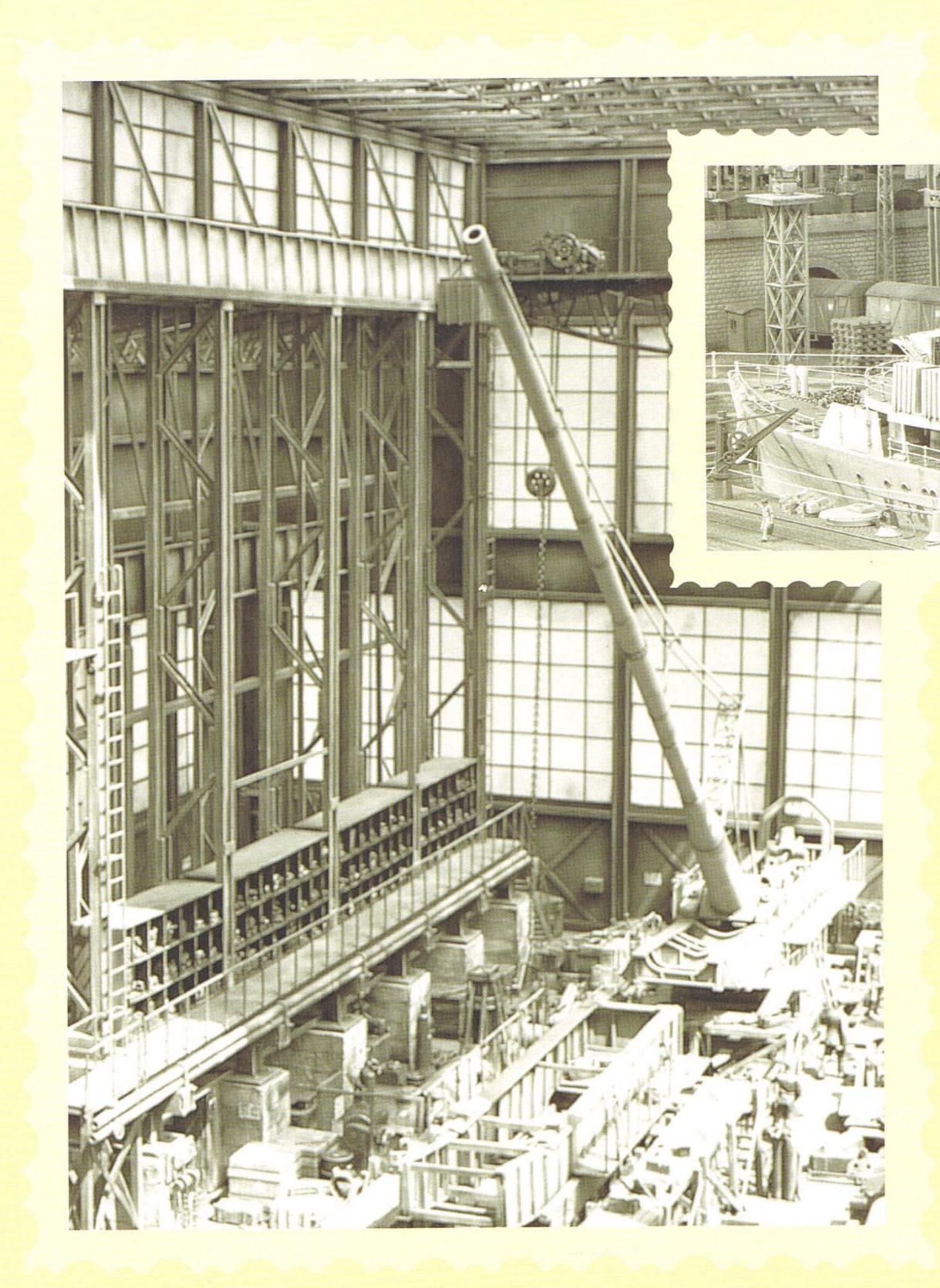
THE VEHICLES

The Austin K-5, The Mercedes Truck and the Jeep trailer are from the long discontinued Bandai kits. The 3 Jeeps from VP and the Staff car and 2 1/2 Ton GMC are converted from Die Cast Toys (the selection of 1/48th vehicles is limited, to say the least!). All markings from VP Dry transfers.

THE FIGURES

Mostly stock and converted VP figures with a couple of kit figures brought up to standard by using VP heads, arms and legs.





VP Magazine, Vol.2 No.2, Cocoon, Bob LETTERMAN

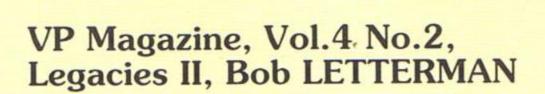
Reality,
or.?





Superdiorama's, Paris Gun, Lewis PRUNEAU

Thile laying out the various books and magazines, we occasionally notice how realistic dioramas can appear when seen in the black and white format. Most wartime footage prior to the seventies was shot in black and white stills and as we are used to seeing them as such the models shown here take on the look of the real thing. So, someone suggested we demonstrate this to our readers. Here's the first batch. We have used some photographic tricks to help the illusion along even further. All these models have been featured in past Verlinden Publications.

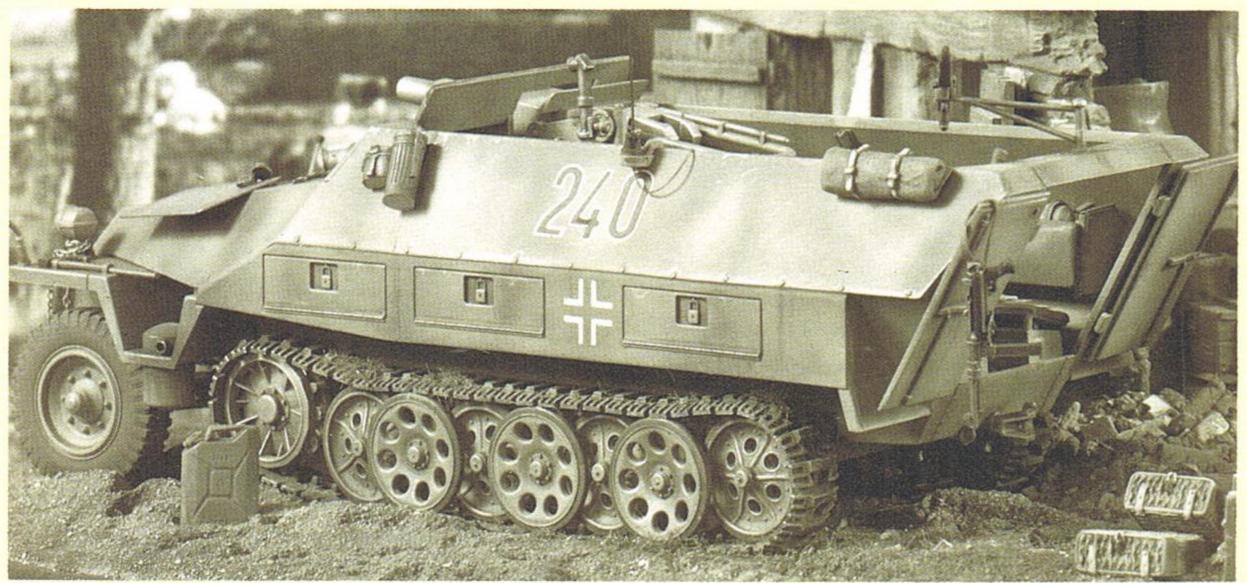




VP Magazine, Vol.1 No.2



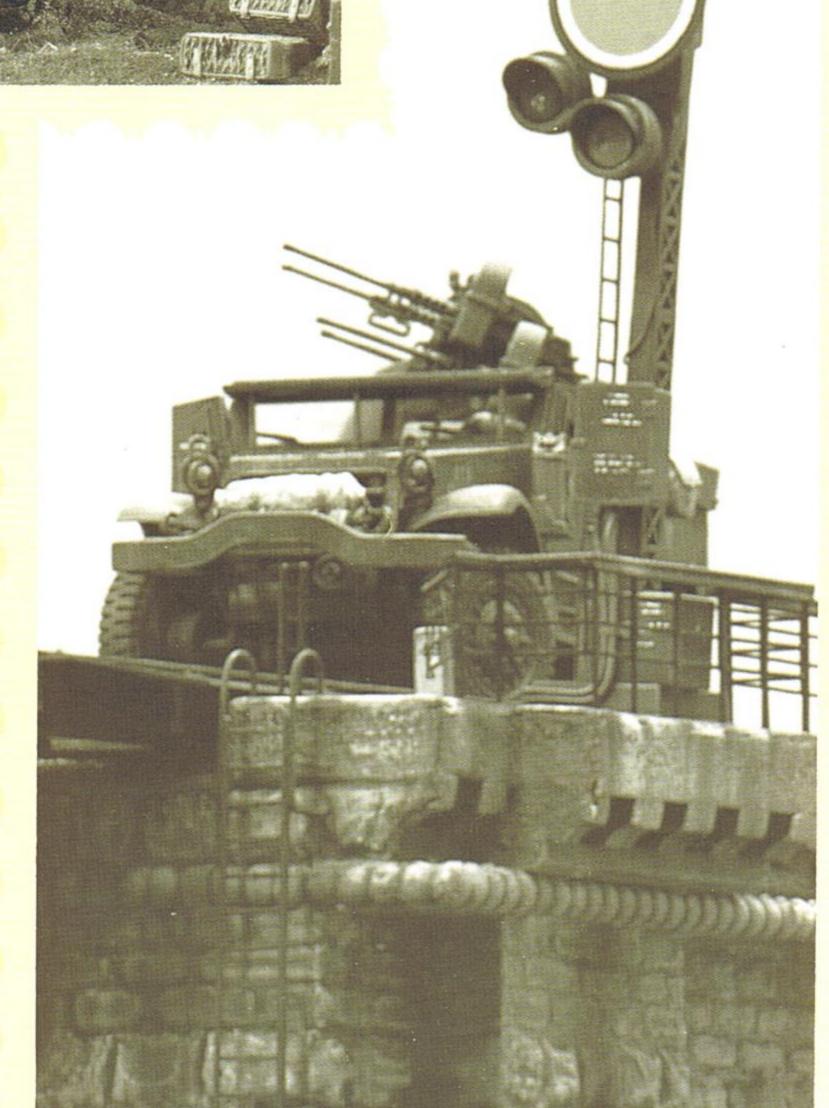
VP Magazine, Vol.3 No.3



Superdiorama's, Legacies I, Bob LETTERMAN

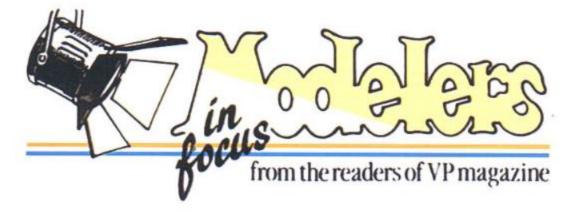
VP Magazine, Vol.3 No.3









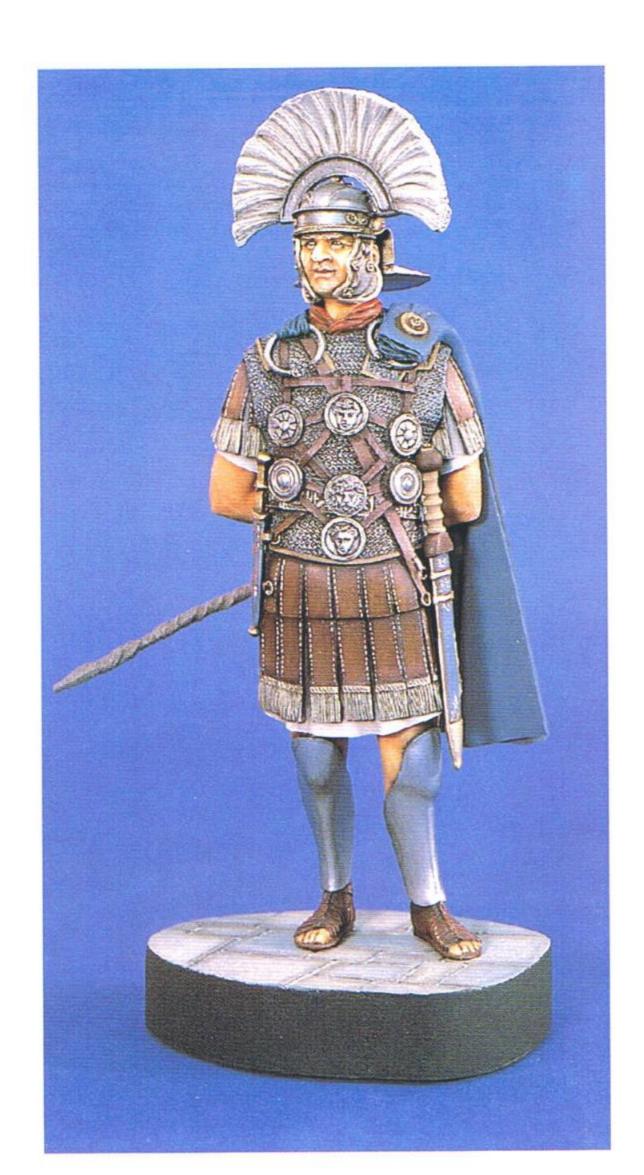


A winner at the recent CMT Model Contest (Italy) was this M4 Ic Firefly model of the 1st (Armoured) Coldstream Guards, set in Holland 1944. The efforts of an unknown modeler sent to us by Sergio MARLETTI of AMATI SRL.



Another winner, the "Best in Figures" at the 2nd Metro Manila Scale Model Competition was VP's Viking figure, finished by Roel N. CARPIO from San Juan, Philippines.

J.T. DICKINSON from Carshalton, England finished this diorama of a German "Pow-Wow" using Tamiya kits and a lot of VP accessories, found a suitable backdrop and matched the two together. The result can be seen at left.



Roman Centurion 1st Century AD

And a keen interest in the era when the Roman Empire ruled the old continent and Centurions with their legionaires defeated most of the Gallic tribes in the low countries.

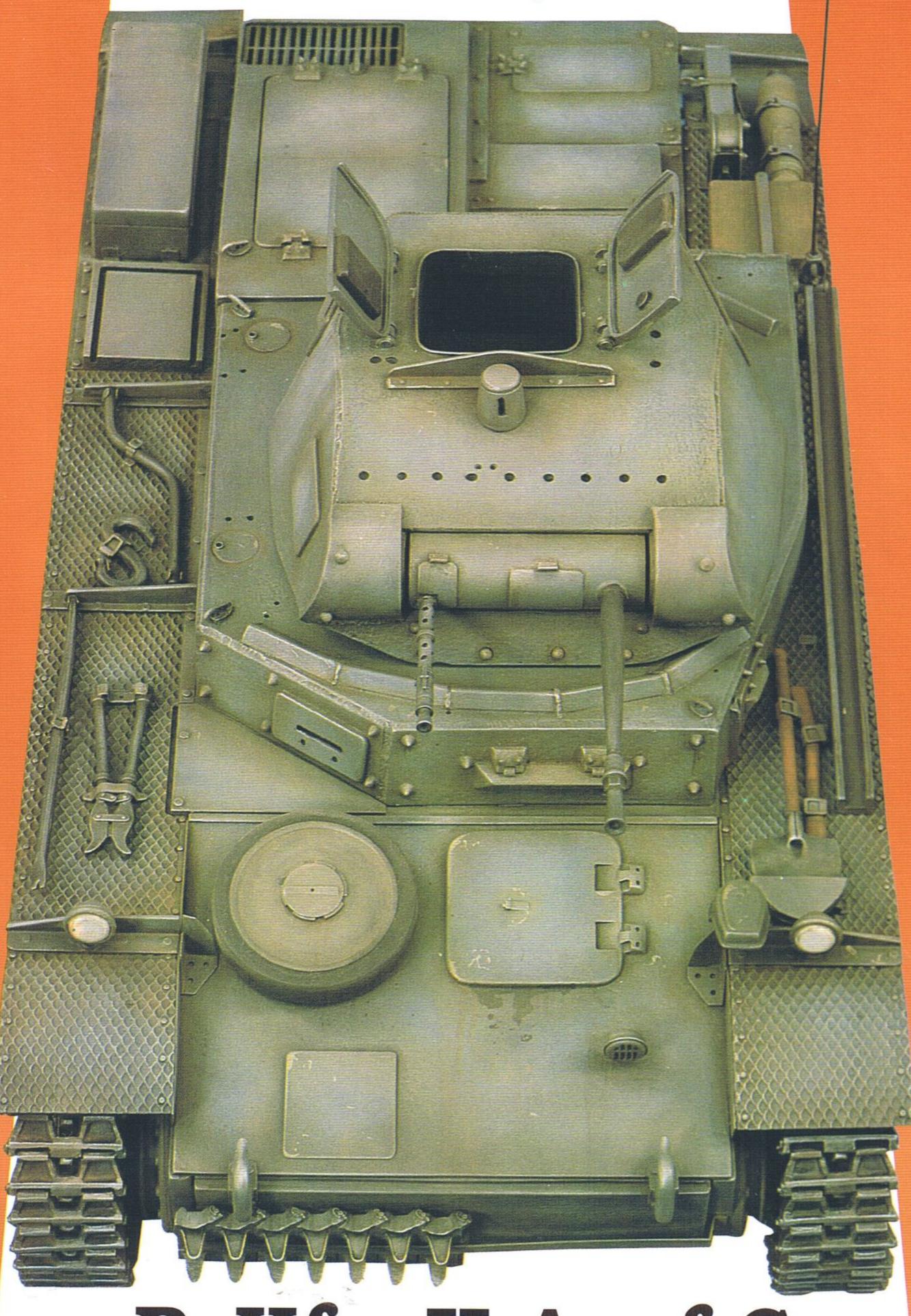
A recent VP release depicts such a figure in full gear, which was accurately sculpted as Centurion Marcus Favonius Facilis of Legio XX Valeria Victrix proudly wearing the Imperial Gallic 'G' helmet, representative of mid-1st century gear. Sets of five, seven or nine metal breast plates or phalera (awards) were also common. The vine staff or vitis he is holding is a centurion's symbol. Centurions also carried their sword or stelae on the left, the opposite side of the legionary.

Proudly posing in the centurion's outfit is a member of the Ermine Street Guard of Witcombe, England, one of the many Roman Reenactment groups who's primary goal is the reconstruction of Roman military equipment and performance of educational public displays.



THE SUPER SCALE OFFENSIVE

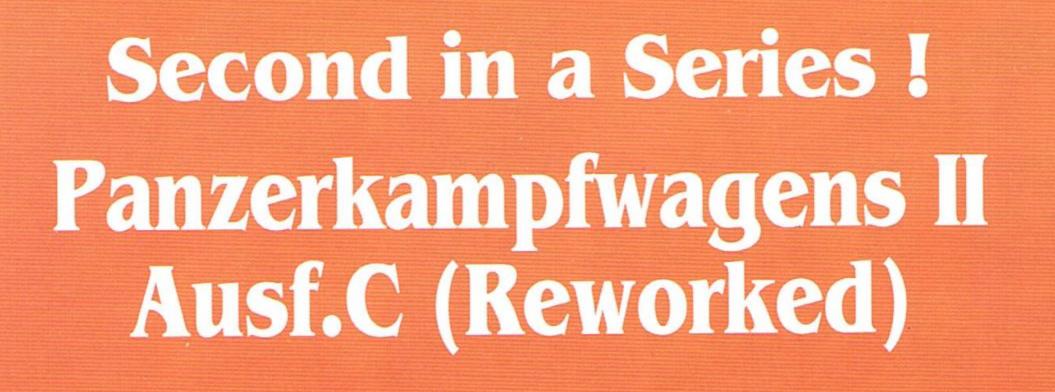




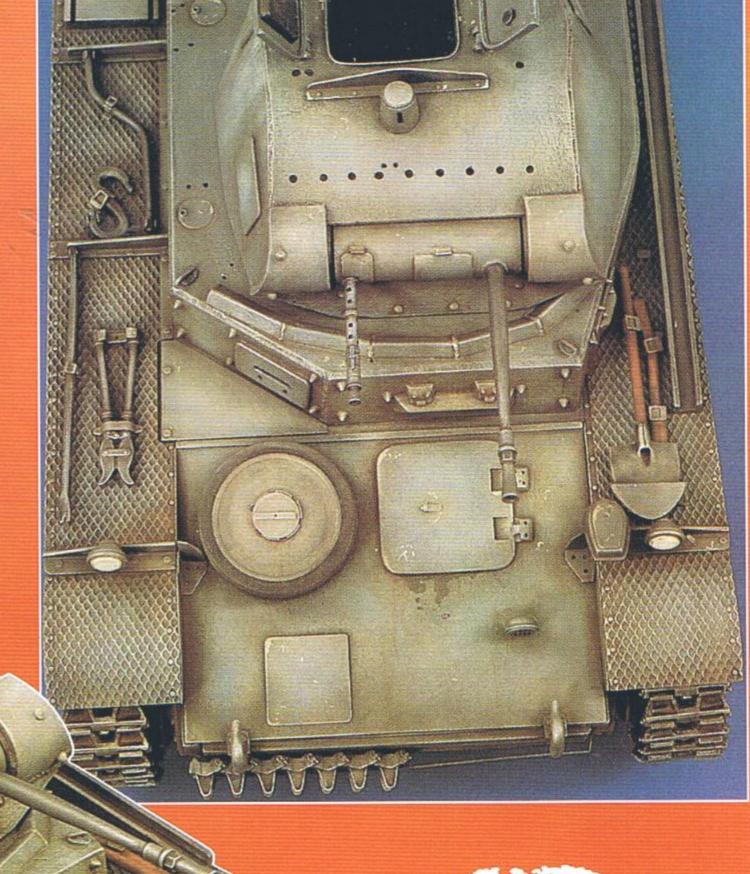
PzKfw II Ausf.C

(Reworked) 1:15th scale

available Fall 1993

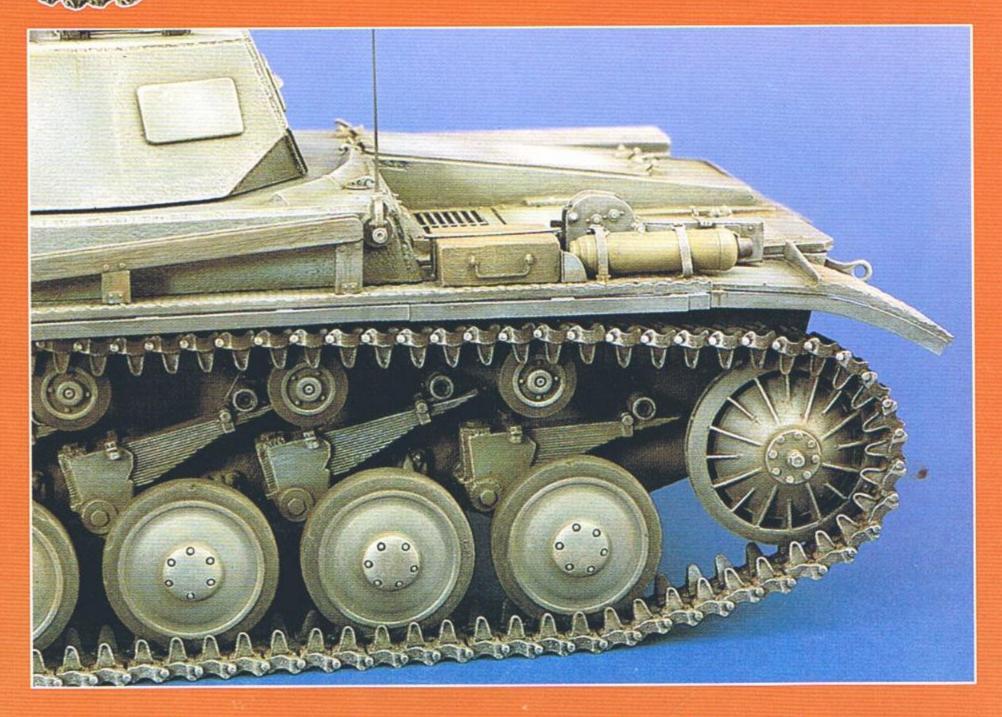


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Order number to be announced

(to fit) Super Scale 120mm



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