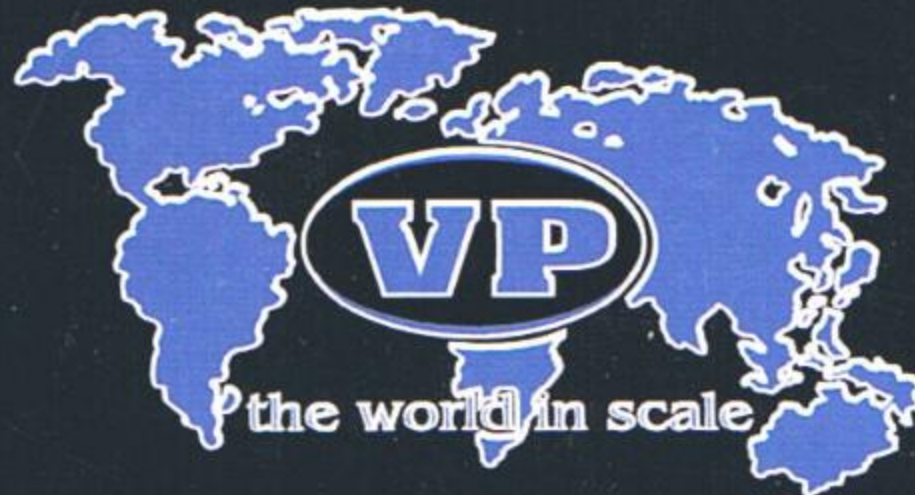


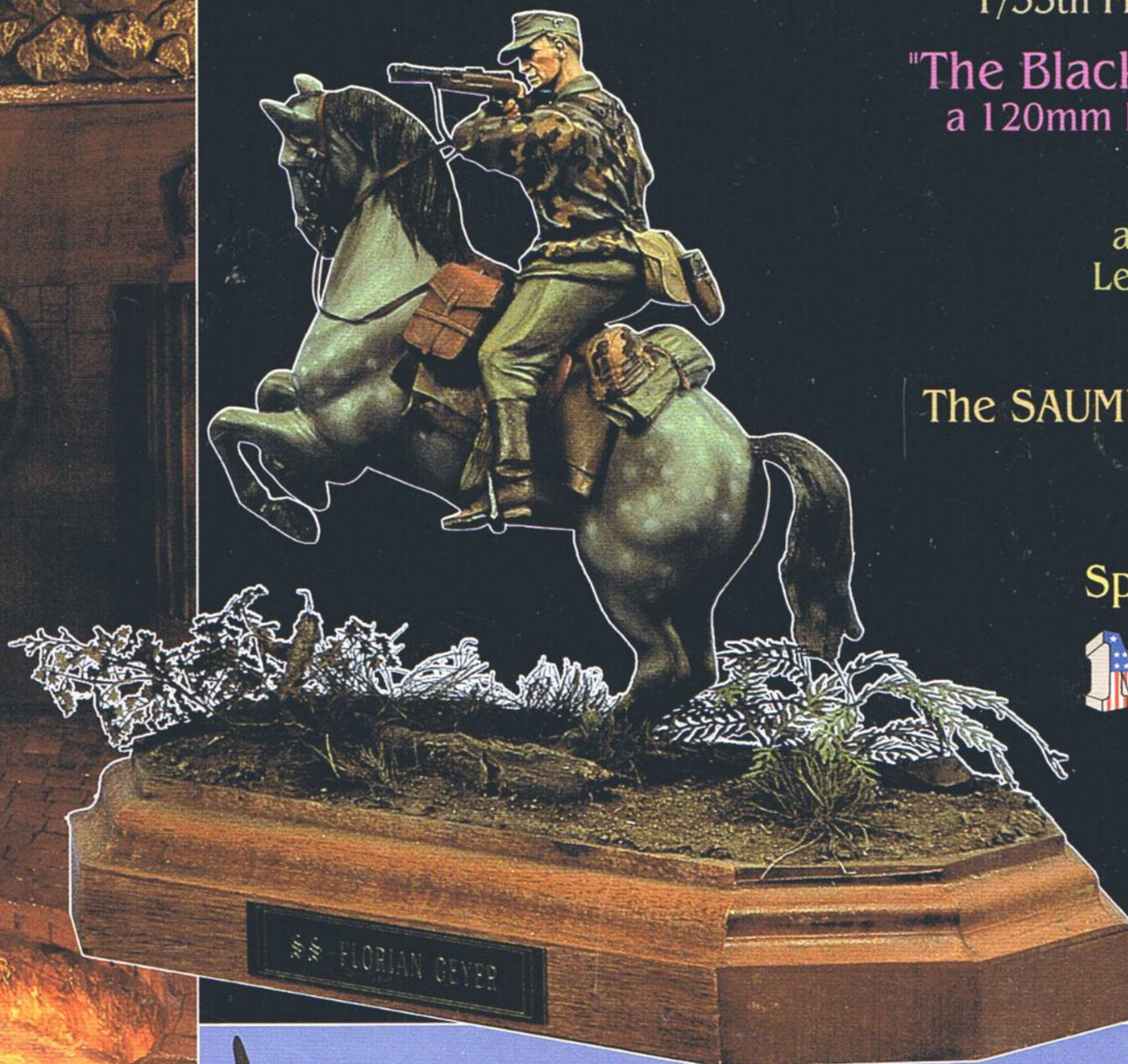
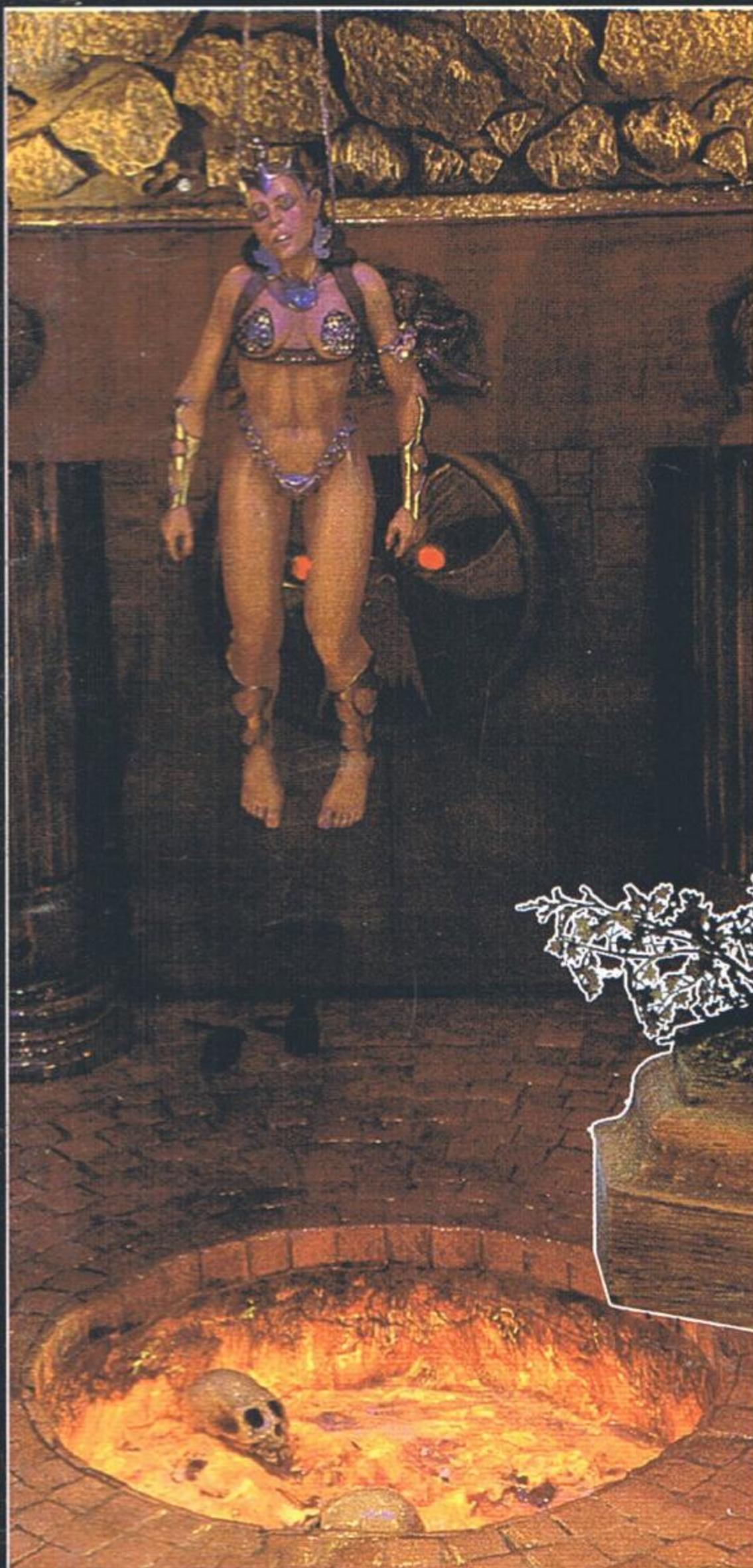
# VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS

## Modeling

In this issue



## Magazine



"Bonjour, petites!"  
1/35th Free French Sherman

"The Blackstar Rebellion"  
a 120mm Fantasy shadow box

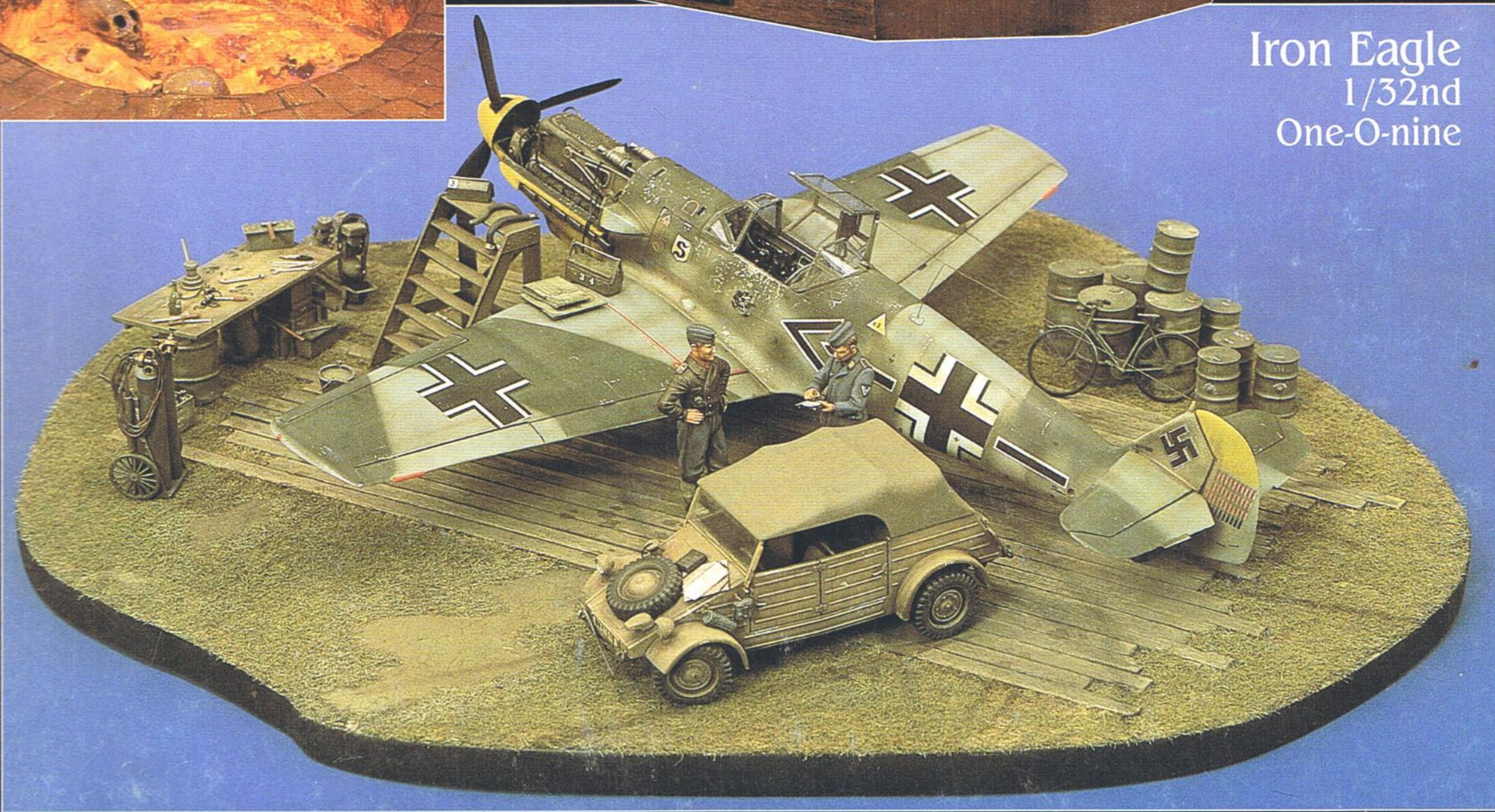
"The Train"  
a 1/15th scratchbuilt  
Lewis PRUNEAU scene

Visiting :  
The SAUMUR Tank Museum  
France

Special Report  
**MASTERCONE II**

In focus :  
U.S. Air Force  
Test Carts

Iron Eagle  
1/32nd  
One-O-nine



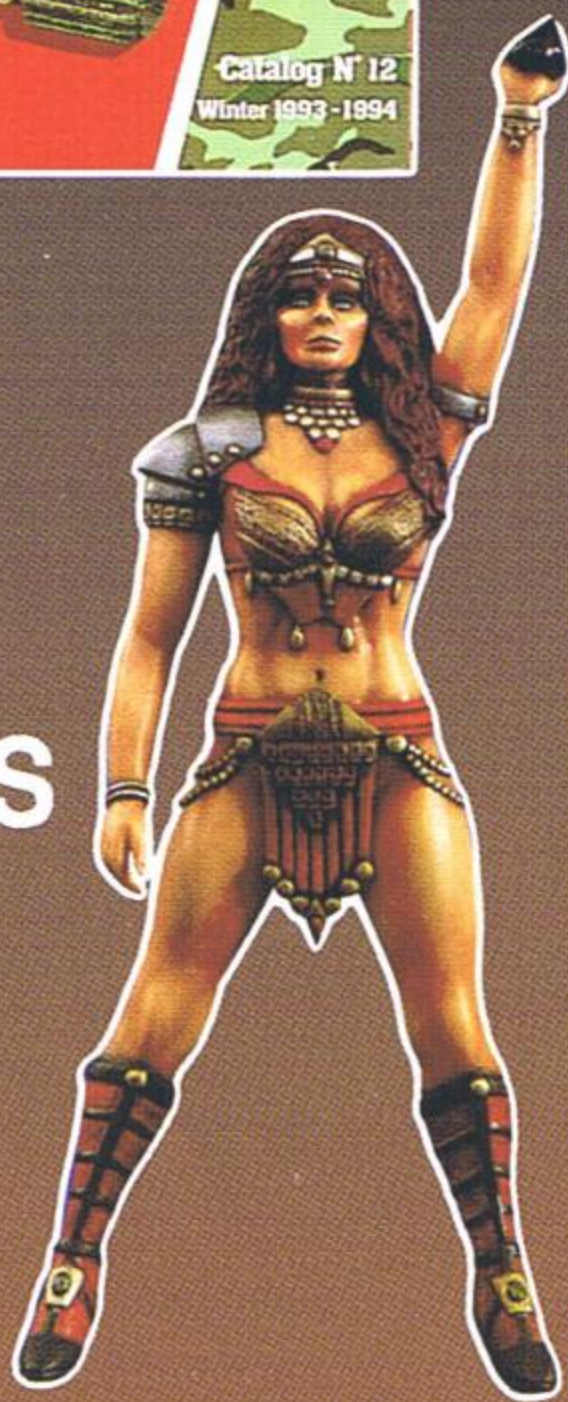




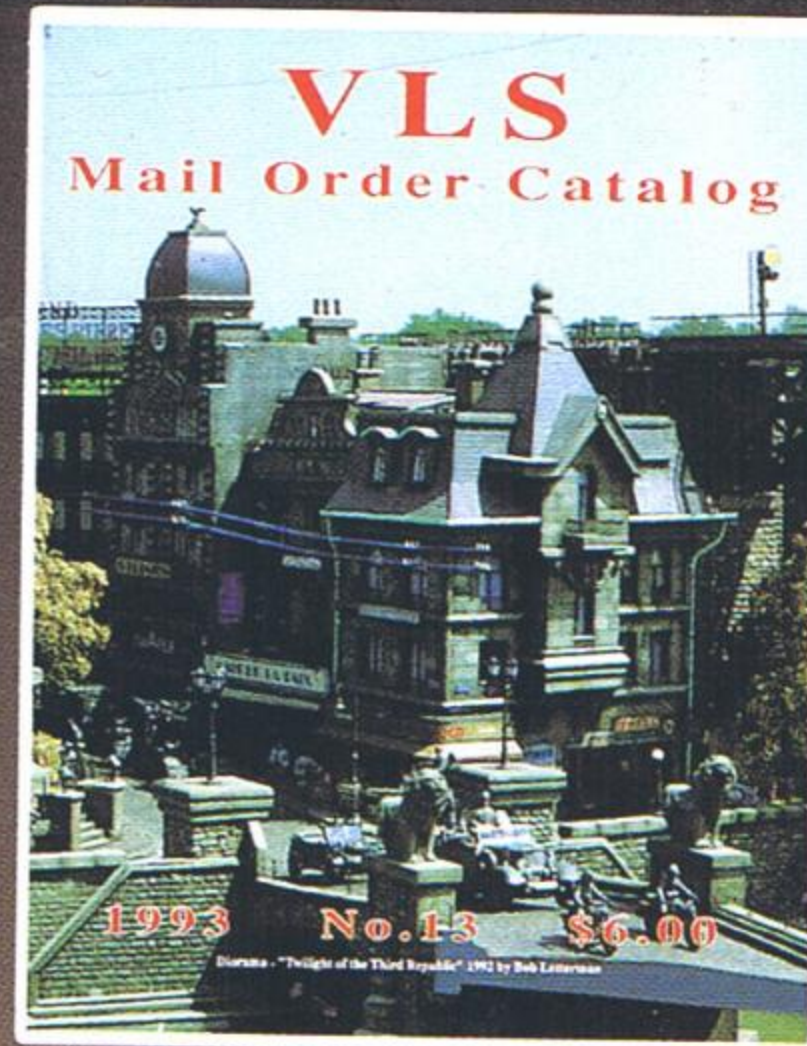
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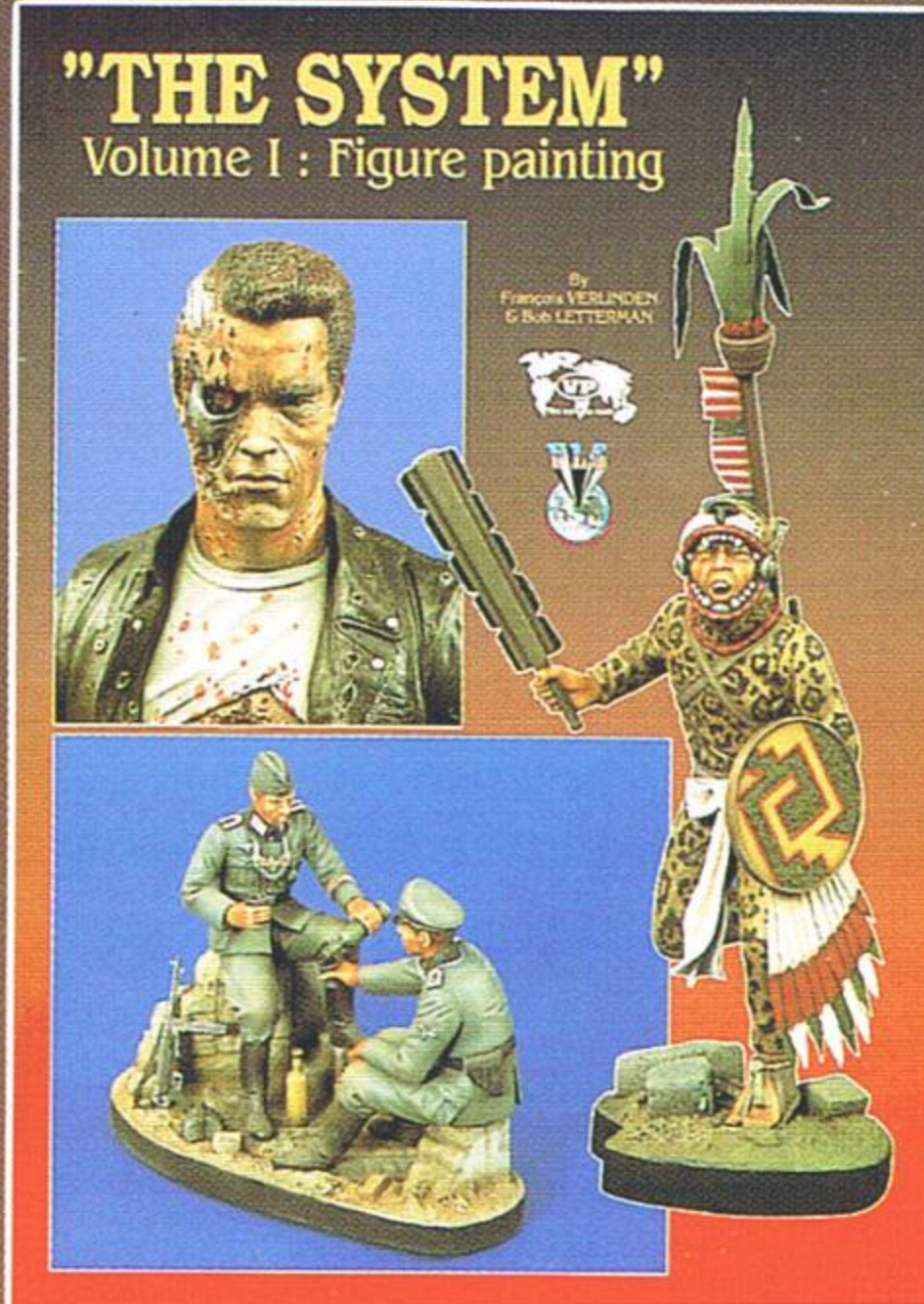
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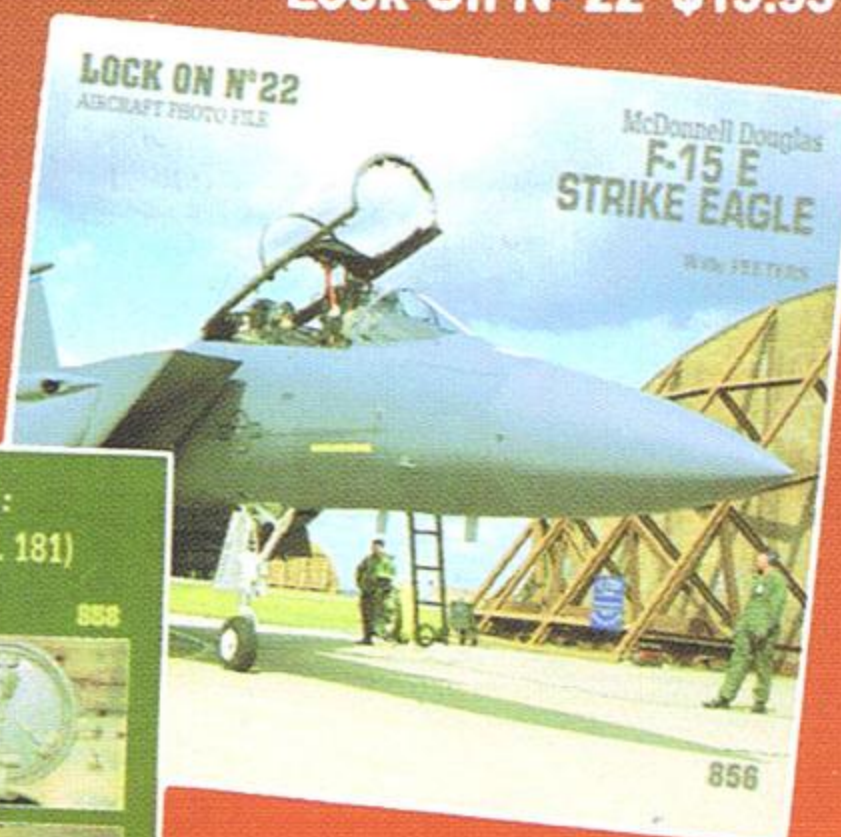
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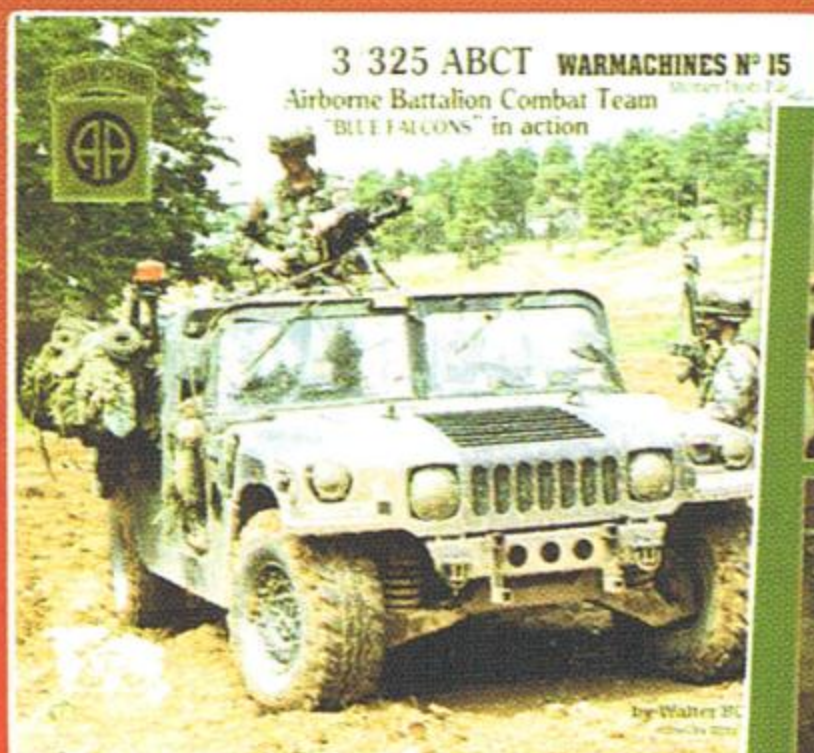
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Volume 5 Number 2

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## From the editor

Another year has come and gone and looking back is very gratifying. We entered the Fantasy market, and it went much better than expected. Our super scale tanks, the Sturmgeschutz, Panzer II and the Tiger I are best sellers. The 1/4 scale busts have proliferated and there seems to be an evergrowing following for those items. Our first artillery piece, Long Tom, in 35th scale, did very well. Our Historical figure line is growing fast and is very well received. We initiated 3 new book series, Aircraft in Detail and Armor in Detail, which will feature the Museum armor and aircraft not covered in the Lock On and Warmachines series. "The System" Volume I, begins a new "How To" series starting with figure painting. These will be nice supplements to the Verlinden Way, Showcase and Modeling Specials series. And last, but certainly not least, we have finally entered the Napoleonic era in 120mm with a Grenadier Guard, followed soon by an Officer of the Grenadier Guards and then a Napoleonic 8 Pound Cannon (Gribeauval system).



For 1994, we plan many new releases in the Napoleonic and Fantasy ranges, and in the Superscale tank department, an M3A1 Stuart, Panther G and an M113. Of course, many new figures and accessories will be forthcoming in that scale as well. We will resurrect the somewhat neglected 1/4 scale small arms series with a .30 cal. Water cooled machine gun, U.S. WWII. Many new armor and aircraft updates are in the works and there will be more 35th figure releases than usual. We have targeted another neglected area, (time is our worst enemy!), 1/35th diorama accessories, Lamp posts, Street signs, Street accessories, Traffic signals, Office furniture, Pianos, and much more. Research and Development is working on the possibilities of 1/15th scale Sherman, Willys Jeep and Kettenkrad, and maybe we will surprise you with even others. On the drawing boards are a 1/35th 15cm s.F.H. 18 Schwere Feldhaubitze and a Karl Heavy Mörser. Also a Complete Easy Eight Sherman and a Sherman Crab conversion. Although items in research are never products for certain, the vast majority will be released. We adapt to the market demand for some items and for that reason we will always have some surprises. I can assure you it's going to be a "Big" year for our customers. There are so many things ready for production, the most difficult task is choosing what to release first. What other company in the model industry releases an average of 140 new items a year? Even half of that number? I'm not bragging, just explaining why we are so unbelievably busy around here.

François VERLINDEN

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"Bonjour, petites !"

("Hello, little ones !")

## Converting to a Free French Sherman

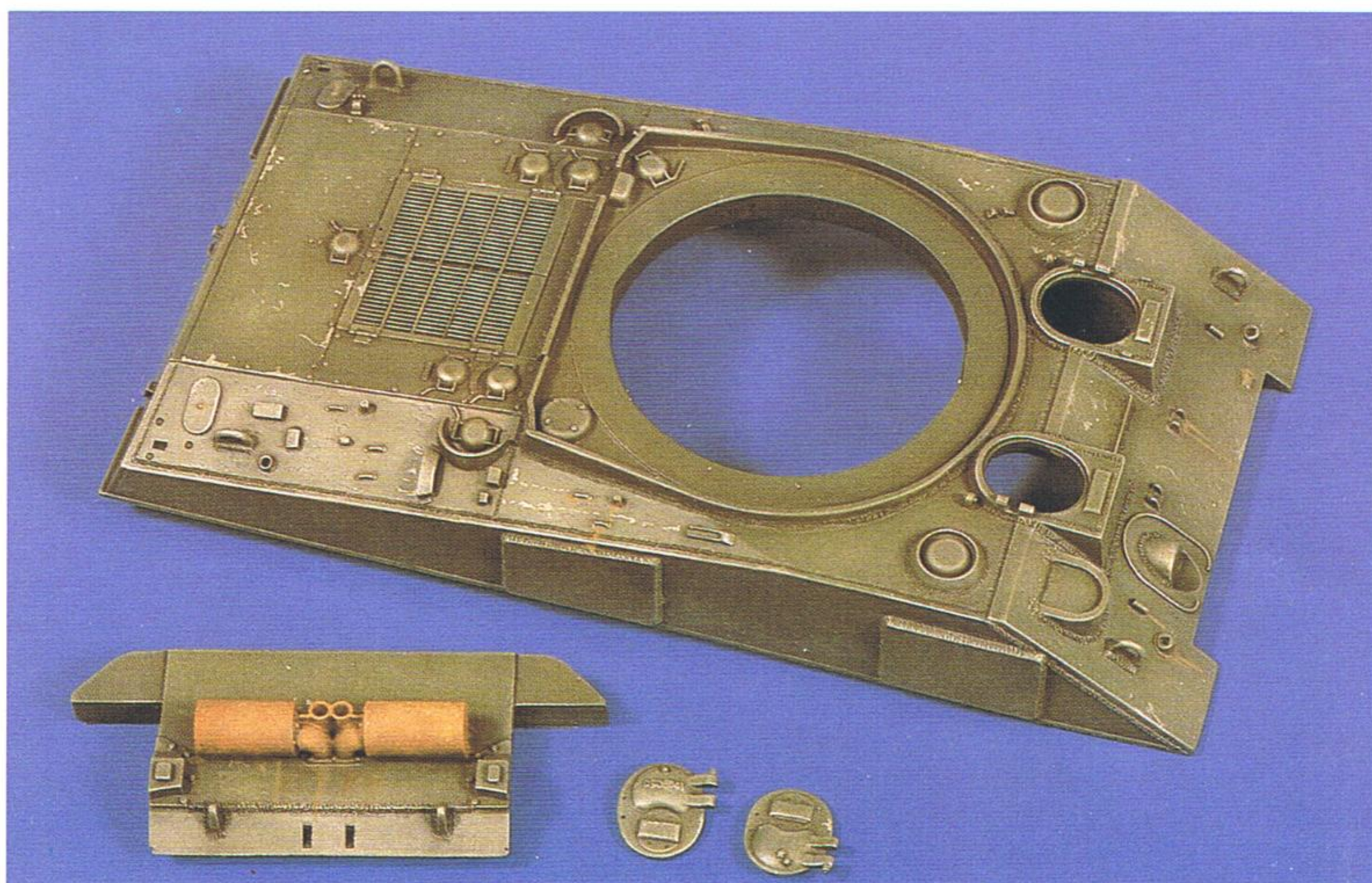
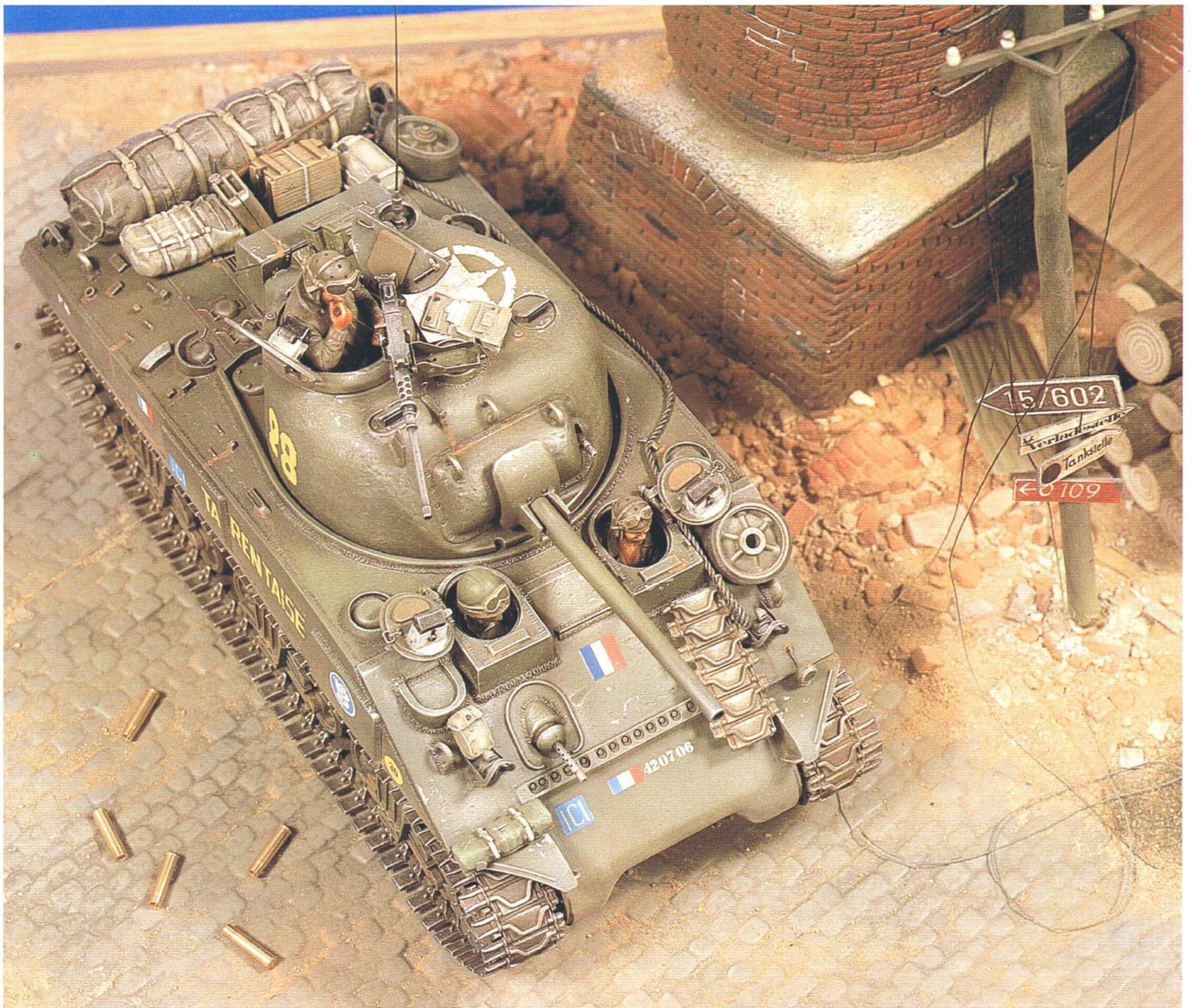


Fig. 2 Pre-painted M4A2 hull and rear engine bulkhead together with driver's and co-driver's hatches, as can be found in VP Set N° 333 and which was used for this conversion of a French Sherman Medium tank.

Here you see a typical scene during the Allied push to Germany. A free French Forces M4A2 Sherman is passing the ruins of a small factory which shielded a rather hastily abandoned German Flak Position. A small touch of sentiment is also provided in the form of the real "losers" in any war, orphaned children. However, the main focal point is the ruin itself, Trophy N° 20030, Small Factory Ruin. Under the 'Lend-Lease' program the Allies not only received clothing, food and ammo, but also tanks, vehicles and other armored equipment. The Sherman found its way into those ranks, mostly in the M4A2 and M4A4 versions. It was well-loved by its crews, regardless of nationality. The one shown here is a combination of a TAMIYA M4A3 made into an M4A2 using VP kit N° 333 (M4A2 welded hull) and a VP turret (N°334 Early M34 gun shield turret).

The second point of interest on this diorama is of course the Factory Ruin, N° 20030. It can be seen embedded within piles of debris all coming from TROPHY N°s 20027, 20028, 20034. A good balance was obtained in this scene between the ruin, models and figures. The importance of balance in a diorama can never be over emphasized.



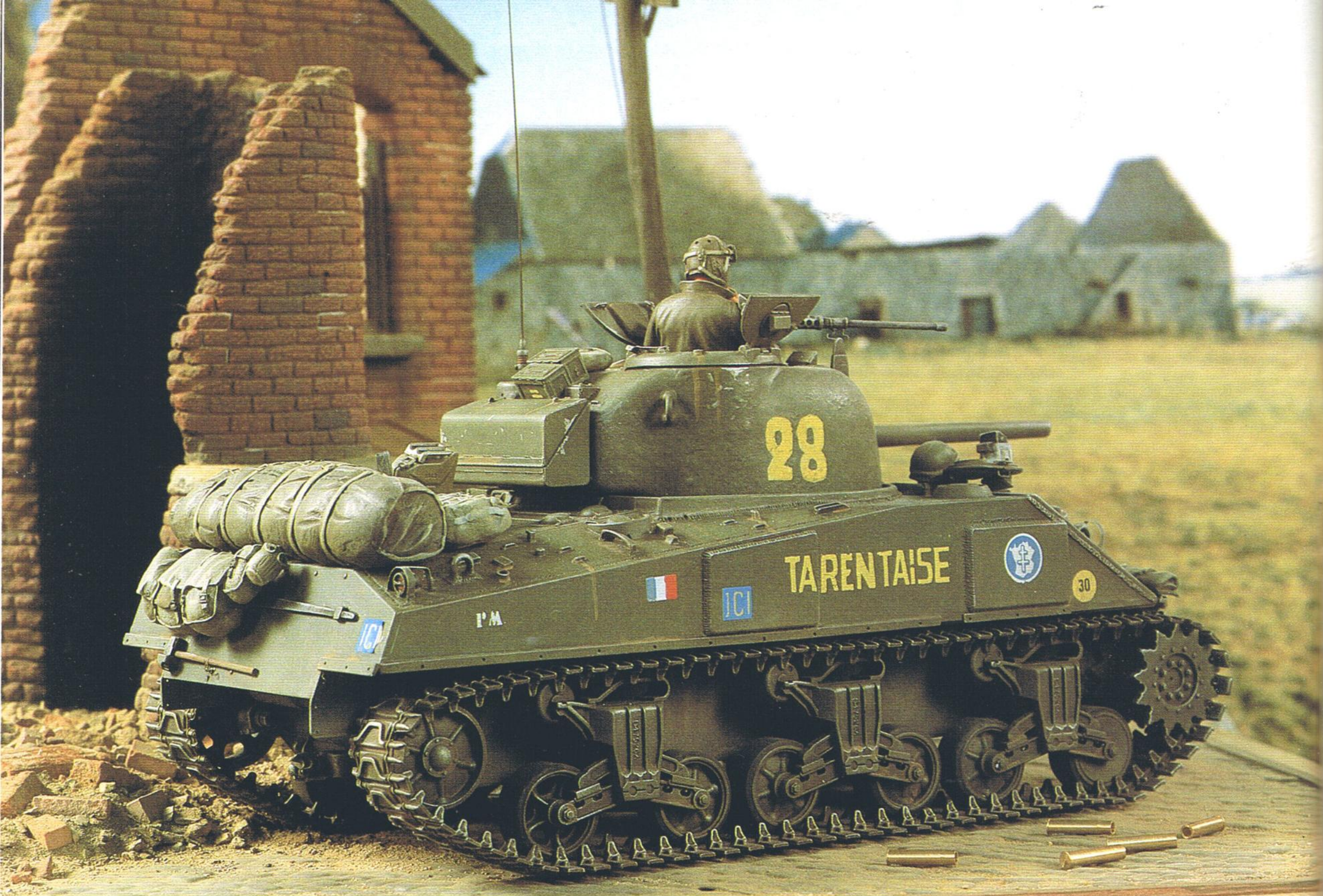


**Fig.3** An overall frontal view of the Sherman showing VP N° 134, US Tank Crew WWII and the highly detailed .50 cal Machine Gun, VP N°372. To the right, behind the TAMIYA telephone pole with VP direction signs, are logs which were cut from a tree branch found in the backyard. All rear deck stowage from VP. The Trophy's Cobblestone Road Section looks very convincing, and saves a lot of time and effort.

**Fig.4** The hastily abandoned TAMIYA Flak was set at maximum firing position. The awning covering the logs was first built up from Basswood strips covered by TROPHY Corrugated sheet cut in sections. Because of its pre-printed color, the sheets only needed to be cut, glued in position and lightly weathered with pastels.







**Fig.5** More details are revealed on this low-angle rear view of the Sherman itself. Tank insignia is taken from the "French Tank Markings" sheet (VP N°289) and can be applied quite easily. Spare ammo boxes on the turret include N°88 US Small Arms Ammo Boxes, N° 305 Cal.30/.50/20mm Ammo Boxes. "Ready to paint" shell casings are from box N°94, 75mm Tank Ammo. Amazing how a nice model and a well planned background can create a certain "one of those wartime days" atmosphere.

To the left you sense the urgency of the Sherman crew to keep pushing forward, contrasted by a feeling of solitude from the children and abandoned Flak gun. Capturing the "mood" requires careful planning and involves finding the proper products to complete the scene. This was much more difficult some ten years ago, but today, the diorama accessories are seemingly endless.

**Fig.6** The remains of what must have been a remote corner of the factory. The furniture was made from bits and pieces of plasticard. Posters come from VP set N° 14. An interesting feature is the roof which was built-up from Basswood strips covered with TROPHY N°20021, Corrugated Sheet Metal. Being made of vacuformed plastic, they can easily be bent by careful heating for more realism.



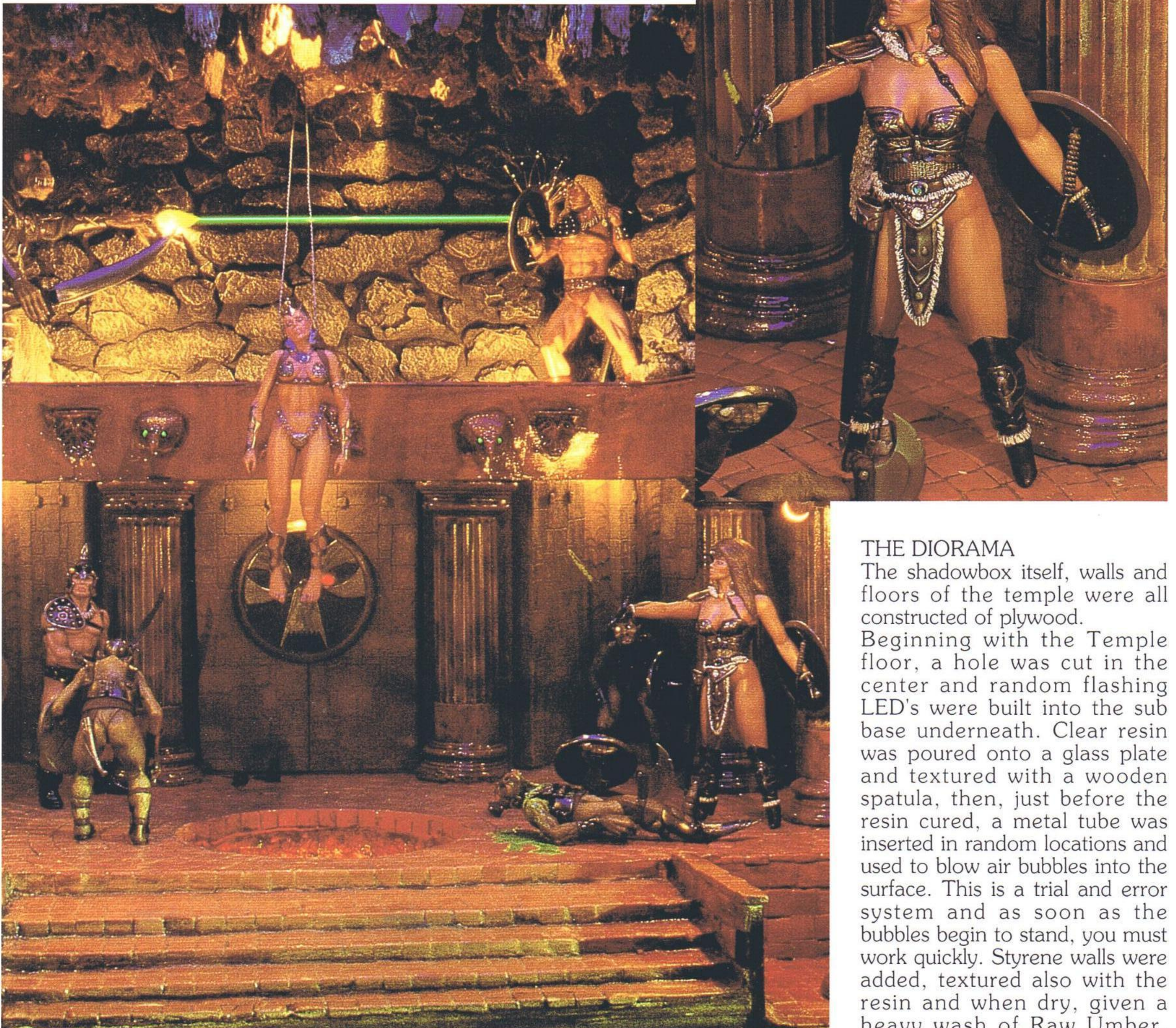


# the Blackstar<sup>®</sup> Rebellion

## A 150 mm Fantasy Shadowbox

This shadow box diorama depicts the Blackstar Raiders coming to the rescue of their comrad, Section leader Jali, of the Queens lifeguards. She has been condemned to a slow death for refusing to betray the location of her Queen and the rebel outposts to Ursona, the High Priestess of Zaron and Dragor, the Dungeon Master.

By Bob LETTERMAN



### THE DIORAMA

The shadowbox itself, walls and floors of the temple were all constructed of plywood.

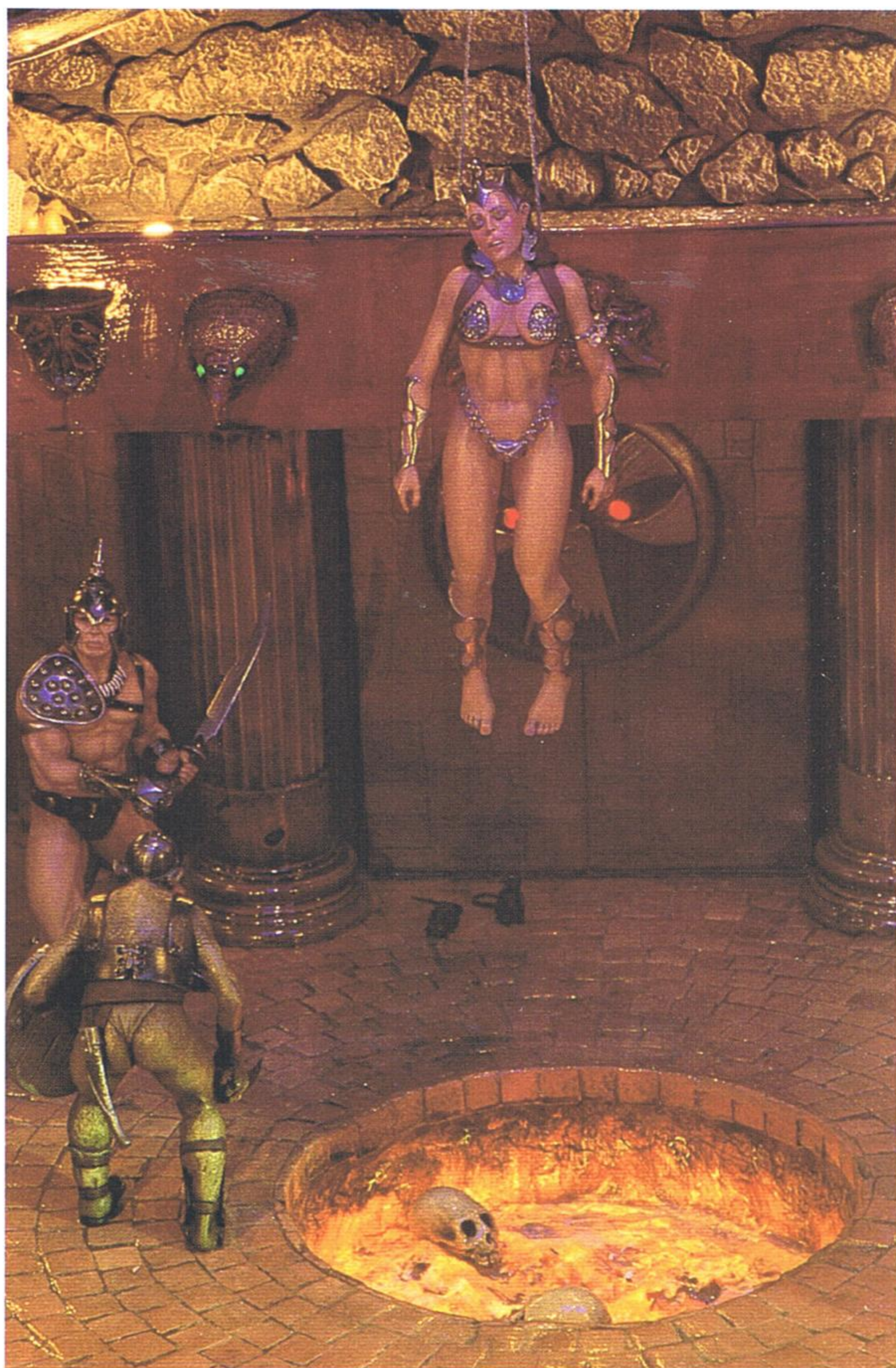
Beginning with the Temple floor, a hole was cut in the center and random flashing LED's were built into the sub base underneath. Clear resin was poured onto a glass plate and textured with a wooden spatula, then, just before the resin cured, a metal tube was inserted in random locations and used to blow air bubbles into the surface. This is a trial and error system and as soon as the bubbles begin to stand, you must work quickly. Styrene walls were added, textured also with the resin and when dry, given a heavy wash of Raw Umber.



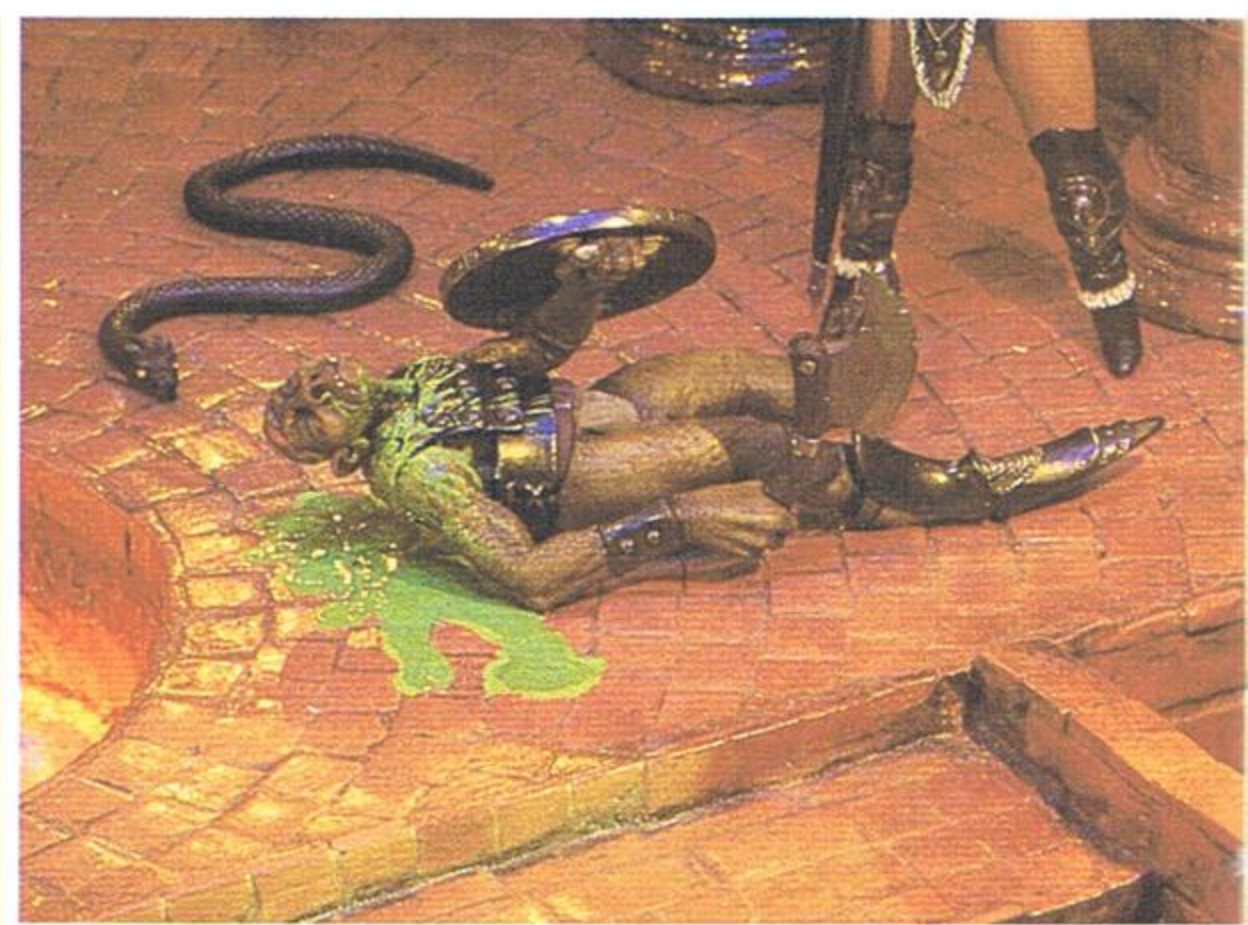
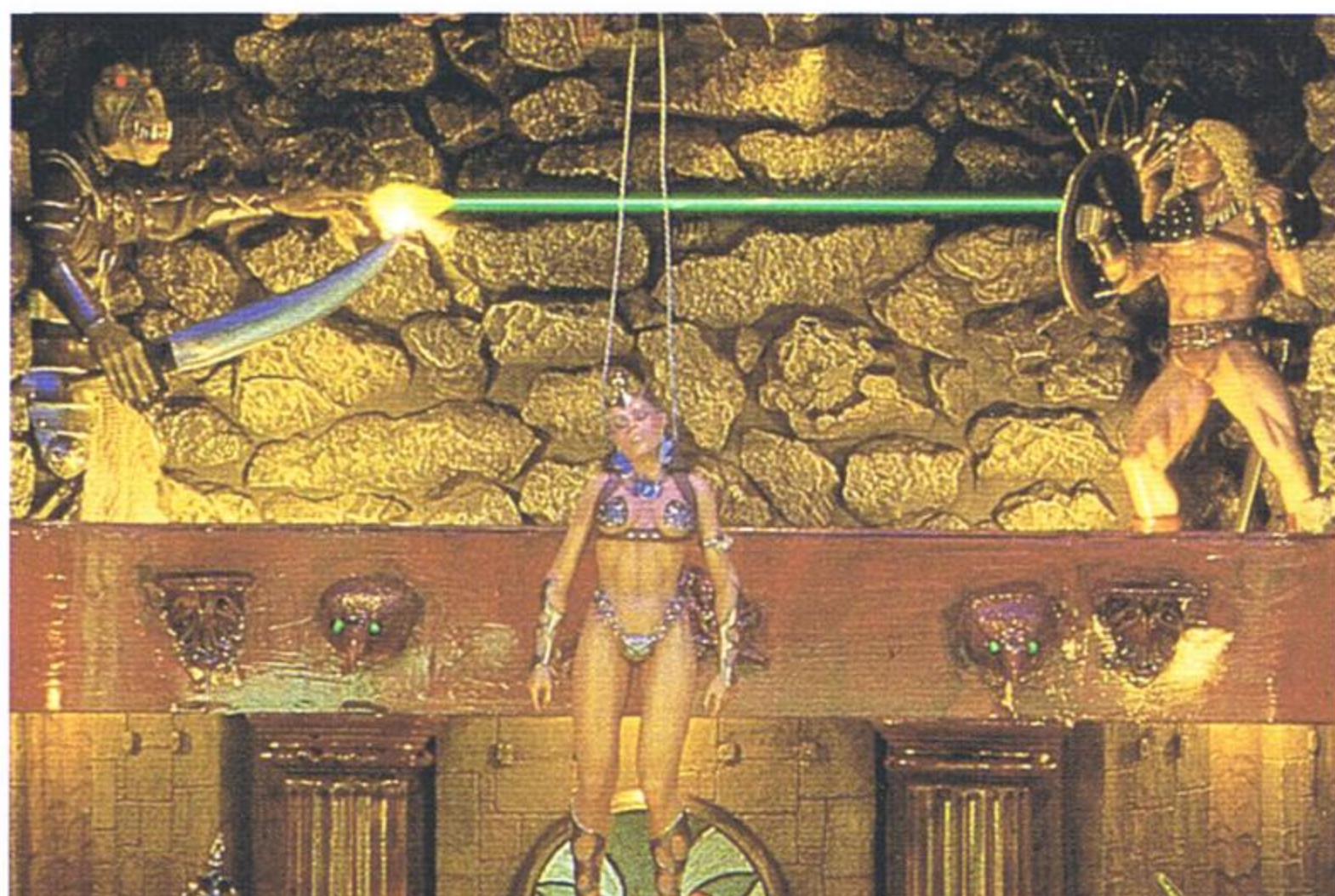
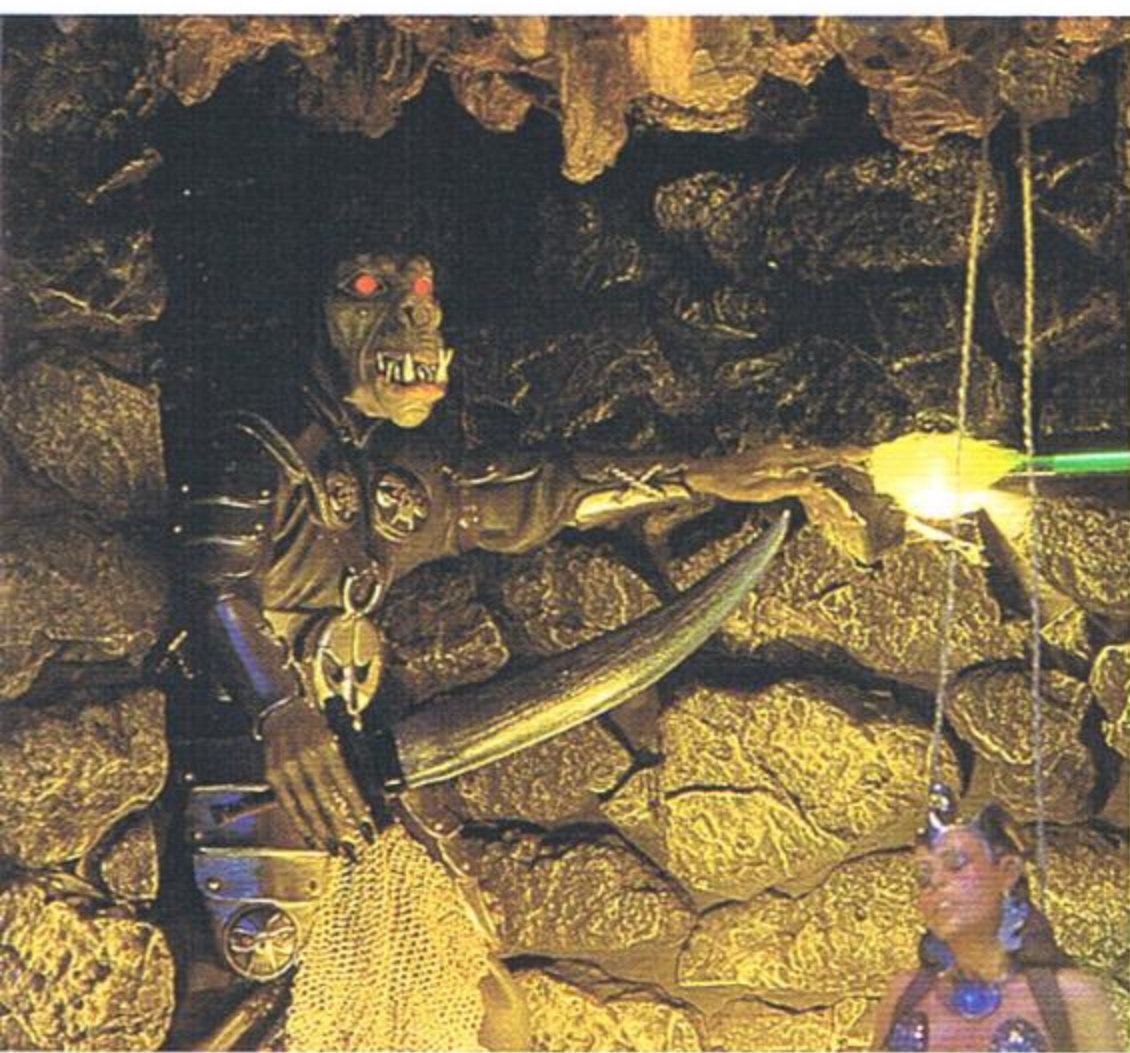
Later, the entire pit was drybrushed with varying shades of Humbrol fluorescent reds and oranges. The floor was then covered with Trophy red tiles in a circular pattern radiating outward from the pit. A very fine grouting was applied and after drying, a wash of Raw Umber and a coat of polyurethane varnish completed the mosaic. The walls are a combination of plaster stone and balsa planks, beaten with a hammer to simulate a rough sawn texture. VP supplied me with the plaster columns, (these may be a future release), which were airbrushed to simulate marble and then also given a coat of varnish. The walls of the balcony were made from stones cast from plaster, painted flat black and drybrushed with a mixture of silver and Raw Umber. The stalagmites were made from tree bark. A small ultraviolet lamp was attached to the ceiling to enhance the fluorescent paint in the lava pit. Several 12 volt bayonet type lamps were attached, out of sight of the viewer to spotlight the various focal points. Each is controlled by an individual potentiometer to allow full control of the lighting. Some 15 grain of wheat bulbs were also used to highlight the columns, walls and corridors.

### THE FIGURES

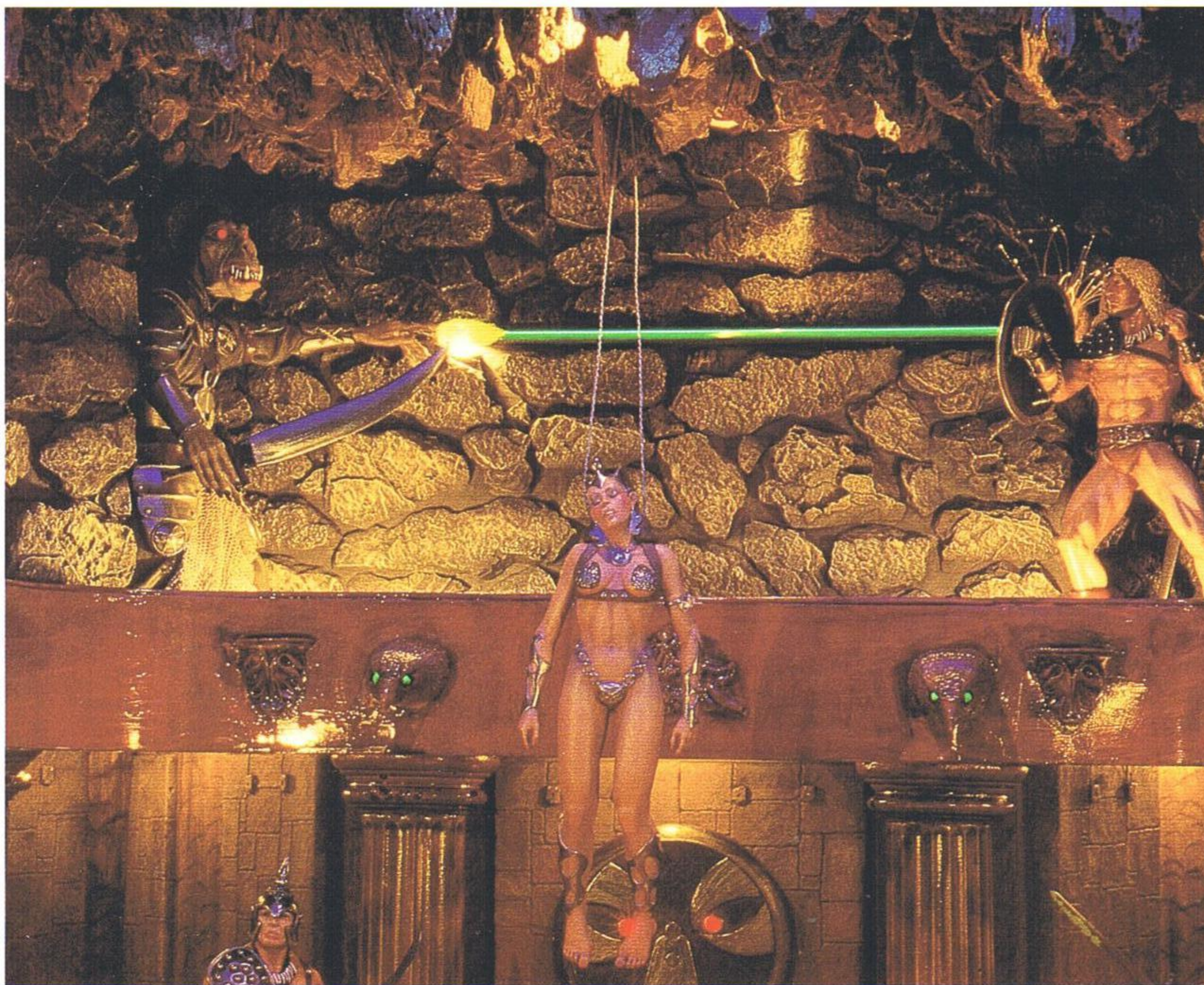
Two VP "Raiders of Zarlion" were used, one straight from the box and the other posed with an added shield and hair fashioned from Milliput epoxy putty, (2 heads come with the kit, one with the helmet and another without). Four Krijlian dungeon guards, each posed and the one facing the viewer was fitted with flashing LED eyes, The Prisoner, The Dungeonmaster, also posed and with LED eyes; and finally, the female figure, "The Worm has turned". She had to be posed and converted for the scene and although it doesn't really fit with the story line, I liked this figure so well I just had to include her. The green ray emanating from the Dungeonmaster's finger and striking the Raider's shield was accomplished by using a green tinted rectangle of Plexiglass, polished on both edges and coated with flat black paint. After completion, it is inserted through a slot in the wall, so only the edge is visible. The rear edge is flush with a small fluorescent bulb, and when the switch is thrown, the light from the bulb is transferred through the plexiglass to the leading edge, simulating the effect of a green ray. A grain of wheat is affixed to either end of the "ray" and covered with fiberglass insulation to diffuse the light from the bulbs. At the shield, several clusters of fiber optics were attached to the grain of wheat bulb to give the effect of sparks from the ray blast.



This diorama amounted to two "firsts" for me, my first shadowbox and my first fantasy piece. I really had fun with this one. There is a lot of suspense during construction because until it was completed, I never knew for certain how it would look. The lighting has so much to do with the final appearance, you are "working in the dark", so to speak, throughout the project.







## "The Chronicles of Zarlon"

The **Star system Halion** contains five major planets. Of these, **Zarlon**, the second planet from the sun and extremely warm, is the only one that is habitable.

It has four satellites or moons, each also capable of sustaining life. Zarlon is inhabited by reptilian creatures with bird like features. In the Fourth millennium, this race, led by the **Warlord Thalo**, enslaved the inhabitants of all four moons. The first moon, **Dralo**, was populated by giant, dragon like creatures. The second moon was known as **Krijl**, whose natives were small, but very vicious amphibians. The third moon, **Kreja**, had no intelligent life until the Zarlons began mining operations there, transplanting the humanoids from the fourth moon, **Taria**, as slaves. The Tarians were of two distinct types, warriors and pacifists, although they were identical in appearance. Legends told that the difference was determined by each individual's genetic receptiveness to the black crystalline substance found in abundance on their lunar world. The mineral, called **Blackstar** by the inhabitants, emanated radiation that influenced their aggressive tendencies.

After being relocated to the **Krejan mines**, the Tarians, separated from the rays of Blackstar, began to undergo a physical as well as psychological metamorphosis. Even the most aggressive were reduced to mindless, robot-like creatures. After only two or three generations they were transformed to half the physical stature of their brothers and sisters who remained on Taria. These mutants were called **Kreejans** and were easily controlled by their slavemasters. However, on Taria, the warriors hid in the vast mountain ranges, constantly under the influence of the crystals. They routinely abducted their pacifist comrades and subjected them to extreme exposure of the Blackstar rays, and they eventually became as one, in the fight for the **Rebellion**. Before their subjugation, the Tarians lived peaceful lives, ruled by a malevolent King and Queen. Their Regent, the wizard **Pyaan**, advised them and their young daughter,

**Lani**, and life was good. Then an evil sorceress from Zarlon seduced Pyaan and they had a girl child whom they called **Ursona** (who, twenty years later, would betray her people and become the **High Priestess of Zarlon**). Then suddenly, everything began to change. An evil spell cast by the Sorceress over the entire world of Taria took its toll. Brother fought Brother, turmoil and famine spread throughout the land. Then came the **Warlord Thalo** and his Zarlon hoards, and the end came quickly. The King and Queen were executed along with all members of their court. Luckily, the magician Pyaan, managed to free the young Princess Lani from her captors and take her to the mountains where she was raised by the warrior tribes, always on the run from the Zarlon armies.

Twenty years later, Lani has grown into womanhood and has been declared by the Free Tarians as their **Queen**, and has come to lead the rebel forces against the tyrant Thalo. She is known to her enemies by the same name as the life giving force, **Blackstar**. Her boyhood playmate, **Talnn**, is now the chief of the guerrilla brigade, (an arm of the rebel forces), which constantly harrasses the Warlord's military bases and prisons on Zarlon with surprise raids. He has become known throughout the star system as "**The Raider of Zarlon**", and Lord Thalo has placed a heavy bounty on his head. Talnn has sworn to kill the **Dungeon Master Dragor**, whose vile cruelty is the dread of the Tarians, and who is holding his lover, **Jali**, Section Leader of the Queens Lifeguards as **Prisoner** for execution in the lava pit. The **Dralans** and the **Krijllians** have become followers of Thalo, leaving the Free Tarians as the only obstacle in Thalo's quest for subjugation of the entire star system. The chances of the Rebels appear dismal indeed, but Pyaan, the magician, now has a plan to transport the Black crystals of Taria to the rebel bases to renew the energy and strength of Queen Lani's forces.



# The Train

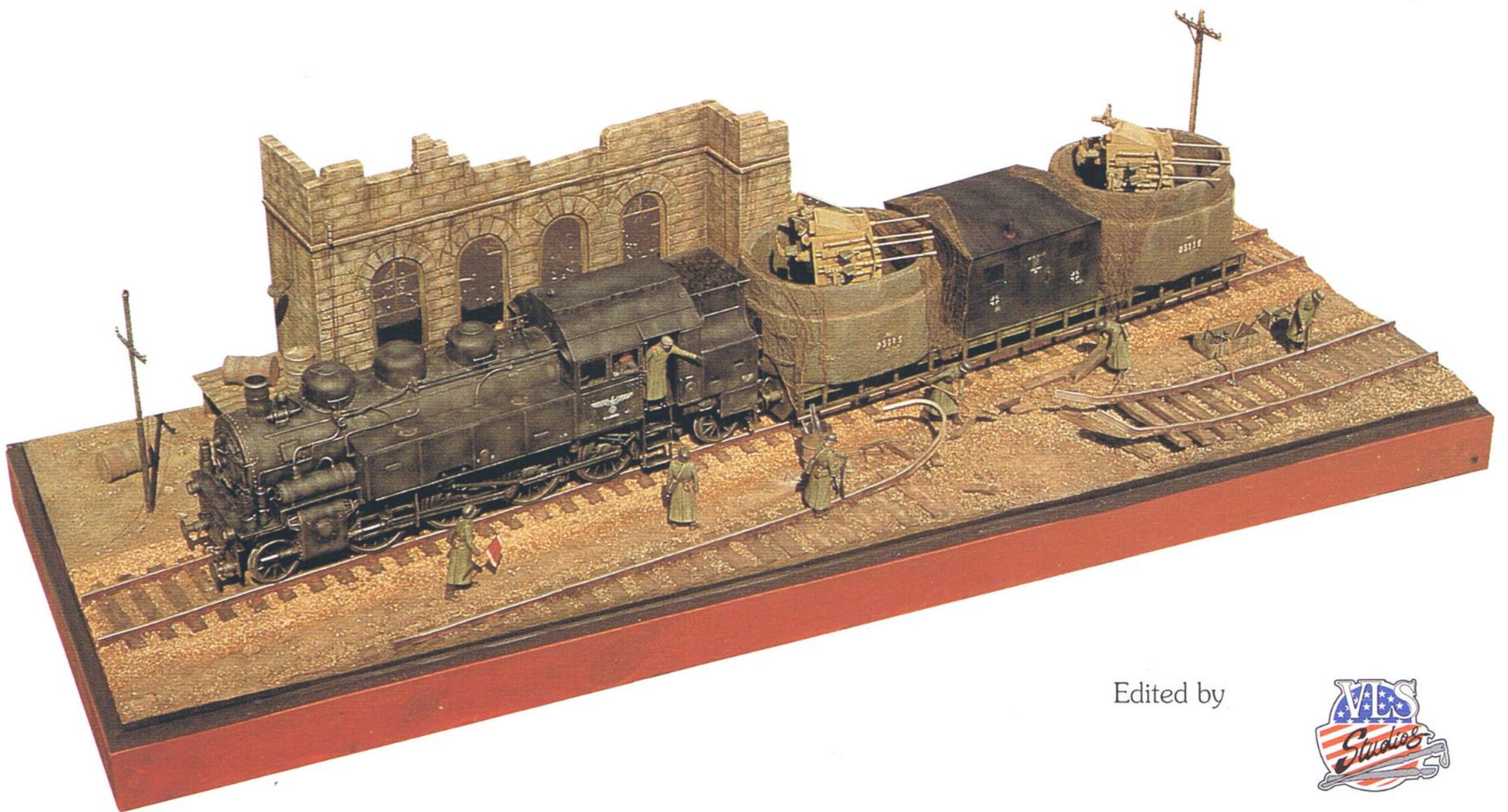
a diorama by  
Lewis PRUNEAU, USA



What can you say about a Lewis Pruneau diorama? Not much, they leave you speechless. Lewis' models are definitely unique in the world and "The Train" is no exception!

Crafted from sheet styrene and PVC pipe in 120mm scale, the mere size of it is awesome. He used eight VP 120mm figures, seven of which are converted from the Legion Wallonie, Eastern Front figure. The two concrete bunkered quad flak guns are also from scratch and the railroad station from plywood coated with scribed plaster stones. Lewis premiered his new blockbuster at Mastercon II and it was immediately acquired for the new model museum opening next summer at VLS. The diorama is about 7 feet long (210 cm) and almost 3 feet wide (91 cm).

The interior of the locomotive cab is completely detailed (of course!) with all the gauges, throttles and controls. Certainly a diorama with impact.



Edited by







Left: A birdseye view of the massive model. Lewis got the inspiration for this diorama from the movie, "The Train", with Burt Lancaster. Although freight trains were used in the movie, a full freight train in 120 mm would be a little impractical. Don't mention that to Lewis, he might take it as a challenge!

Right: Rank has its priveleges! The insignia on the cab of the locomotive was cast from a 1 to 1 scale German cap piece, and then sanded paper thin. Note the gauges and controls inside the cab.



Below: A rear shot showing the concrete reinforced implacements for the twin quad flak guns. The railroad tracks were made from basswood with Plastruct T-beams for the rails. All the Wehrmacht troops were converted from the same VP figure.







## Tobruk Crossing

a diorama by Martin SCHUH,  
Germany

One of the ways to stop advancing tanks is to put up an obstacle of considerable size, making it impossible to pass. This is no problem when fighting takes place in a town or in wooded areas, but little means are available in a flat desert landscape to halt advancing troops, except for air or ground power.

However, ingenious minds came up with the following solution. Dig a ditch, stretching for miles, wide and deep enough to prevent a tank (or other vehicle for that matter) from crossing it. With some luck, a tank driver with his limited field of view, would not be able to spot the edge of the ditch in time and wind up some six feet lower.



ITEMS USED IN CONSTRUCTION  
OF THIS DIORAMA

SOVEREIGN  
SdKfz. 221 & 3Ton Halftrack

GUNZE-SANGYO  
10,5cm Howitzer

Figures from various sources

VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS  
ACCESSORIES

N°51 Barbed Wire  
N°82 Tank Crew Gear  
N°131 German Tank Commander  
/Afrika Corps  
N°230 Tentpacks & Bedrolls  
N°637 German Infantry Equipment  
N°639 Trees & Hedgerows  
N°661 German Afrika Korps  
N°676 German Engineers  
N°682 German Heads N°3



With this diorama I wanted to illustrate a German artillery unit trying to cross such a tank ditch with the assistance of engineers.

Using wooden logs they constructed a temporary pier supporting two custom-made side ramps. A 3 ton halftrack, towing a 10,5cm howitzer, is being guided over the ramps under the watchful eye of an officer. Four howitzer crewmen have descended from the vehicle to make it lighter and

are keeping an eye on the substitute pier to warn the driver of shifting logs. However, it is unlikely the crew on board will be able to do little more than jump when the improvised bridge collapses.

The event is drawing a lot of attention because even the crew of the SdKfz 221 in the background have halted to witness a safe crossing. Quite some time and effort went into constructing the vehicles because of

fitting and cleaning problems. Finishing them took less time following the explanations in various VP references which were also used to paint the figures (converted from various parts), involving some personal experimenting in shadowing.

Applying the groundwork over the styrofoam base (cut to shape and glued in place with white glue) was done with some consideration, constantly referring to real life photographs.



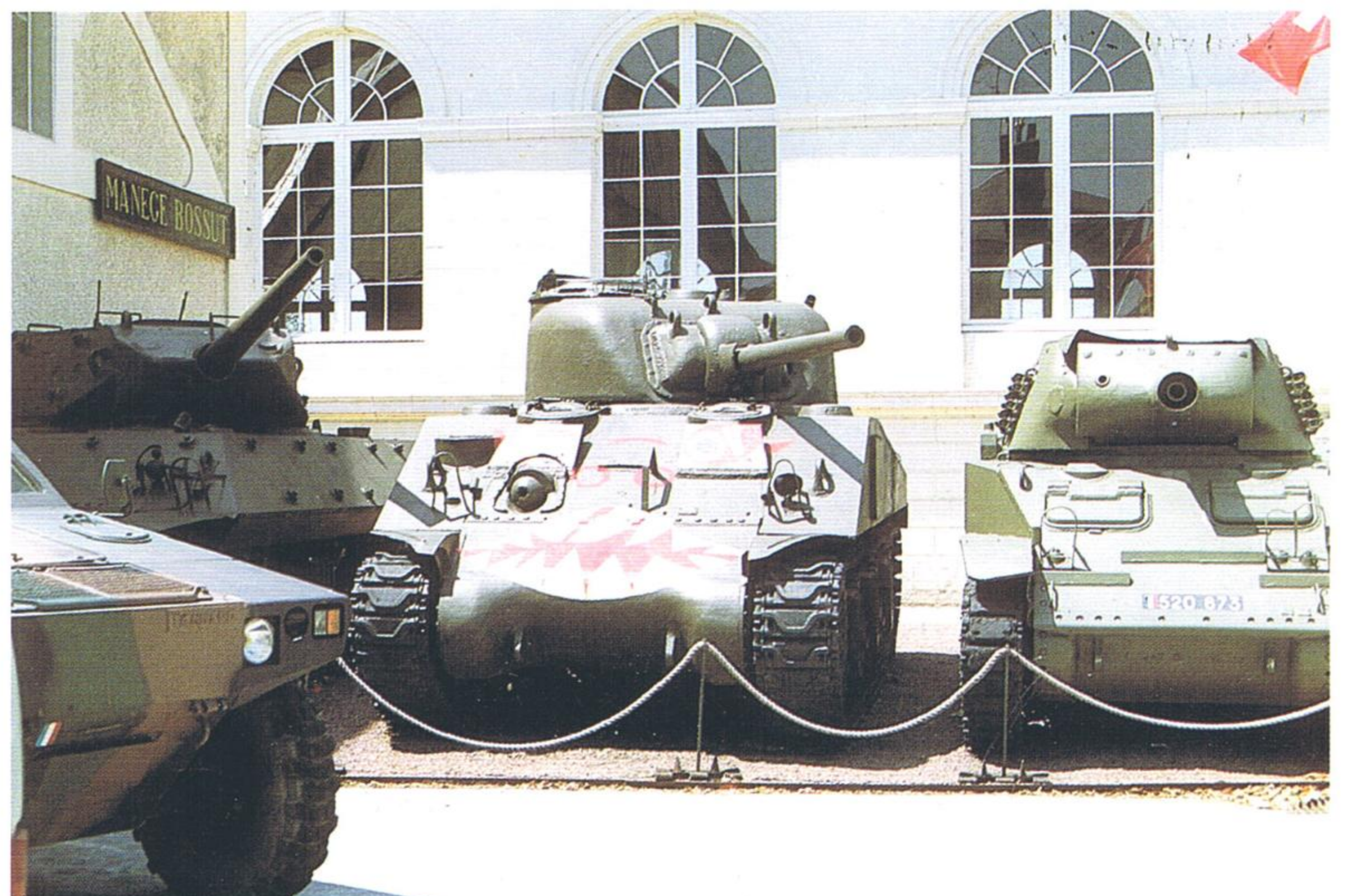


This time we focus on one of the most famous museums on the globe and one of the world's largest military vehicle collections. Today the small town of Saumur (located some 60 kilometers from Angers, Le Mans and Tours) houses the elite of the French armored cavalry, but it was once the home of the King's musketeers, the Emperor's cavaliers and cavalry cadets in WWII.

In 1965 the High Command itself entrusted Colonel Michel AUBRY the task of collecting these tanks and armored fighting vehicles, witnesses of a recent past, saving them from the scrapyard or the artillery target area. Although established as early as 1968, it took until 1987 before the museum was inaugurated and opened to the public, presenting the cream of tank warfare.

The models currently on display are part of the immense C.D.E.B. collection of over 800 military vehicles (some 500 tanks), 300 combat vehicles and some 30 artillery pieces.

## Visiting : Le Musée des Blindés SAUMUR, FRANCE (The Saumur Tank Museum)



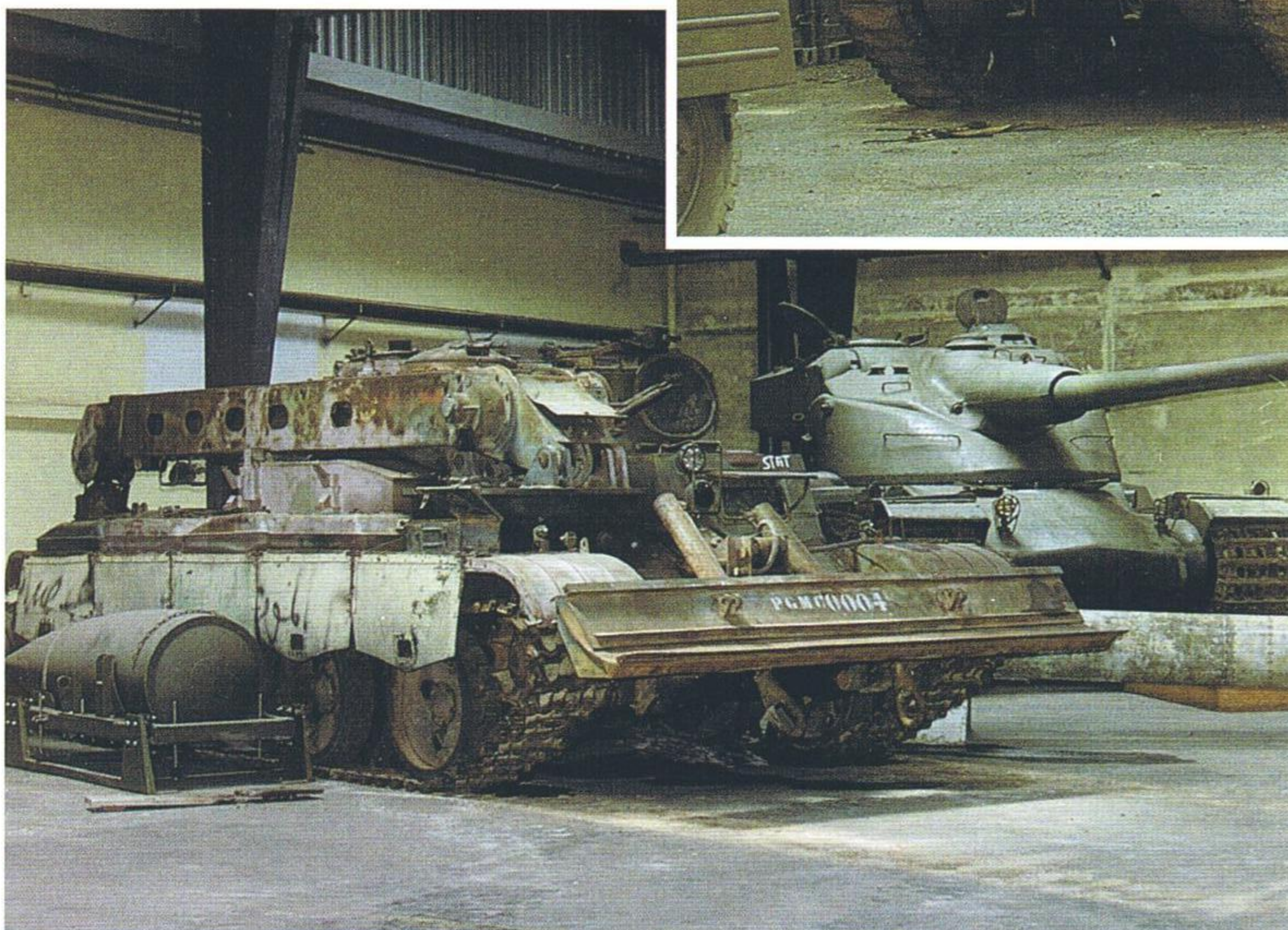
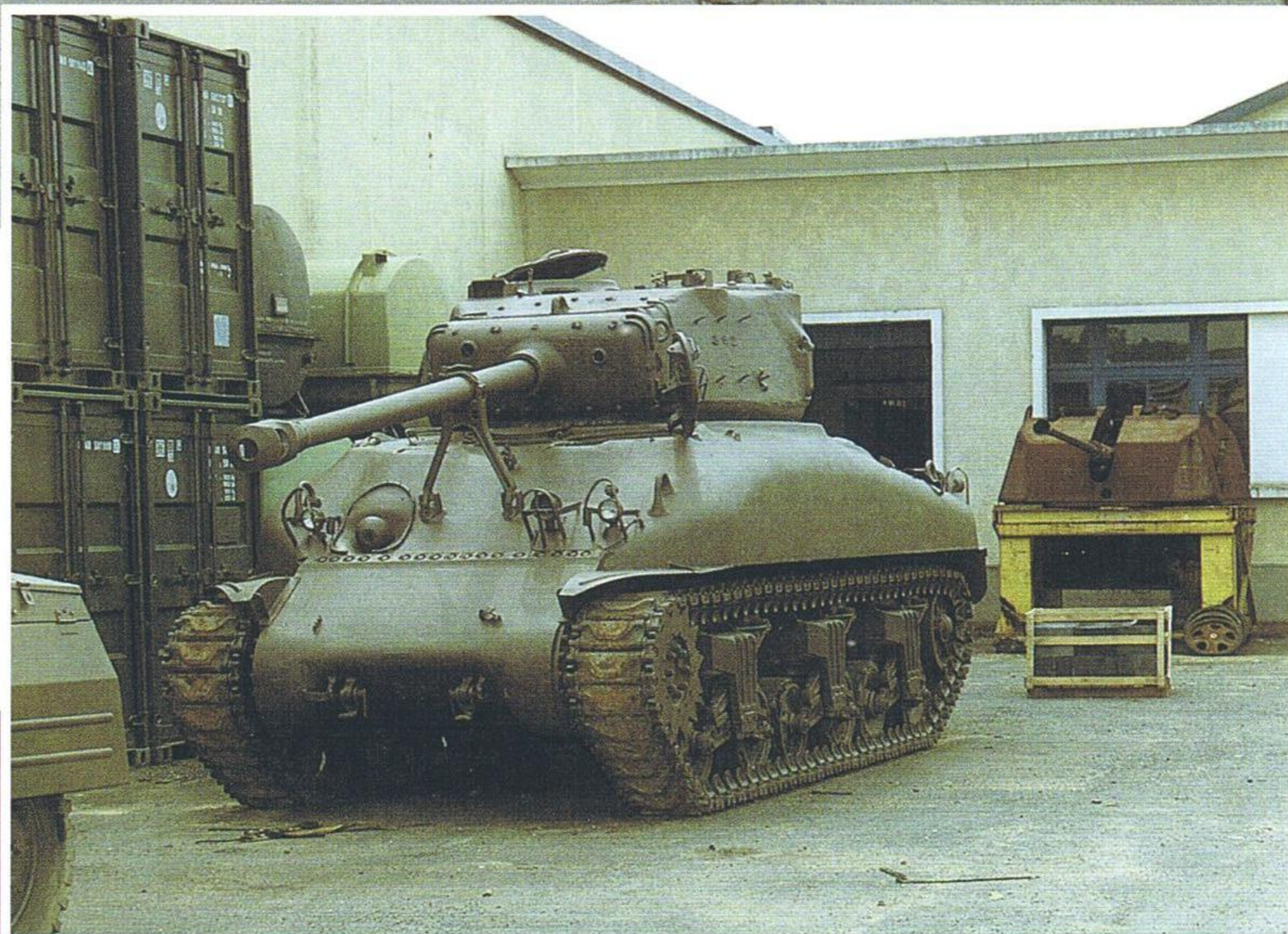




Edited by



Photos by  
Alain HANEL, D. SADOK  
& C.D.E.B. C. CRAMPONT



In comparison with other museums, the most important Allied vehicles have been gathered here and, what is quite unique, it's the only place in the world to have Germany's PANTHER and KING TIGER (two of an impressive collection of German tanks) in running condition.

The museum is open seven days a week, throughout the year from 09.00 a.m. until 12.00 p.m. and from 14.00 p.m. to 18.00 p.m.. A modeling / book shop is also at hand.





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# The Train

1/15 Scale diorama by  
Lewis PRUNEAU, USA

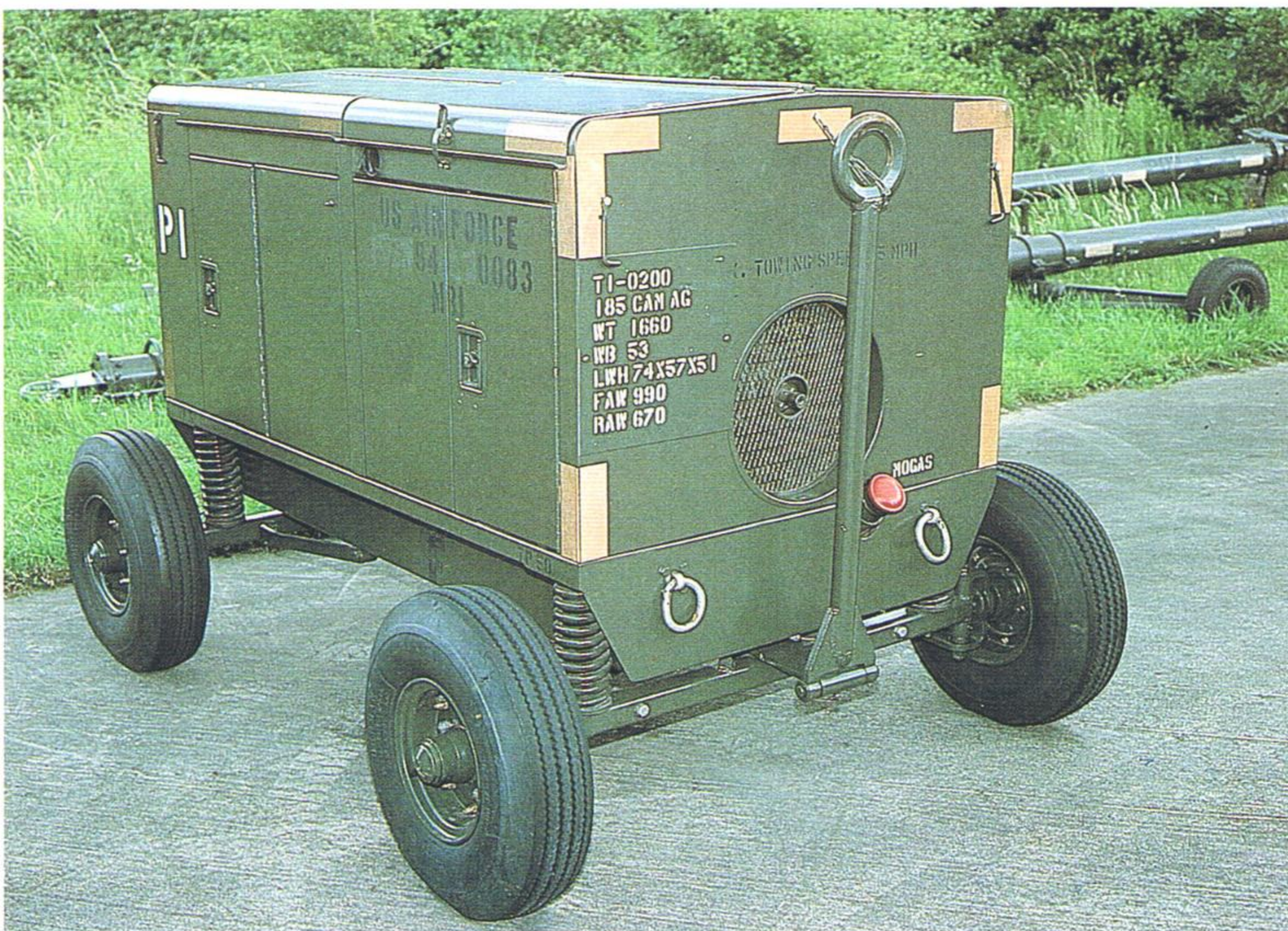
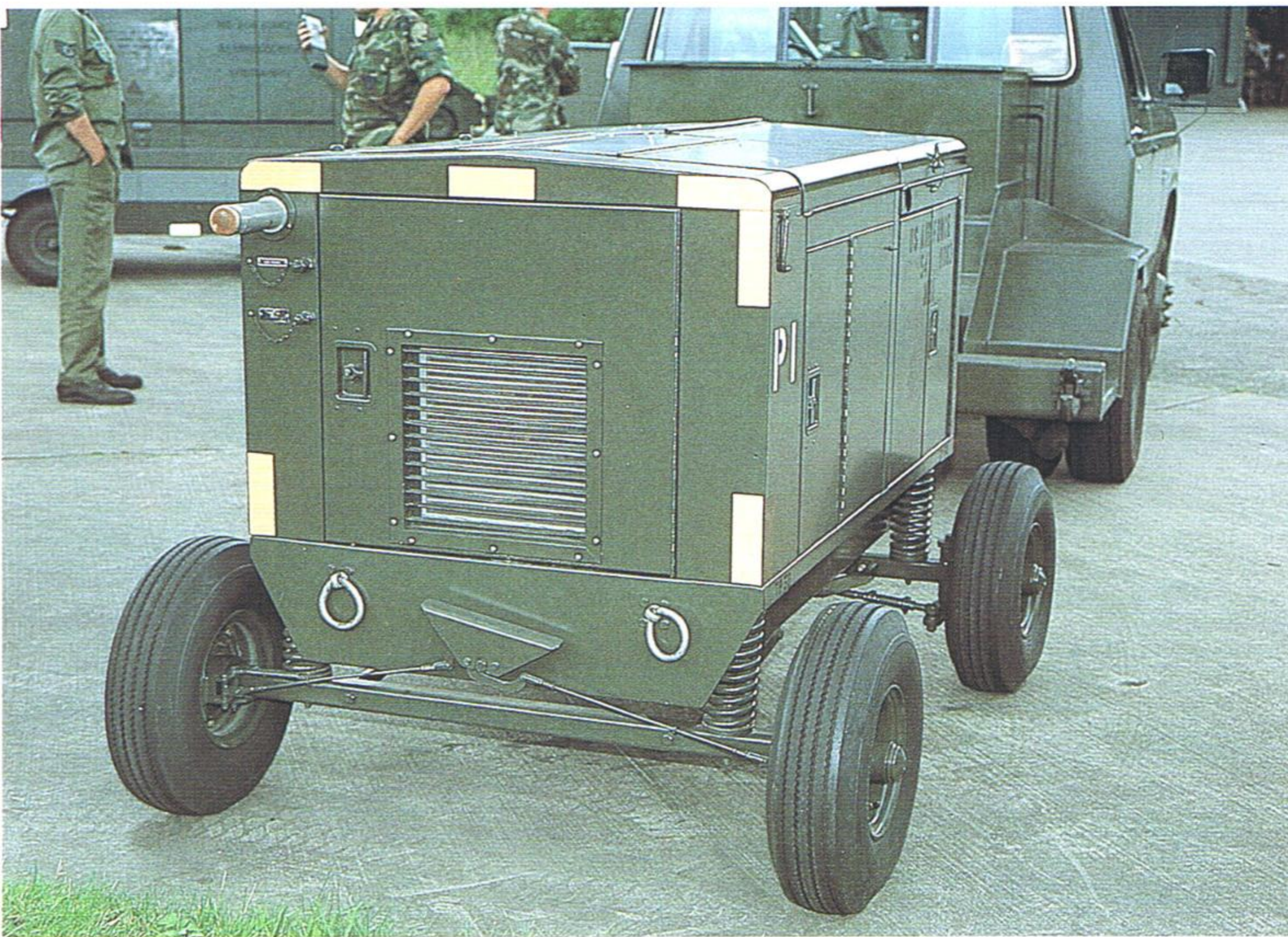


## In focus : U.S. AIR FORCE Cabin Leakage Tester

In this third article of the series we concentrate on auxiliary equipment rarely seen outside the cross-servicing hangars, but everpresent with a unit on deployment to a foreign airbase.

These three photos show a Cabin Leakage Tester which is used, as the name indicates, to check cockpit pressurization.

The last thing you want to happen as a pilot flying at high altitude is to experience an instant decompression of the cockpit.



Each jet aircraft canopy has a seal surrounding the cabin and an onboard environmental control system maintaining ground pressure inside the cockpit. Visual check-up of the seal prior to power-on and take-off may not reveal small cracks in the seal which will blow at higher altitudes with devastating effect.

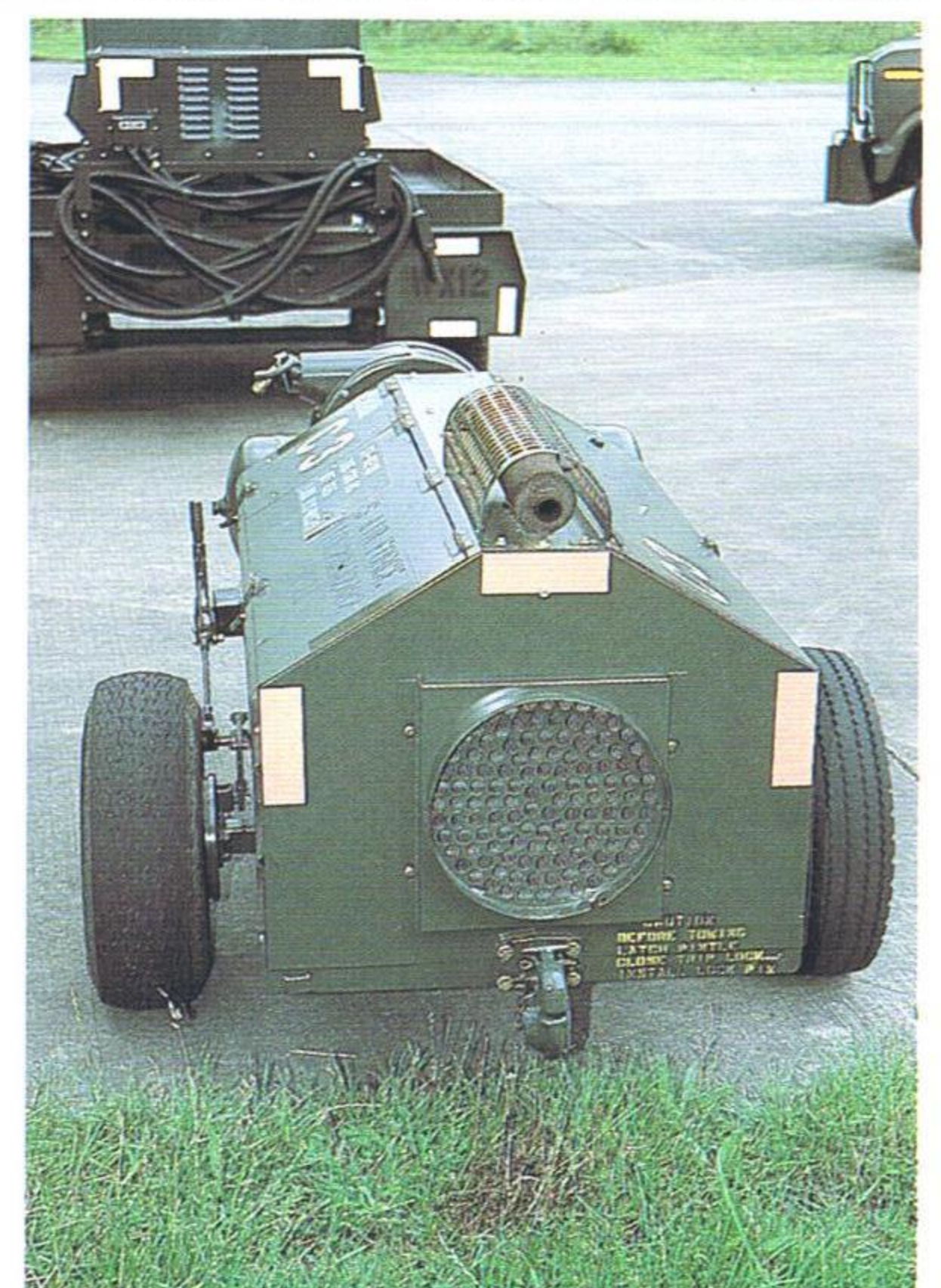
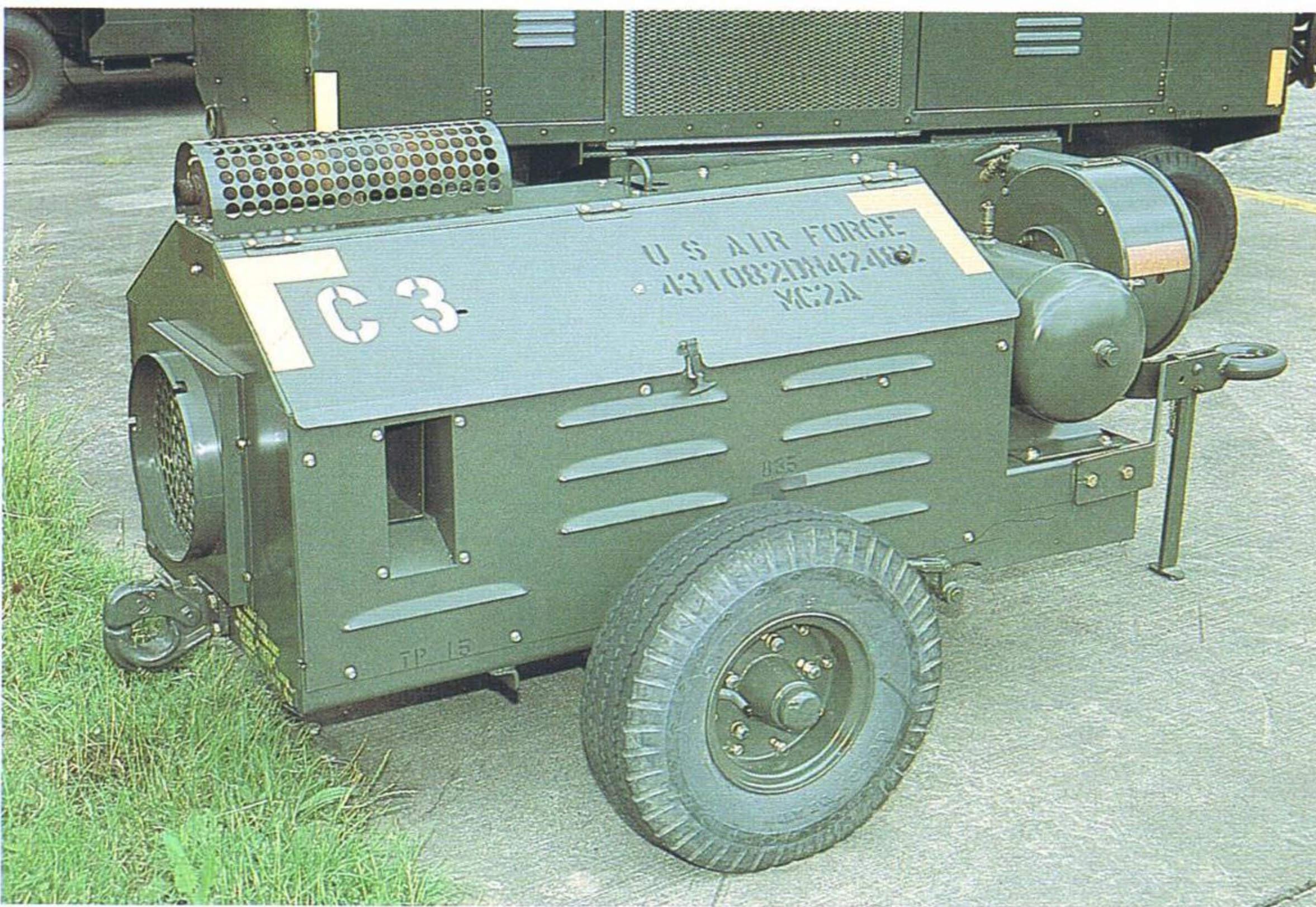
When malfunction of the system or damage of the seal is suspected the aircraft will be subjected to tests in the cross-servicing facilities unless, as shown here, you operate a different aircraft and different testing units.

No kit manufacturer has yet released this unit in small scale but building it from scratch should be no problem knowing the wheels on this cart are equal in size to those of the Low Pressure Air Compressor in the previous issue.



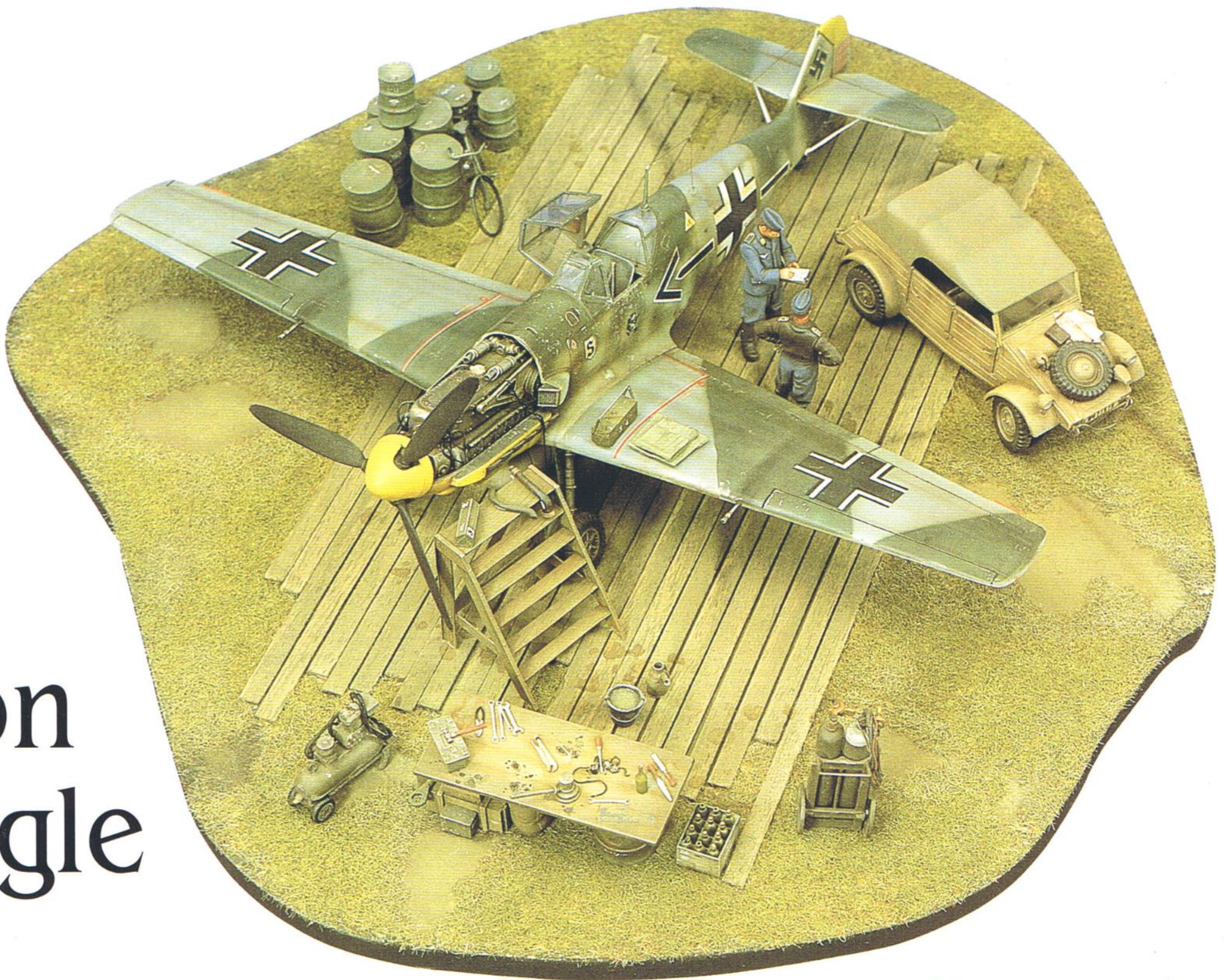
## & U.S. Air Force Air Compressor

Some on-board systems are pneumatically operated and ground testing of these components can only be achieved using a sufficient supply of air pressure. This cart features a small air container and an engine to fill it. When scratchbuilding this one several small items should be added, like the muffler with protective guard on top, the tow pintle at the rear and the parking brake on the side. Also important are the pressure relief valves and the drain valve on the air container. The hardest part will be the application of the stenciling which is not readily available.

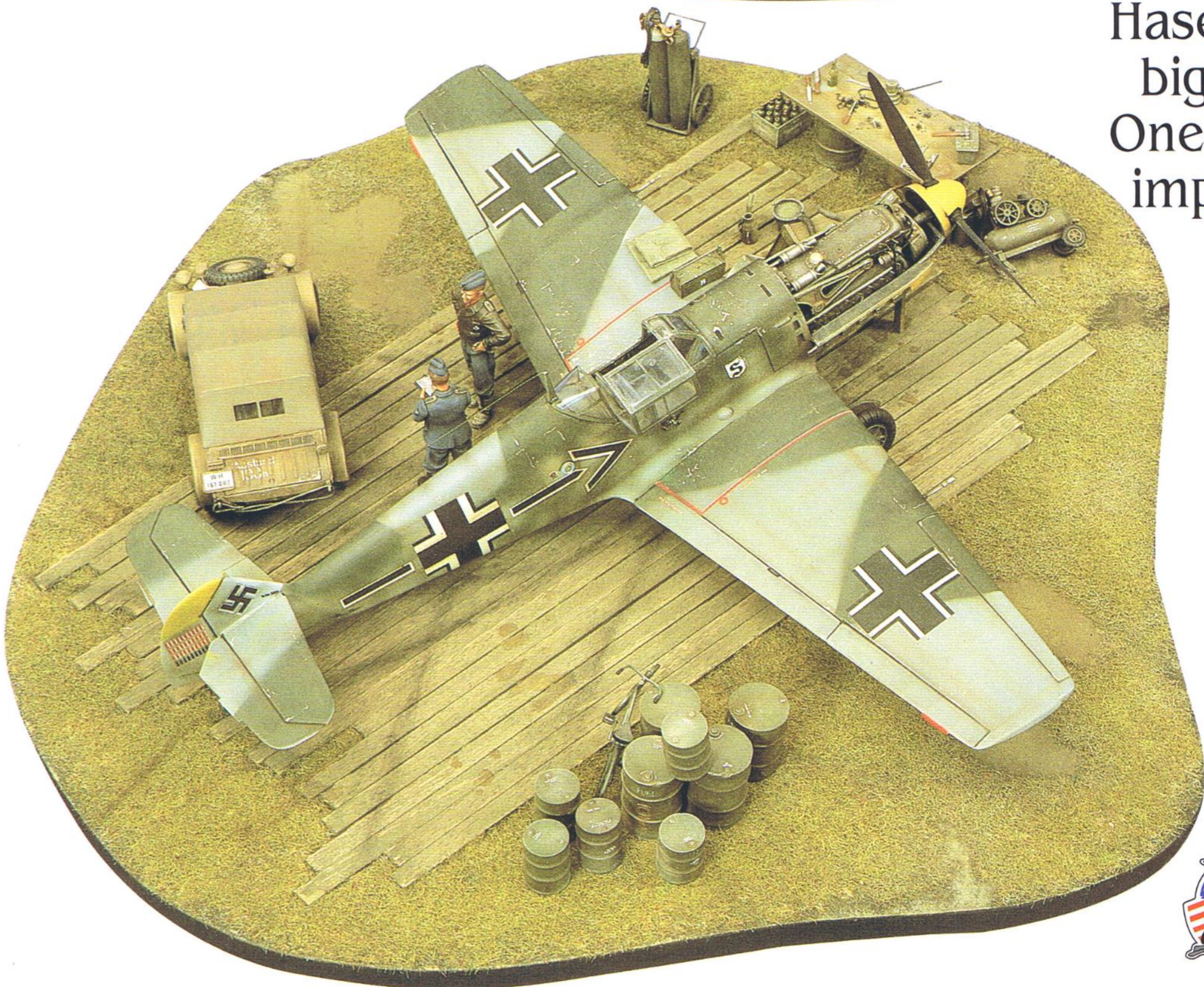




# Iron Eagle



Hasegawa's  
big scale  
One-O-Nine  
improved







Compared to 1/48th and 1/72nd scale aircraft on the market (the so-called popular series), kit releases in larger scales like 1/32nd and 1/24th are few. Only the big manufacturers like REVELL, TAMIYA (with their splendid new F-15E STRIKE EAGLE release) and HASEGAWA have ventured into this area of the modeling business.

The reason why these scales are not so popular, despite the ability to achieve a higher level of detail, must be their size. Let's face it, unless you have a hobby room the size of a poolroom, you will have problems storing them properly. With some effort you can fit them on your shelf like they park aircraft on a carrier, but three full-size dioramas take an awful lot of space.

The small vignettes being used for 1/35th armor models on previous occasions may be part of the solution.

Hasegawa's 1/32nd Messerschmitt Bf109E is a good basic kit but detail is not very accurate, especially in the cockpit. This can be solved by using the VP Update Set (N°741) which has a complete new cockpit floor, a combination of

photoetched and resin components to detail the sidewalls. A complete and more accurate seat is provided with photoetched straps and belts which can easily be shaped in any desired position (even hanging out of the cockpit).

A brass etched main instrument panel is included together with a clear film featuring pre-printed instruments to glue behind the panel, enhancing authenticity (purists may want to include some lighting behind).

Two different types of canopy framing (interior and exterior) is given to build either the E3 or E4 type. The armor plate behind the pilot is not forgotten.

Most interesting for diorama builders is the inclusion of a complete DB601 Daimler engine (some 15 parts) which can be shown in or outside its compartment. A new tropical filter (etched screens) with cap is another addition.

Finally, new main landing gear legs with etched covers will take care of the poorly shaped and oversized kit parts.

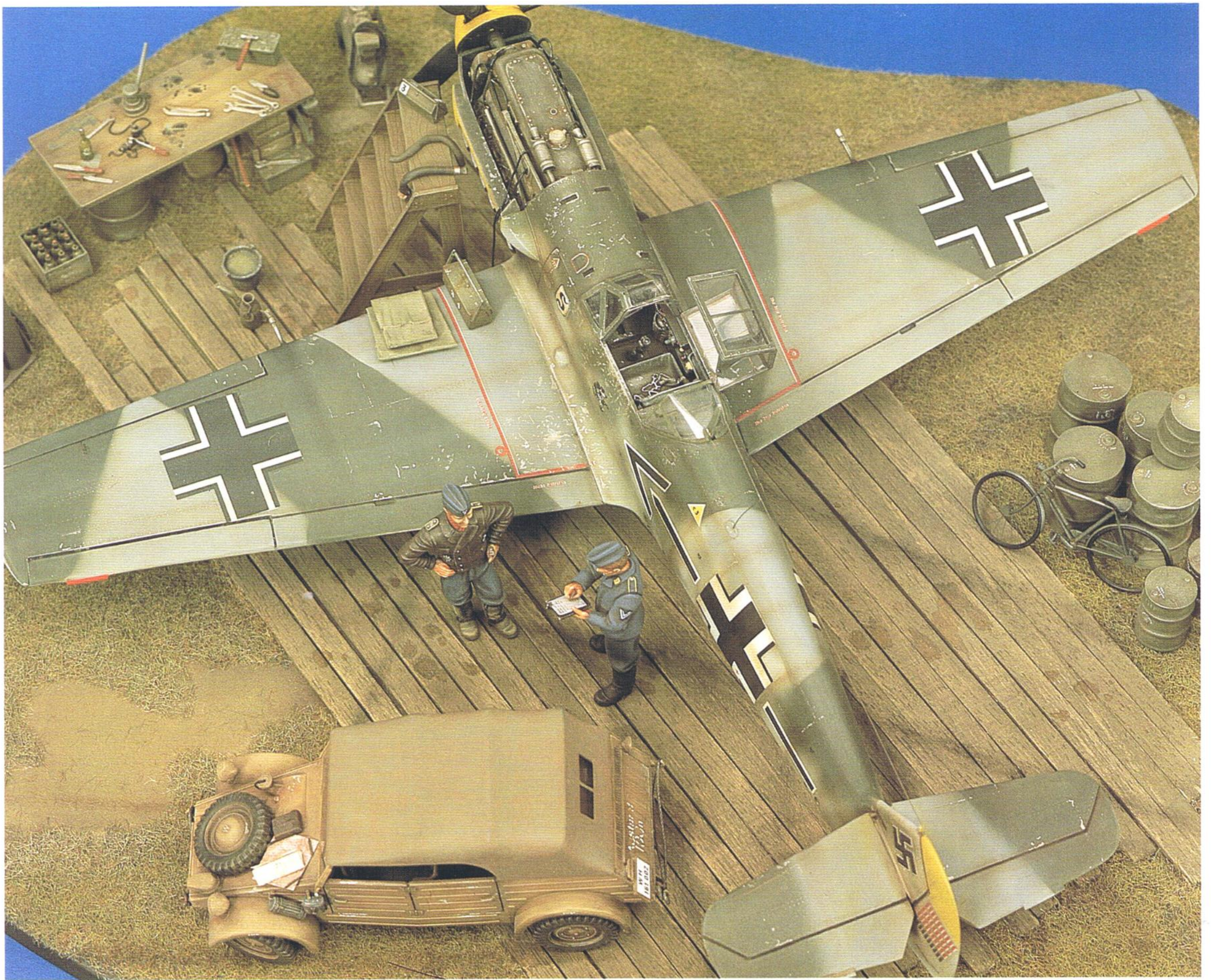
The diorama has been kept simple. After determining the size and shape, the base was cut from a piece of Marine styrofoam using a jigsaw. The edges sanded smooth with fine grain sandpaper and painted flat black with waterbased paint (other paints could melt the styrofoam).

Strips of wood used for model ships were cut to length and glued to the base to serve as a kind of parking/working platform. The Luftwaffe used this system frequently for their makeshift airbases. The wood then received a wash of Humbrol matt 29 + Black 33. Remove excess wash with a clean cloth while still wet. The remainder of the base was then painted with a water based earth color (very dark brown). After drying, the surface was given a thin coat of white glue, a small section at a time, alternately applying the glue, then pressing a mixture of VP green and winter static grass gently into the still wet surface. When the entire base is completely covered, (except for the boards, of course), allow to dry overnight and then blow away any excess.



**Fig.1** The partly painted/drybrushed grass with color pallet.



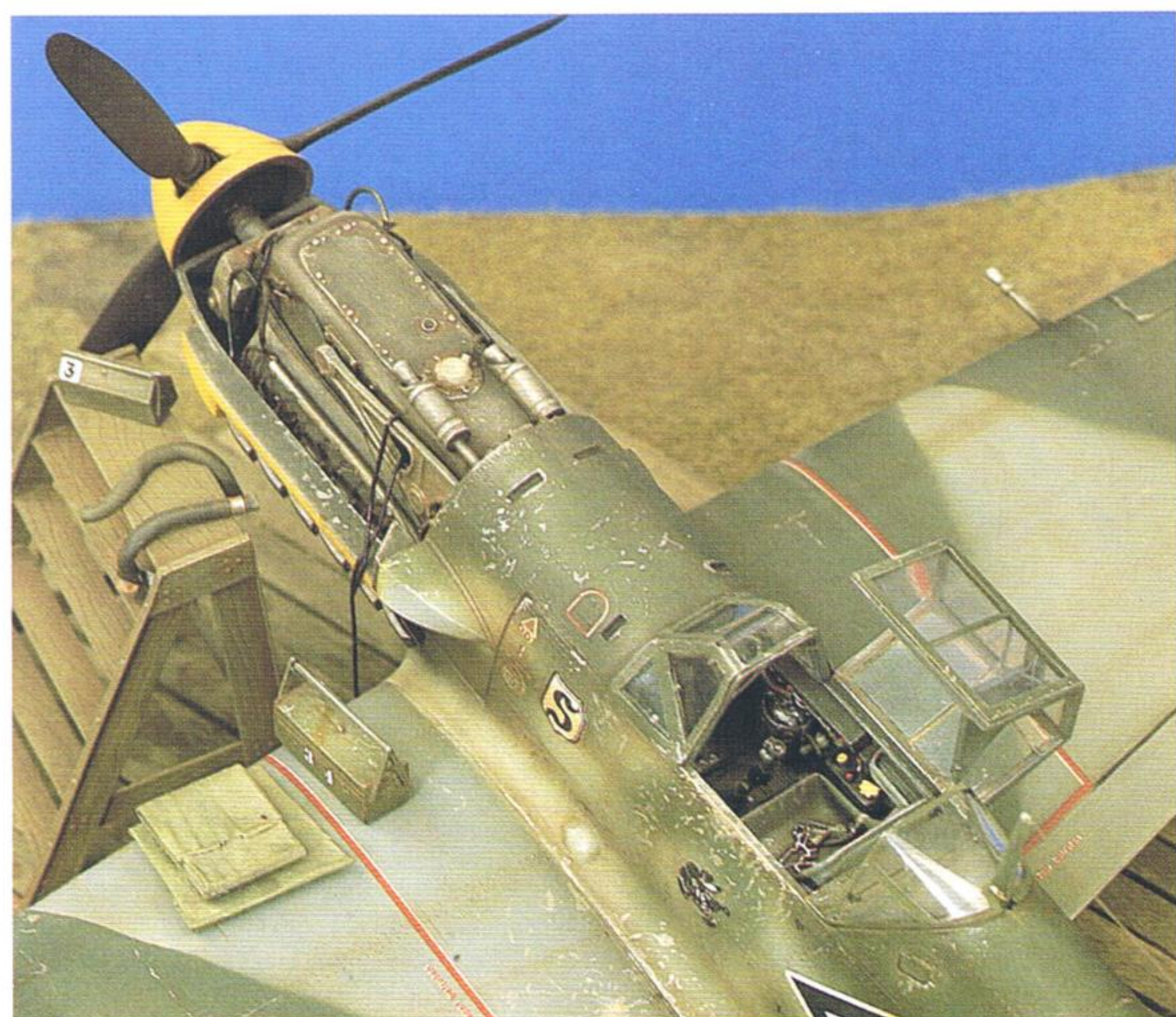


**Fig.2** A birdseye view of the general scene and the Messerschmitt in particular. Note the accessories on and next to the "workbench" in the background, the VP figures at the trailing edge of the aircraft's wing and the bike parked against the oil drums.

To achieve a realistic look and scale effect, static grass must be painted and drybrushed. You must practice to get the right technique. The following colors were used: Humbrol French Artillery Green, matt 29 and flat yellow.

First execute an overall drybrushing using a wide, flat brush with matt 29. Let dry, then, another pass with French Artillery Green, again allow to dry and the third pass with the same color adding yellow. There are many varieties of grass tones all the way from very dark brown/green to almost pure yellow, depending on climate and season. To finish the base use very thin flat black for oil and fuel stains.

The Kubelwagen is from Italeri, figures are from VP No. 780 German Pilot and Crew Chief. Oil drums of 1/35th and 1/48th are also VP as is the welding unit. Platform and workbench are made from plastic sheet. Various tools, bits and pieces from the scrapbox and VP's photoetched 1/35th scale Tool Set (N°790) were first painted and affixed to the base with white glue.



**Fig.3** A closer view on the cockpit and nose area. Note the realistic canopy framing which is glued in place using only drops of glue at the outer tips, rather than having the Superglue flow all along the edges (some glue may flow on the clear part which means disaster).

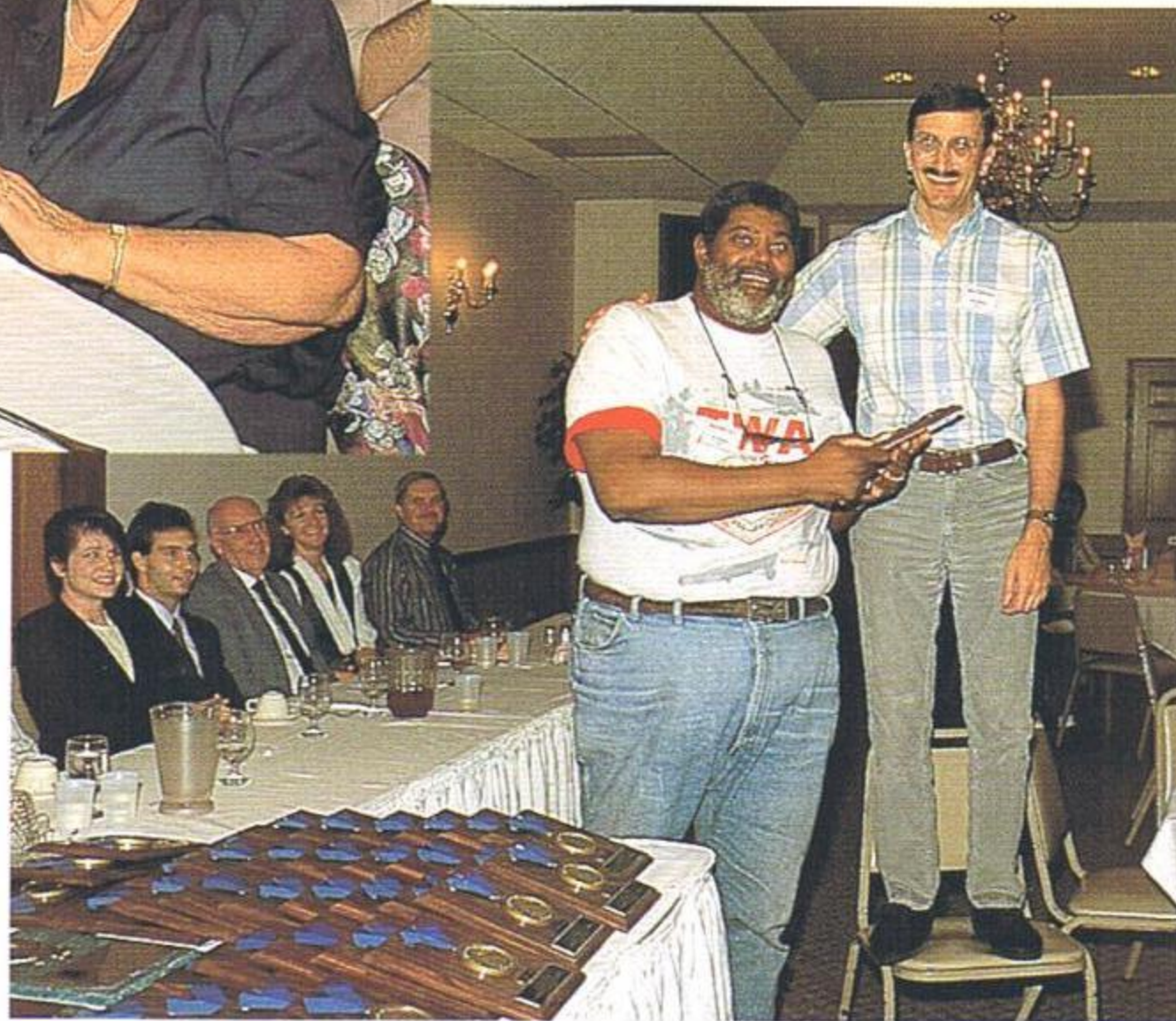


# MASTERCORN

## II



Gerald Paddack's US B-17 Crewman took a Silver and his TA-4J Skyhawk captured a Gold. His boss is seated beside him.



On September 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1993, the second annual Masters Group Convention was held in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri, USA. This show is open to all, but only members can enter the competition. Although it is certainly not the largest show, it is very special. The only way for us to demonstrate how, is to attend.

This year there were nearly a hundred Gold medalists, not to mention Silver, Bronze and Certificates. Dan Tisoncik took Best Military Vehicle; Robert Waltman, Best Aircraft; Dave Peschke, Best Figure; Joe Porter, Best Diorama (center photo, left); and Richard Felton, Best Miscellaneous.

Joe Porter won the Verlinden Trophy (center photo, right); Robert Waltman took the Best Pacific Campaign theme award. Dave Peschke walked away with both Peoples Choice and the Grand Master award (bottom photo, left).

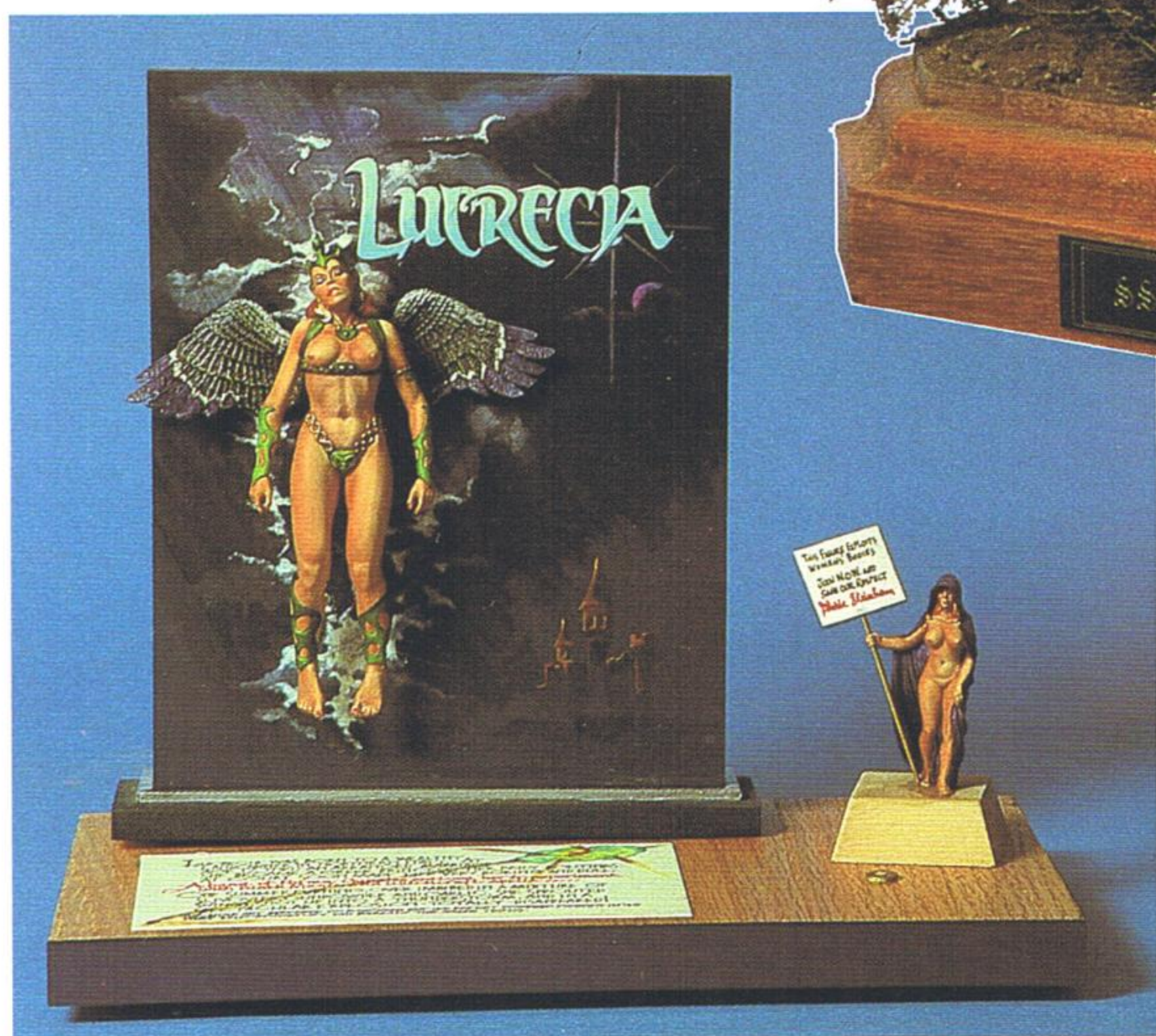
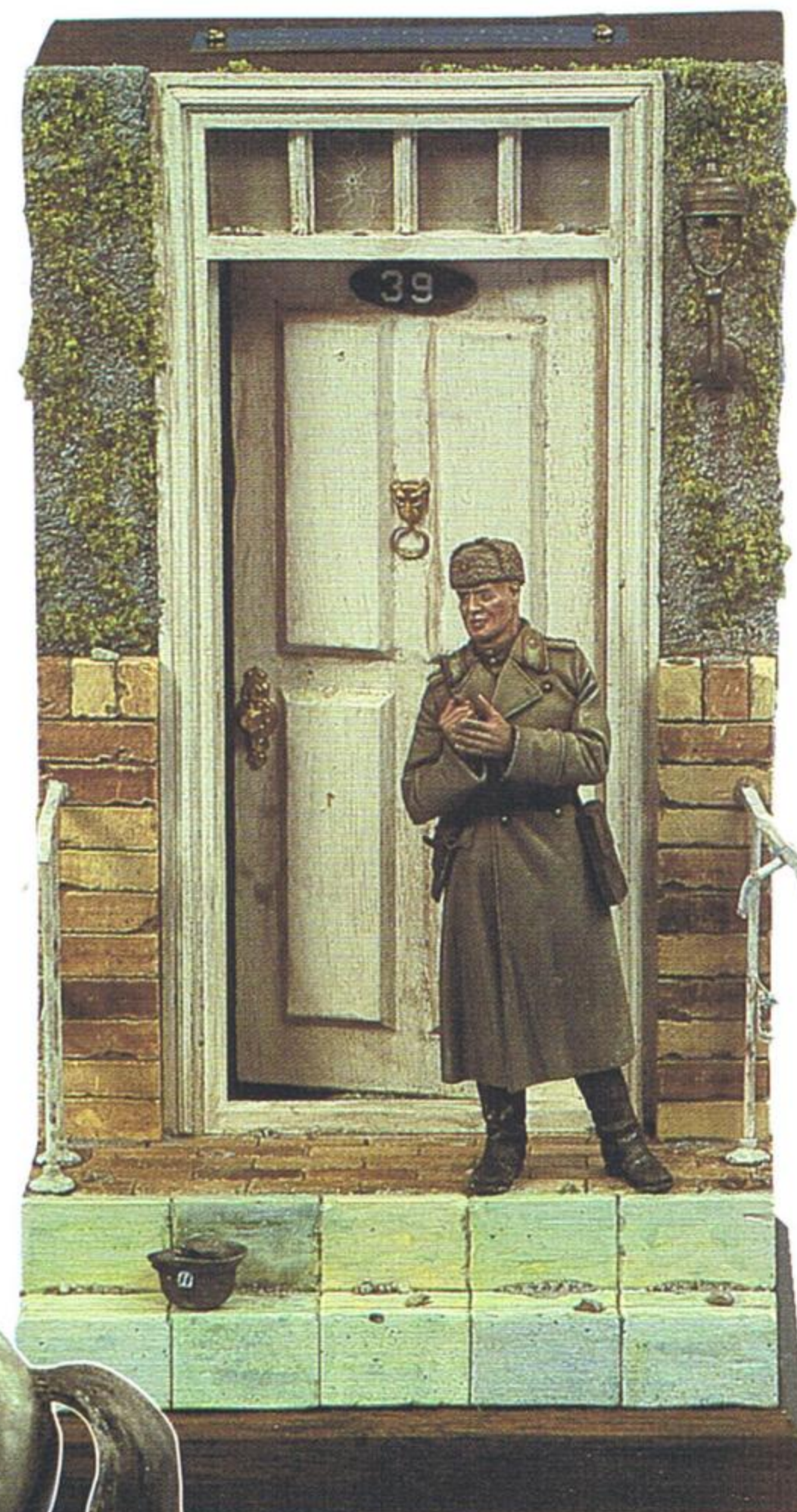
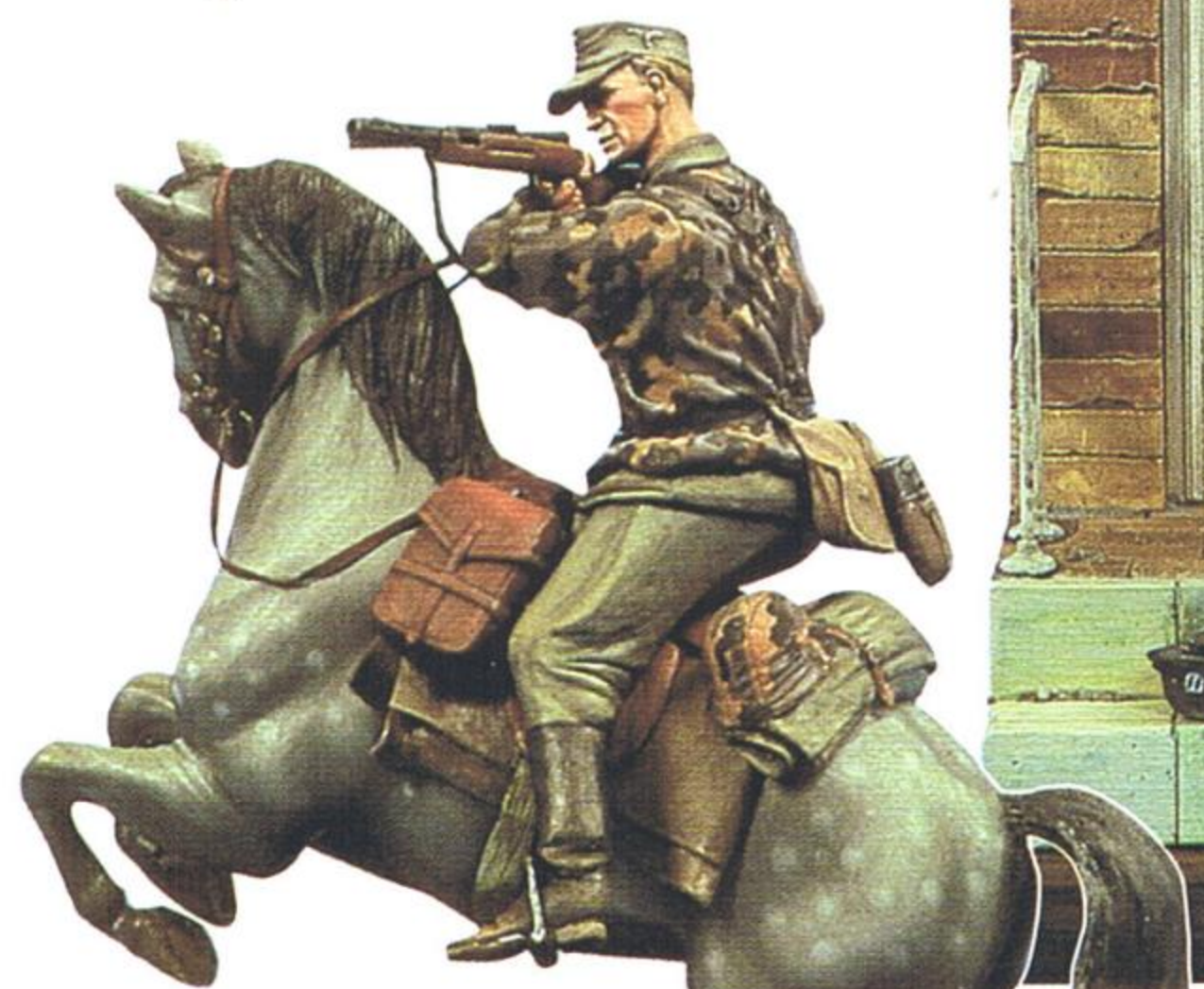


This year, a VLS employees competition was added, and Tom Gerringer won first place (shown here receiving his award from Grand Marshall Don Kanaval). This contest is also voted by the members.



# MASTERCOON II

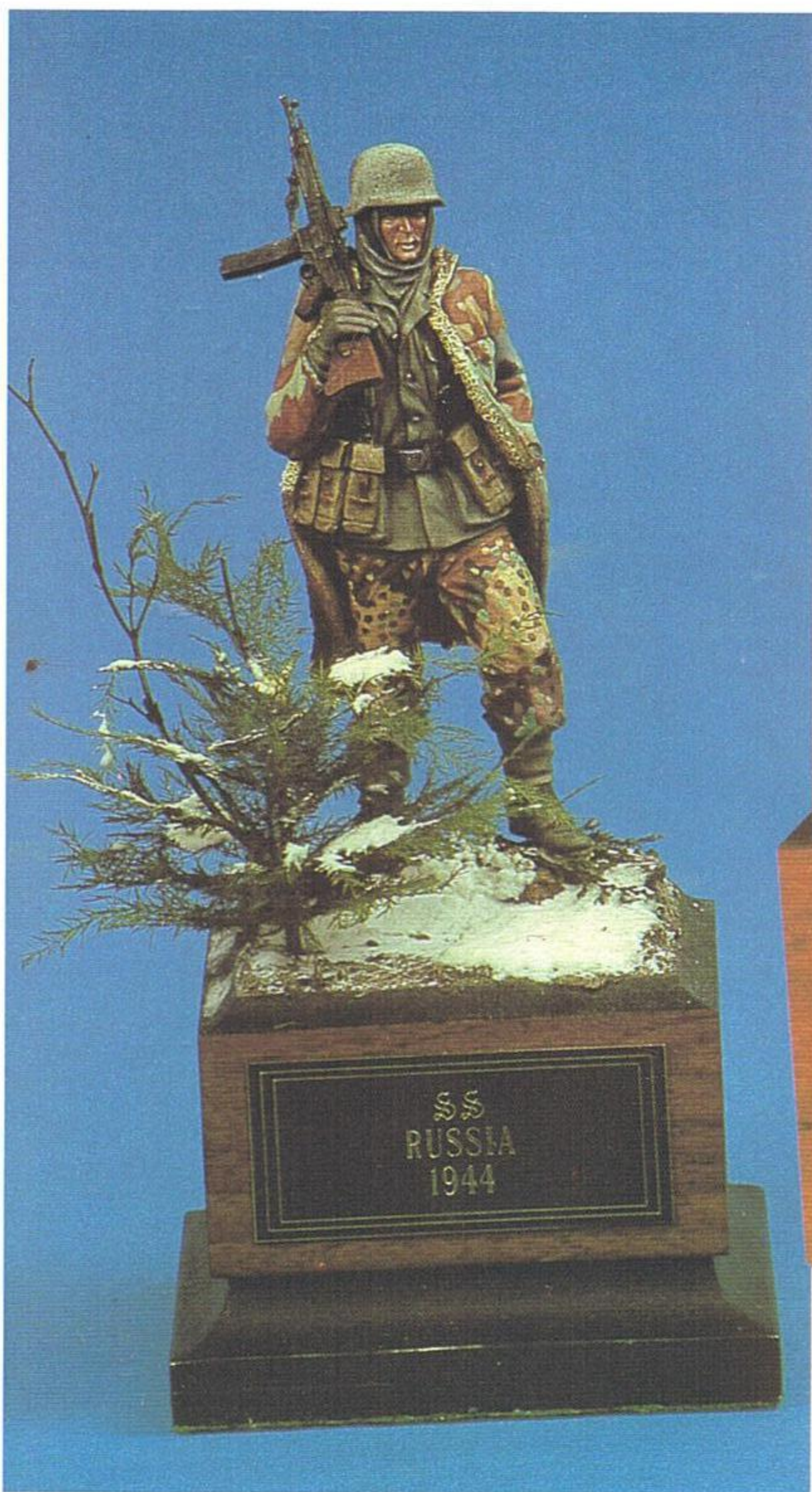
## Special Report



There are no judges in this competition. The entrants vote for their choices in each category and for the special awards, they cannot vote for themselves, and a computer handicaps and tabulates the voting. A Grand Marshall is elected by the group at the opening of the show (Don Kanaval was the first Grand Marshall), and he observes the operation and tabulation from start to finish to insure everything is above board.







Next year the show is moving to a new location, (same area, but larger building), with expanded length and will coincide with the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new 600 square meter model and diorama museum which is currently



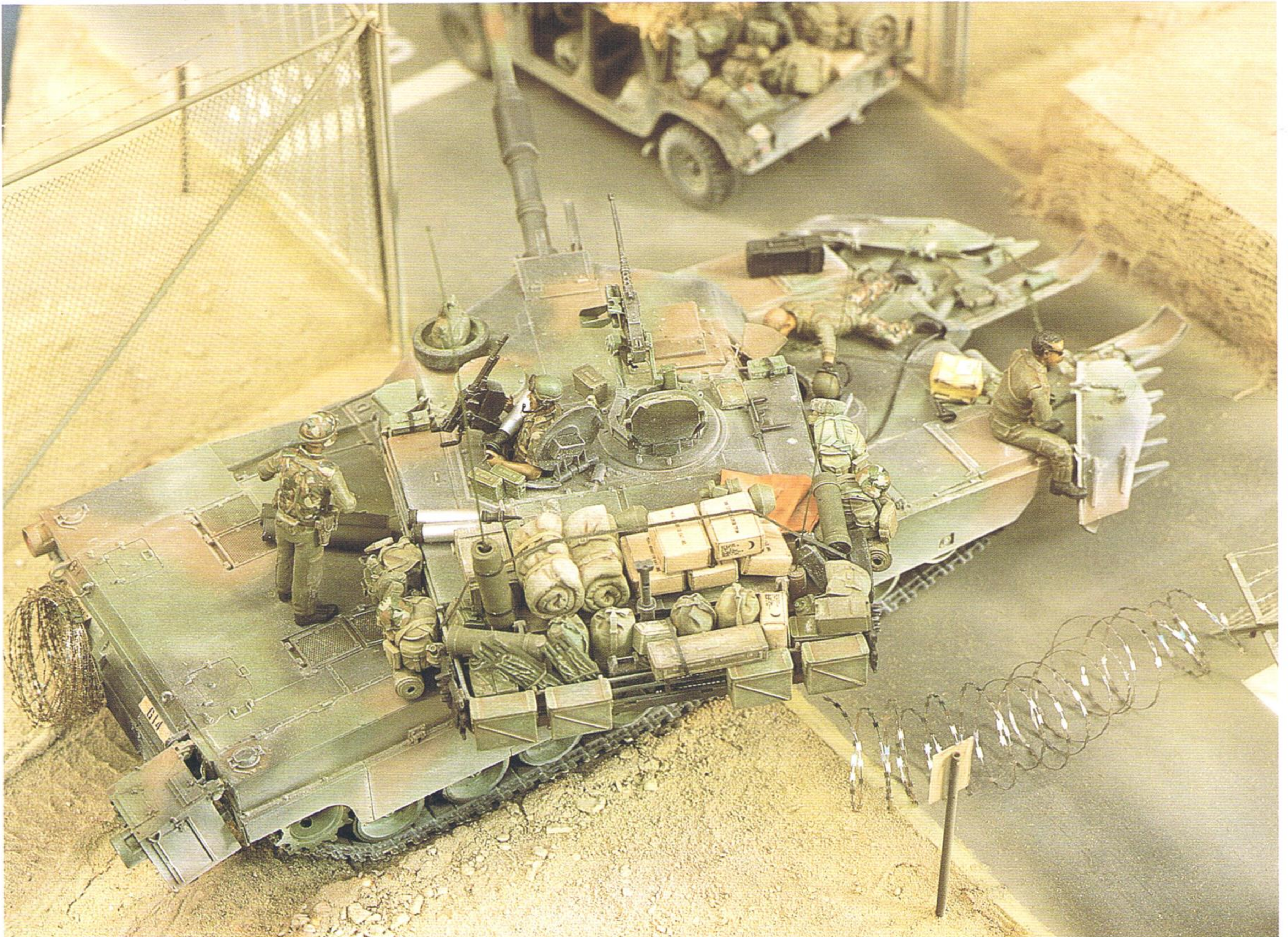
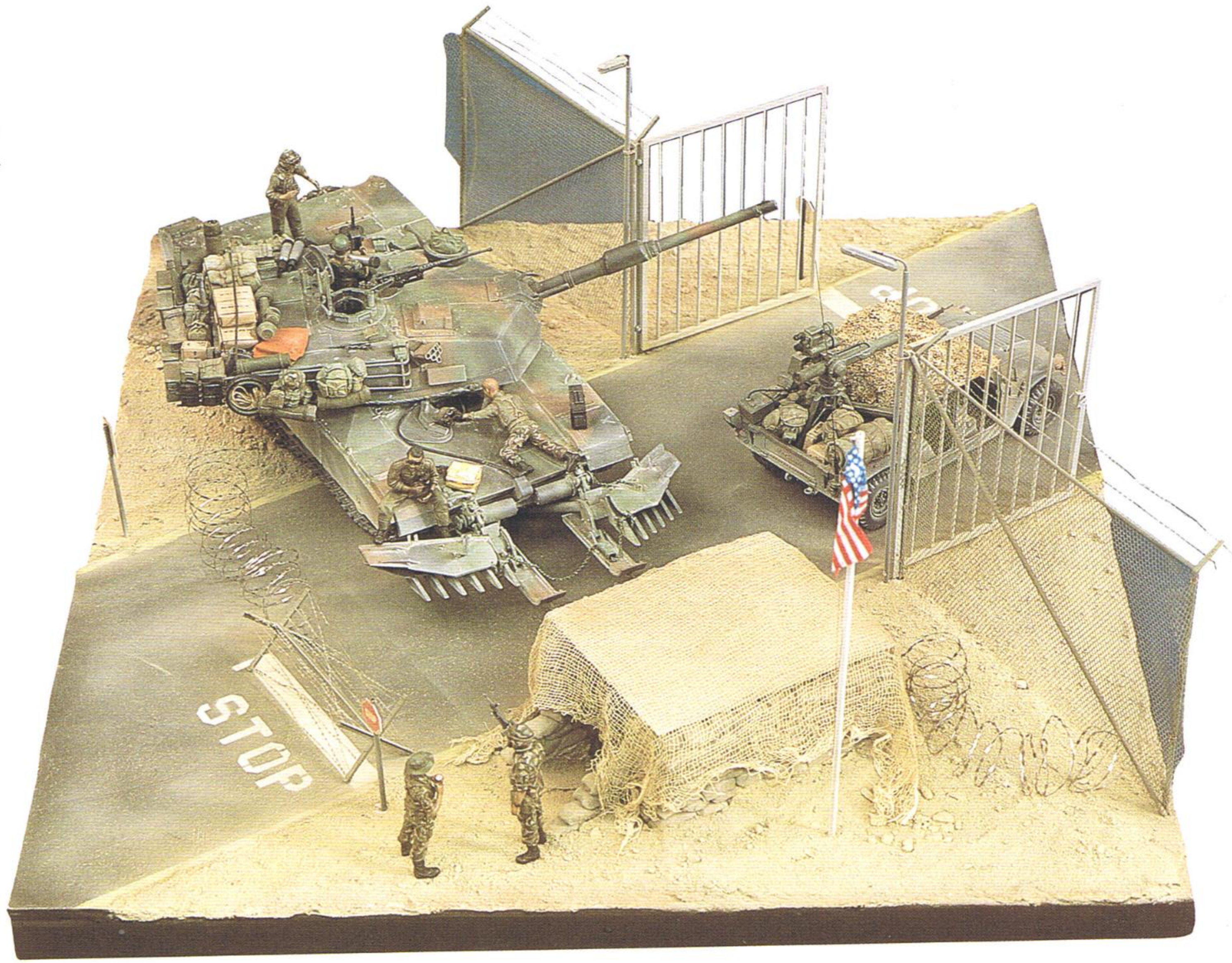
being built adjacent to the VLS building in the St. Louis suburb of O'Fallon, Mo. This will feature over 5000 models and dioramas from some of the best modelers in the world and will definitely add incentive to attend. Mastercon III will be held on September 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 1994. Contact VLS, 811 Lone Star Drive, O'Fallon, Missouri, USA, (Phone 314-281-5700) for details.



# Daybreak Defense

a diorama by  
Jan GOOS,  
Belgium

Edited by





Younger modelers, most having little knowledge of (and interest in?) the military equipment of the early 40's, seem to be more attracted to the conflict they witnessed on CNN, 24 hours a day, for weeks in a row.

Jan GOOS, fascinated by the size and performance of the M1A1 ABRAMS tank was looking for an opportunity to use it in combination with the M998. Somehow, a flat sand base with two vehicles on top of it did not seem interesting enough, until the idea of an M1 defending a remote entrance of a large US air base in Saudi Arabia crossed his mind while working on a 1/48th aircraft model. After conferring with fellow modelers he added a flagpole and two railway scenery lampposts which, when lit, create a lifelike early morning atmosphere.

He did not hesitate to combine Tamiya's M1A1 w/ mine plow and VP's M1 Update Set, almost simultaneously released. Using WARMACHINES N°6 (VP 581) and the detail photos of both the mine plow and M1A1 interior in the previous VP magazine, he updated the tank model. Instead of painting them in a desert livery, both vehicles were finished as they were used over here in Germany before they were rushed to

Saudi. It is common knowledge that in the early days of the conflict vehicles and men were operating in their regular camouflage outfits. Heavy dusting with pastels and previous drybrushing made the vehicles blend with the surroundings. All accessories on the tank and jeep were taken from the VP range (as listed), finished separately, stowed and blended. It was easy to convert the figures from a large collection of Desert Shield and Desert Storm figures (used in combination) and finishing them in different outfits. Building the fence from strip, rod and mesh wire took less time than the "command post" which was built using a lot of putty.

The "STOP" signs on the pavement were spraypainted using a thin cardboard template. When executing the groundwork special attention was devoted to the area behind the tank where the tracks ruptured the ground. Real desert sand, some rubble and water-diluted white glue did the job. A finishing touch was added by the razor wire (be very careful when shaping it, it's extremely sharp, just like the real thing!) and the US flag hanging from the pole. Quite a lot of work was involved but the result was satisfactory. On to another one!

## ITEMS USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF THIS DIORAMA

### TAMIYA

M1A1 ABRAMS w/ mine plow N°35159  
US Infantry Weapons Set N°35121  
Modern US Accessories N°35141

### ITALERI

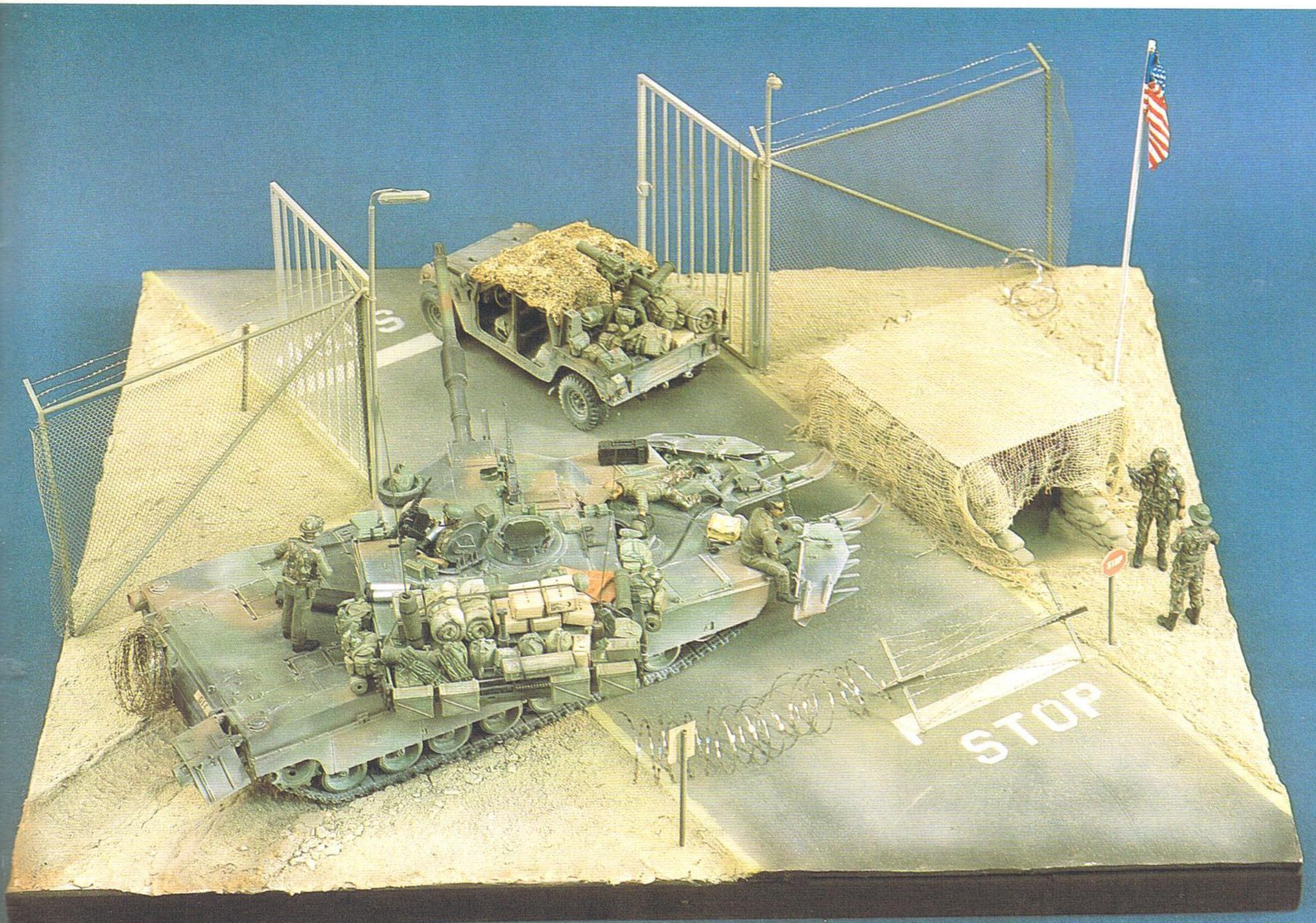
M998 HMMWV N°247

### VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS ACCESSORIES

N°13 Staff Maps, Road Maps, etc.  
N°22 US MRE rations  
N°48 Mesh Wire  
N°51 Barbed Wire  
N°73 Modern Jerry Cans, Oil Cans  
N°88 US Small Arms Ammo Boxes  
N°89 120mm Tank Ammo  
N°135 Kitbags & Rucksacks  
N°230 Tentpacks & Bedrolls  
N°305 Cal.30, Cal.50 Ammo Boxes  
N°330 US Cobra Pilot  
N°346 Tank Tool & Equipment Boxes  
N°368 Backpacks for Figures  
N°374 Vietnam Camping Ground Outfit  
N°491 Airfield Warning Signs  
N°515 M998 Conversion Kit  
N°539 US Tankers Desert Shield  
N°552 US Troops Desert Shield  
N°559 Desert Shield Signs & Markings  
N°582 Camouflage Nets (Desert)  
N°585 US Marines Desert Storm  
N°595 Modern Jerrycans  
N°621 M1 ABRAMS Update & Interior Set  
N°715 Razor Wire

### TROPHY

N°20021 Corrugated Metal Sheet





# VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS

## GAZETTE

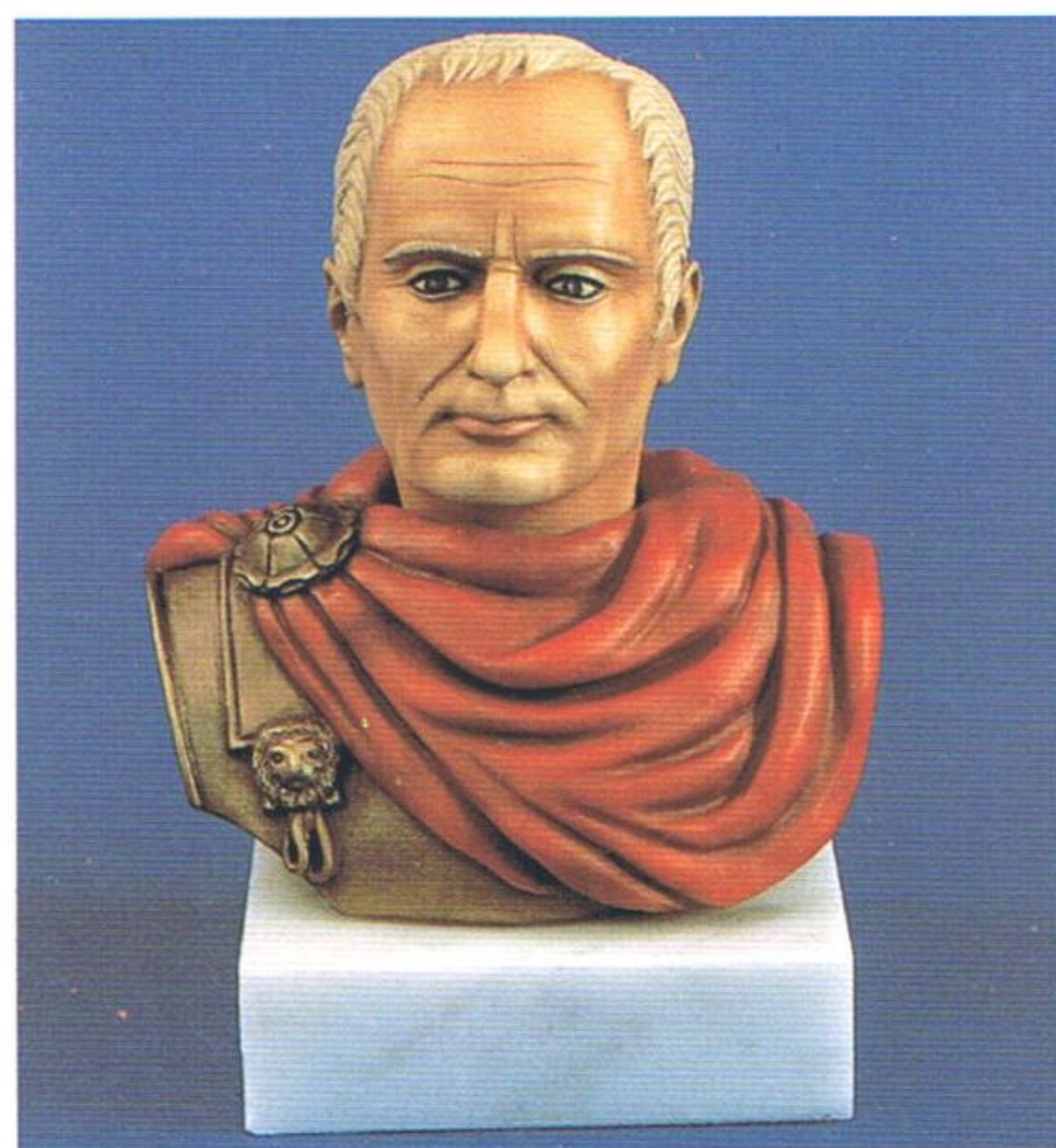
Vol. 5, No. 2

SPECIAL UPDATE EDITION

February, 1994

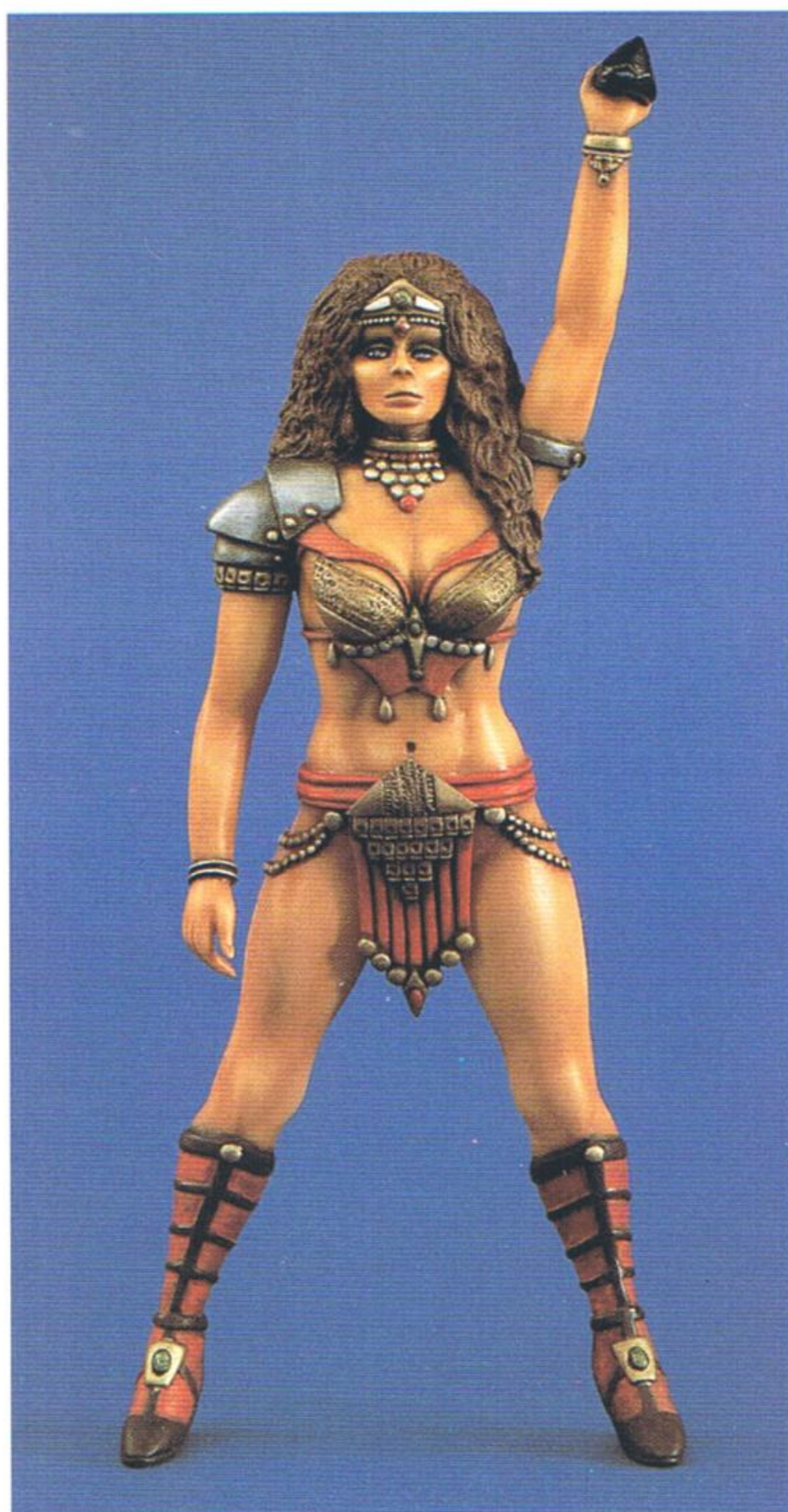


New in the **120mm Roman Empire** series, a Roman Army or **Legion Commander**. This figure is posed with an included faithful reproduction of a "**Scorpio**". This weapon was capable of using arrows and other projectiles from its catapult designed structure. Kit comes with figure, catapult and base (**item No. 869**) **January '94** release.



New in the fast growing collectors edition of **1/4th scale Busts** is a likeness of **Julius Caesar**. Flawless sculpting and casting make this a must for your collection. As with the previous releases in this range, Ceasar comes with an Italian marble base (**item No. 876**). Scheduled for **January '94** release.

For the **Fantasy Buffs**, a **150mm "Queen Lani (Blackstar)"**, is a great addition to the very popular new series. The female figure is featured holding aloft the life giving crystal, Blackstar. See page 41, "The Chronicles of Zarlou", for the Story line of this series (**item No. 871**). Also **January '94** release.



Returning to the more basic items, an all new **Lampposts and Lanterns** set (1/35th), useful over and over in every street diorama is on its way. This resin /photo-etched kit contains 3 posts, 3 round, 2 square and 2 hexagonal lanterns. Etched wall hanging fixtures are included. Most parts are interchangeable for multiple possibilities. Suitable for any period of the Twentieth Century (**item No. 874**). **January '94** release.

As a follow up item for 874, this next set contains various items for **road/street dioramas**. This all new set contains a street clock on a post, traffic signal,

barriers and road signs, all in **1930-40s** style lending itself to **WWII** dioramas. Included are resin, photo etching, printed paper, plastic rod (**item No.875**). **January '94** release.



The **Viet Nam** era **120mm** range is enhanced with the new **Huey Door Gunner**. This figure represents a Chopper Door Gunner in a dramatic action pose. Complete with flight helmet, flak jacket, .45 cal. automatic holster and water bottle. Also included is the base, 2 ammo boxes and AR15 rifle (**item No. 872**). **January '94** release.





Our first entries into the **Napoleonic** period are a **120mm Corporal, Guard Grenadiers** and shortly behind an **Officer, Guard Grenadiers**. Fans of the Napoleonic period will welcome the exquisite sculpting and flawless casting that is unsurpassed in the industry. Both figures are fully equipped with all gear and equipment. Enthusiasts will soon discover the endless conversion possibilities, especially as the range grows. Many more, including mounted figures, are already in the pipeline. One to two releases a month are anticipated. **The Corporal (item No. 870)** is a **January** release followed by the **Officer (item No. 879)** in **February '94**.

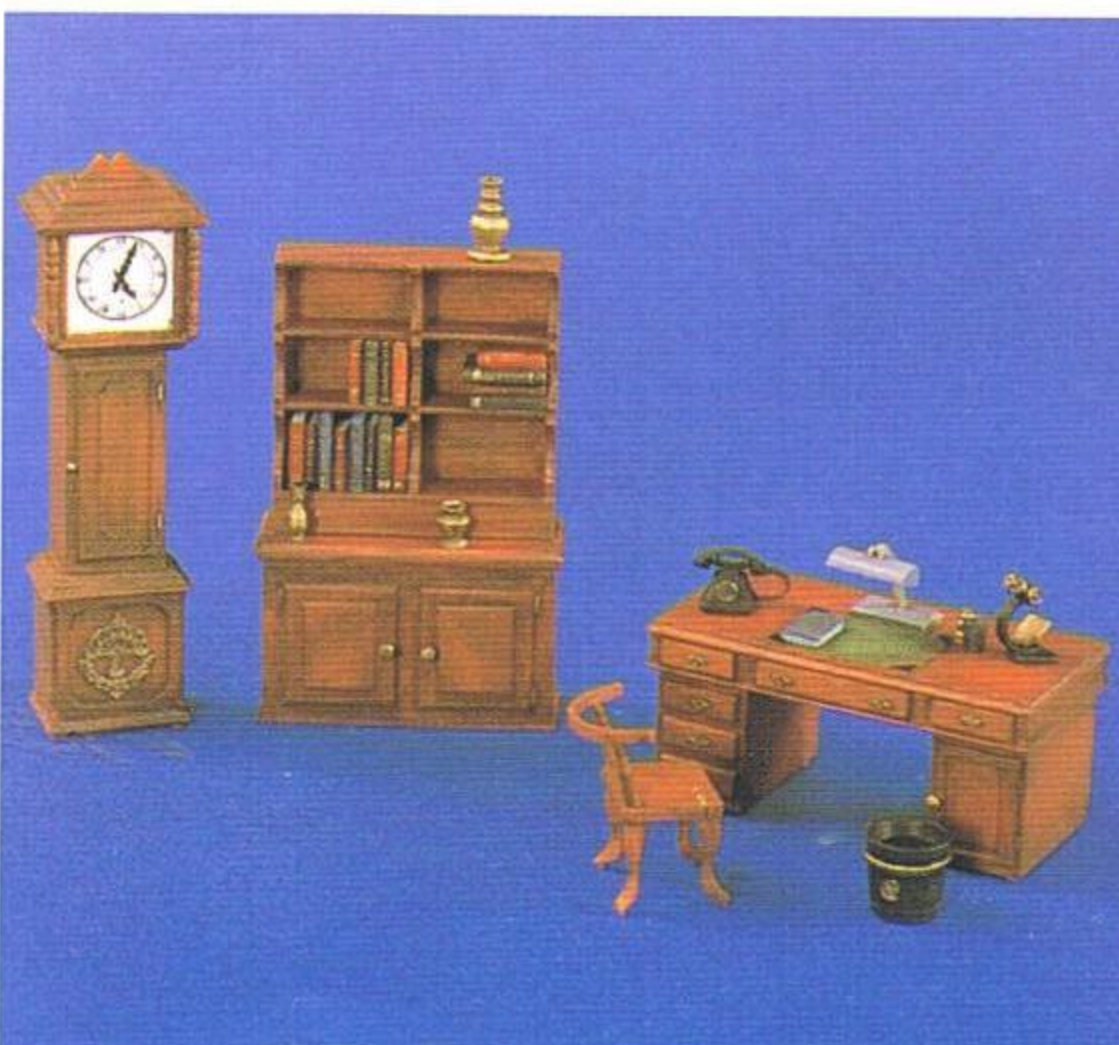
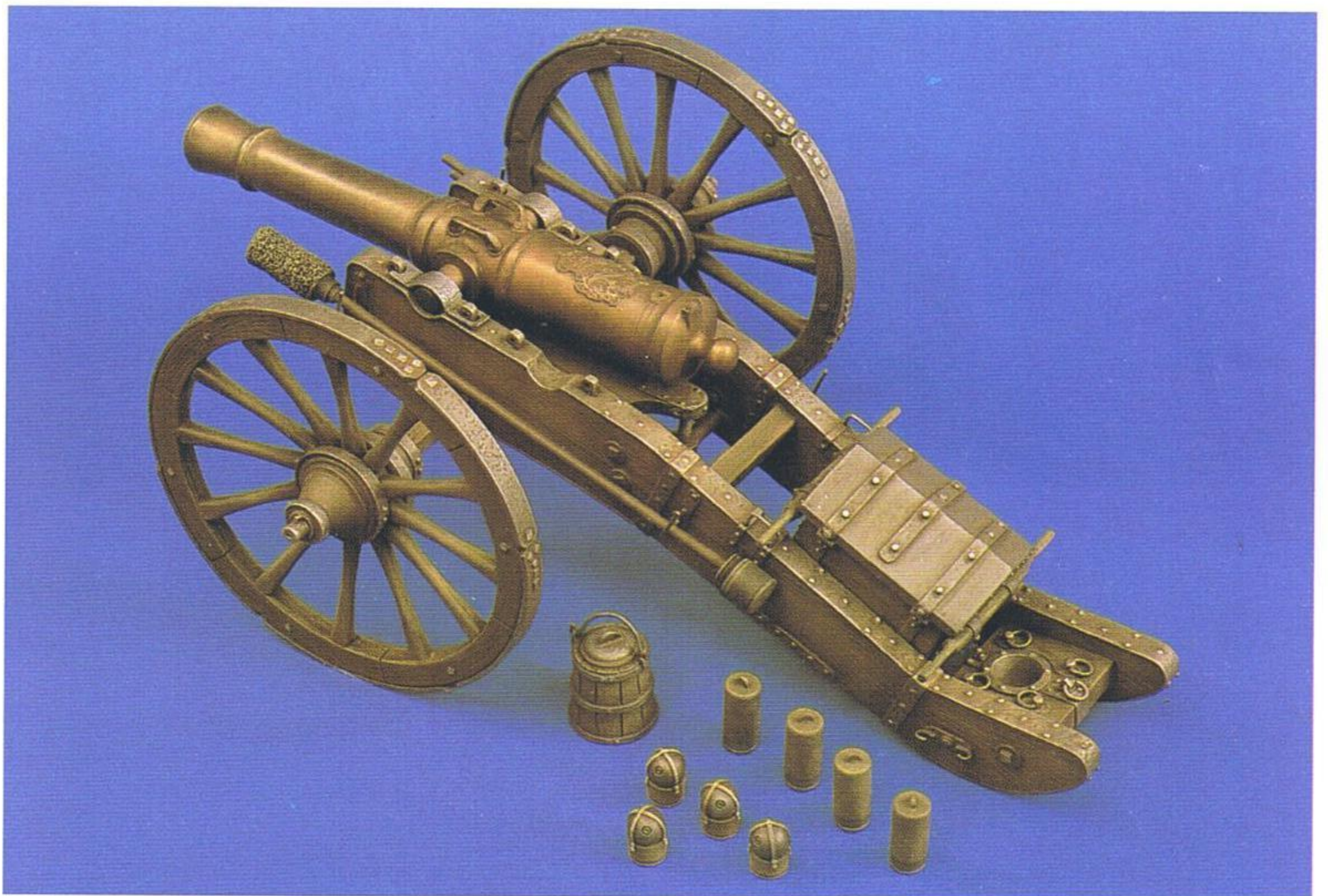


To compliment the Napoleonic range will be a **120mm Napoleonic 8 Pound Cannon** (Gribeauval system). Artillery figures will follow for diorama or vignette builders. Kit contains resin parts, including ammunition, plastic rods and copper wire (**item No. 878**), **February '94** release.

Carrying on with the **1/35th accessories** scheduled for this year, this new release is the first of many new **furniture sets** which will, with the Trophy line, enable the modeler to build almost any type of building interior. The kit consists of Grandfather's clock, Desk with telephone, book, desk lamp and even a microscope. An office chair, waste basket (Dust Bin), an office cabinet (Credenza and hutch) with books and vases. Resin (**item No. 883**), **February '94** release.



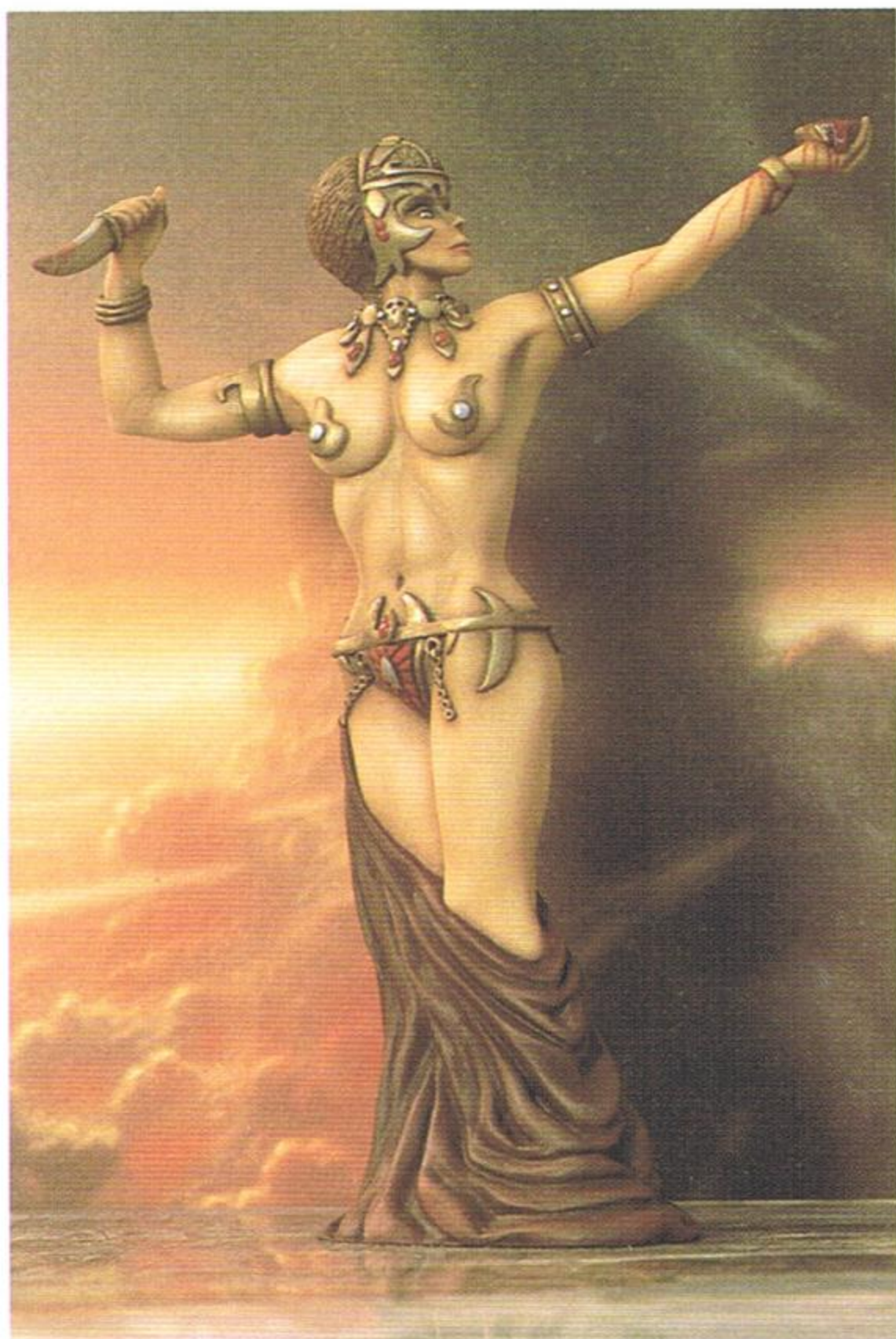
**1/35th German Infantry** (Camouflage Uniforms) figures. This two figure set contains an MG 42 machine gunner in late war camo uniform and a wounded soldier wearing the "Zeltbahn" poncho (tent/raincoat). As stand alone items, vignette or diorama, they can be used for any period from late '43 to the end of the war. Resin (**item No.868**), **January '94** release.



Look out for  
the next issue  
of  
**VERLINDEN**  
**PRODUCTIONS**  
**Modeling Magazine**  
Scheduled for May '94



Fantasy collectors, attention ! The evil sorceress has arrived, the new **150mm "Ursona", High Priestess of Zarlou**, the infamous traitor to Queen Lani and the Rebel brigades. A beautifully sculpted rendition of the Scourge of Zarlou (Refer to the Chronicles of Zarlou for the story line). Cast in resin (**item No. 882**). **February '94** release.



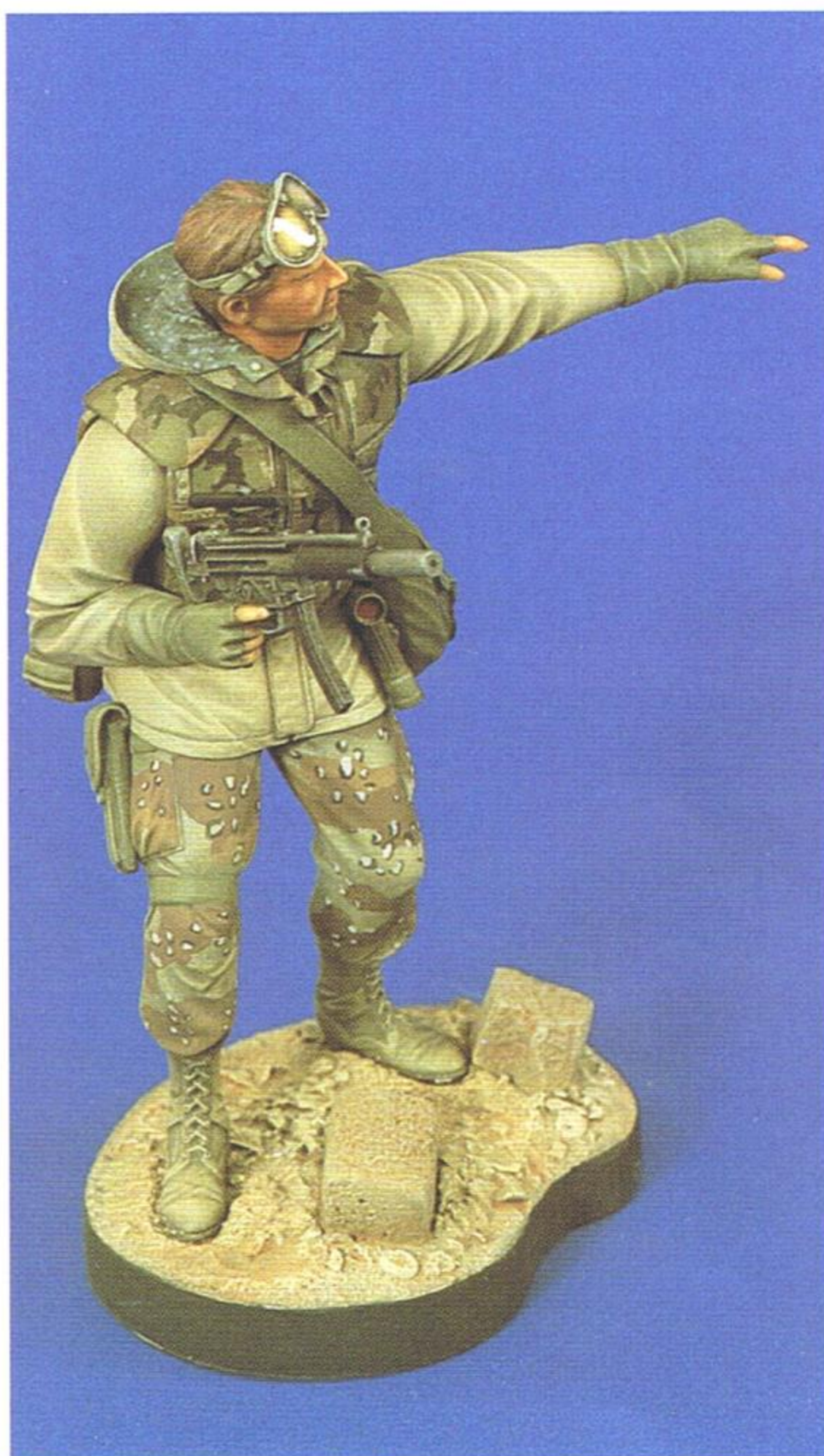
After almost a year, we have something for the **1/4th** scale arms fans. The **Caliber.30 Water cooled machine gun**, model 1917 A1 on tripod will take its place as the flagship of this line. The kit contains resin, photo etching and flexible tubing.

The completed kit is an extremely detailed and accurate, and don't forget huge!, replica of the famous machine gun. Included are 30 rounds and an ammunition box which enables the builder to make an ammunition belt from the breech to the box (**item No. 881**). **February '94** release.



First of the **February 1994** releases is a mounted **Hun Warrior in 120mm**, dated four centuries AD.

The figure is armed with the typical bow and arrow; carries a sword on his hip while his shield is tied on his back. A leather case is hanging from the saddle on the right side. The pony is leaning slightly forward which makes this VP release suitable for a "On top of the hill" vignette (**item N° 877**).



The interest in **DESERT STORM** figures is still strong, both in 1/35th and **120mm scale**.

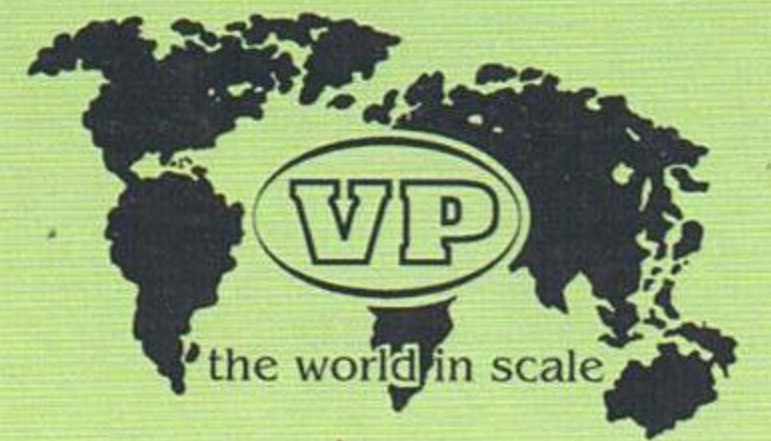
Increasing the range of the larger scale figures, this **US SEAL DESERT STORM** will please many collectors and figure painters.

Crisply sculpted in a natural pose it features a flack jacket (worn over the field jacket), flashlight and **NBC** protective mask. He is pointing his **HECKLER & KOCH** w/ silencer in anticipation.

**Ask your hobby dealer for these items.**



# The Yanks are Coming !



VP's Counter-offensive  
for their  
1:15th scale  
German WWII  
Battle Tanks  
& vehicles



The fourth in the series of **VP** Superscale armor will be the **M3A1 Stuart**. Used by British and American forces in WWII in the Pacific, North Africa, Sicily and Italy. Replaced in 1943 by the M5 series of light tanks, the M3A1 continued to serve US and British forces in Western Europe. Also, a number of M3's were sent to the Soviet Union and used by the Red Army. The kit of this famous light tank contains resin and photo etched parts, rods and copper wire, a replica of a .30 Cal. Machine gun, a set of dry transfers with numbers and stars, and has individual track links. Scheduled for **March/April 94** release.

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