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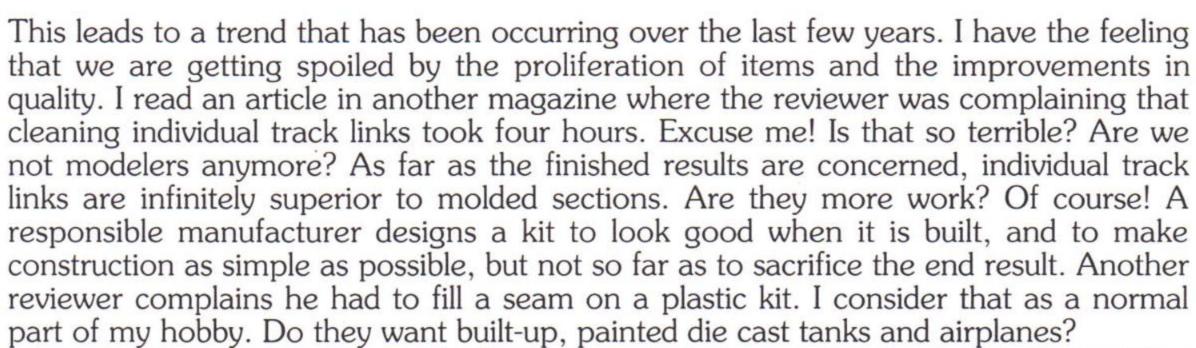
From the editor

rom the moment I went into manufacturing, I have been almost fanatical about quality. When you keep 800 products in a line, maintaining a very high level of quality is not an easy task. In my opinion, VP has set the standard in the resin model industry and has maintained it over the last 10 years. That is not to say we are perfect, by no means, only that we have managed to keep a comfortable margin between us and our competitors.

The quality of resin models has improved and over the years and continues to improve almost monthly and the same can be said of the plastic model industry.

A kit that was considered to be "state of the art" ten years ago, is mediocre by today's

standards. Today's modeler has products that are easily accessible to him that are beyond anything I could have imagined fifteen or twenty years ago.



I thought that pouring time and effort into a project was what I enjoyed, that putting your special touches into your model was the rewarding aspect of this hobby. When I see one of the top plastic kit manufacturers investing hundreds of thousands of dollars into a beautiful kit that I would have killed for ten or fifteen years ago, and then see a review that leads the reader to believe it is only worth throwing in the trash, I am astonished! Another part of this scenario is the increasing number of people who discuss models. They don't build them, except, perhaps, for taping two fuselage halves together to see if they align properly, they just constantly discuss kits for hours on end. I ask you, is this a hobby? Do they tell people, "my hobby is discussing scale model kits"? A modeler builds kits, a collector collects them, some of us do both. Someone who builds kits regularly is the only one qualified to critique, and then only those kits he has actually built. He may speculate on others, but it is only that, speculation. How do the kit "discussers", who never build, have any degree of credibility with a "real modeler"? You tell me!

François Verlinden

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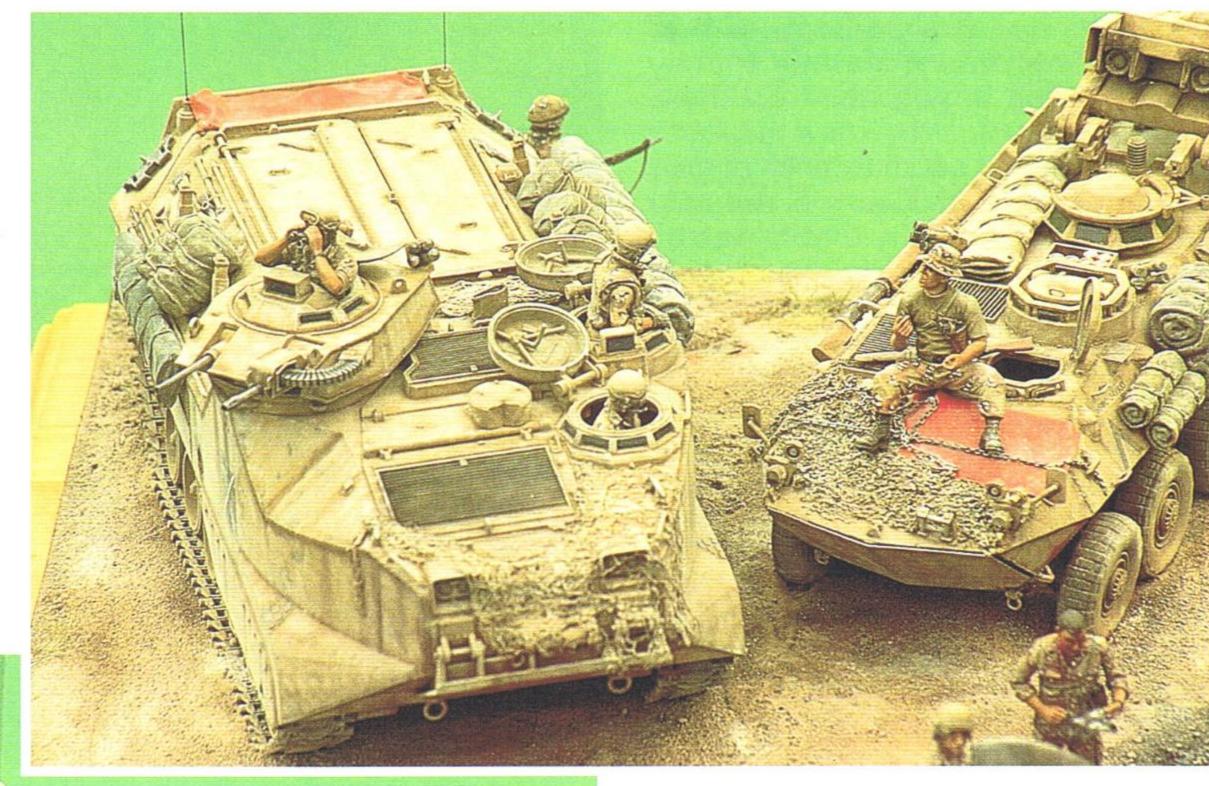
Edited by

Lost and Found



his 1:35th scale diorama shows a group of American Marines inspecting the remains of a U.S.Marines AV-8B HarrierII somewhere in the Kuwaiti desert during Operation Desert Storm. The Marines seem concerned as to the whereabouts of the pilot, but reports later indicate he ejected safely, only to become a POW (prisoner of war).

Those of you familiar with the WARMACHINES books published by VERLINDEN PUBLICATIONS will remember this scene, because the idea was taken from WARMACHINES N°13 "On the road to Kuwait".





An impressive model in its own right is Tamiya's LVTP-7A1 seen here almost head-on. Several of these vehicles were used as Line Charge vehicles to clear safe passages through minefields, as described in WARMACHINES N°13. Note the extensive use of gear stowed outside the vehicles and the drybrushing job on both.

However, instead of the two M998s as seen in the pictures, two different vehicles were used, TAMIYA's U.S.Marine LVTP-7A1 w/u.g.s. (an impressive kit) and ITALERI's LAV-25 T.U.A. Tow Launch Vehicle.



Both were built straight from the box, adding only minor details (partly because little is published on these combat vehicles).

Photo's revealed an abundance of gear and equipment stowed on the side slopes of both AFV's, which was all taken from an extensive VP range of diorama accessories. This stowage, together with the vehicles were painted and heavily weathered using the familiar wash and drybrush technique, be it with a slightly lighter wash (in color), followed by a dusting with pastel chalks. Various publications were referred to for a lifelike appearance.

All figures were taken from VP (sets N°539, 585 and 596), assembled, painted and finished using the same

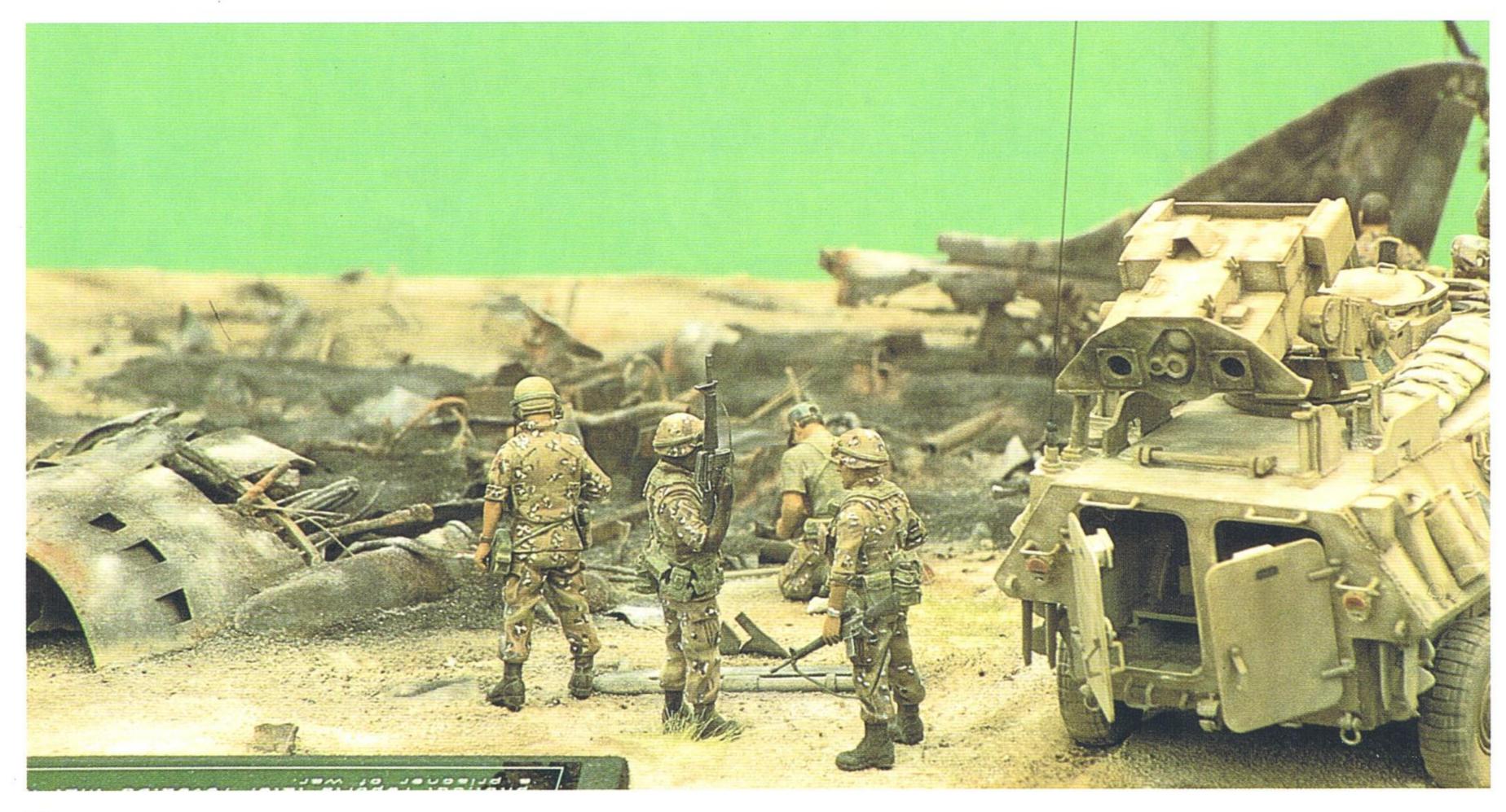




technique, except for the flesh parts which were done with artists oils.

The remains of the HarrierII were simulated using various thicknesses of plastic sheet and rod, combined with a few pieces from the scrapbox which somewhat resembled avionics and jet engine parts (like starter units, crank boxes, manifolds, etc.) These were sprayed various shades of gray and black to be finished with a dusting coat of desert sand. After drying, a wash of Burnt Sienna oils was applied and drybrushed.

The pictures in the book were not strictly copied but used as a guide. The figures in the diorama are all stock VP figures with regular BDUs.





The base is made from chipboard covered with plaster. While the plaster was still setting, the vehicles and wreckage were gently pressed into the surface. Once dry, the groundwork was sprayed Humbrol Matt63 Sand and misted with a mixture of Matt63 + Matt White, followed by a black/Burnt Umber wash.

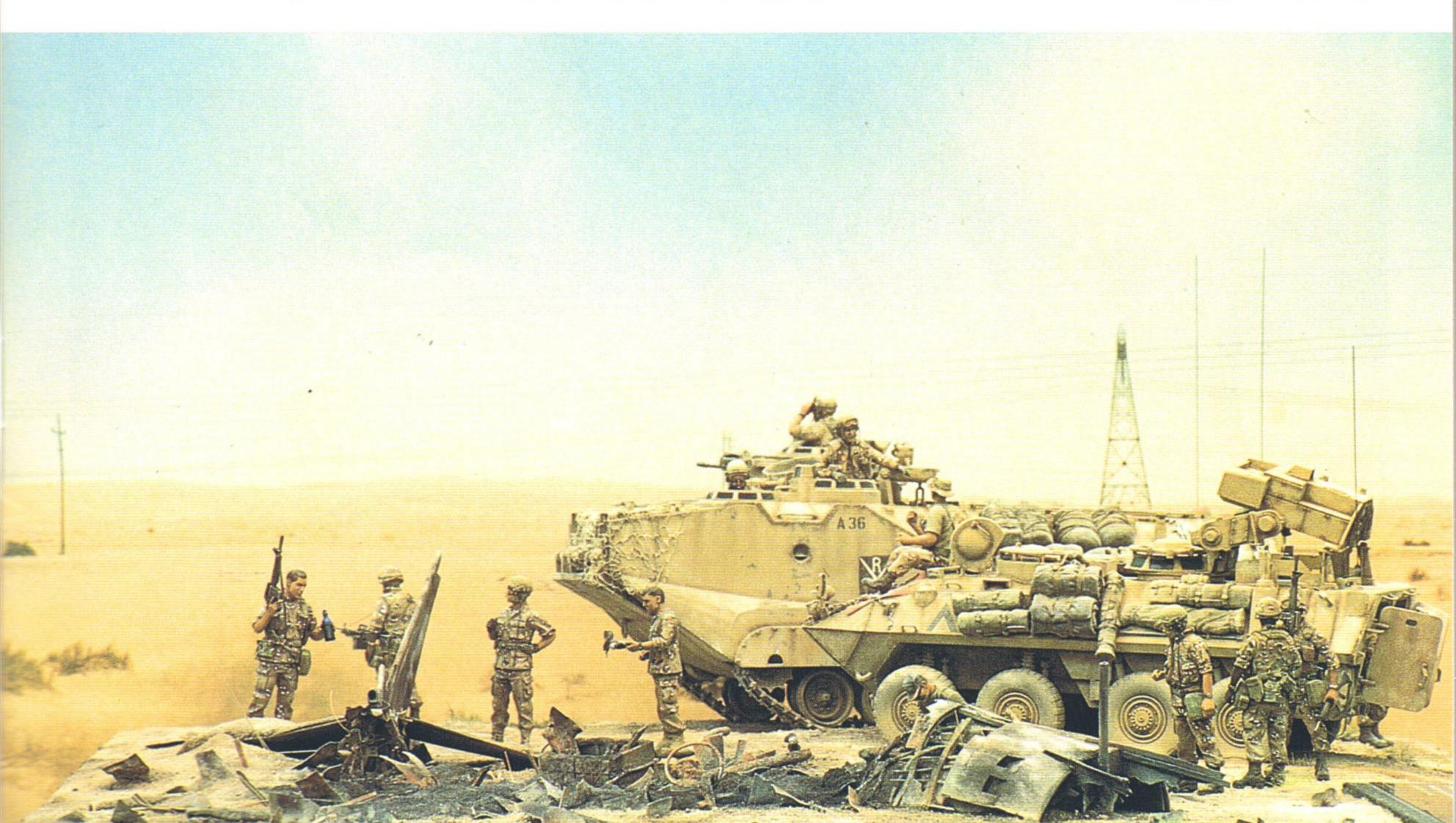
Once completed, the entire diorama was drybrushed and pasteled for blending.

Simple things, like the flat tires on this LAV, can make any scene so much more authentic and proves you are a good observer. Note the realistic appearance of the groundwork and dusting on the LAV.

Washing and drybrushing desert colored vehicles is more challenging than with camouflaged or plain gray AFV's. It is hard to get enough contrast without overdoing it. Subtlety and patience are the key words here, don't force it. The use of pastels proved indispensible in desert dioramas.

The addition of a suitable backdrop and a low-angle view contributes to the life appearance of this scene, together with a good paint and weathering job. Note that blending with pastels or likewise is very important to make it all "fit" together.



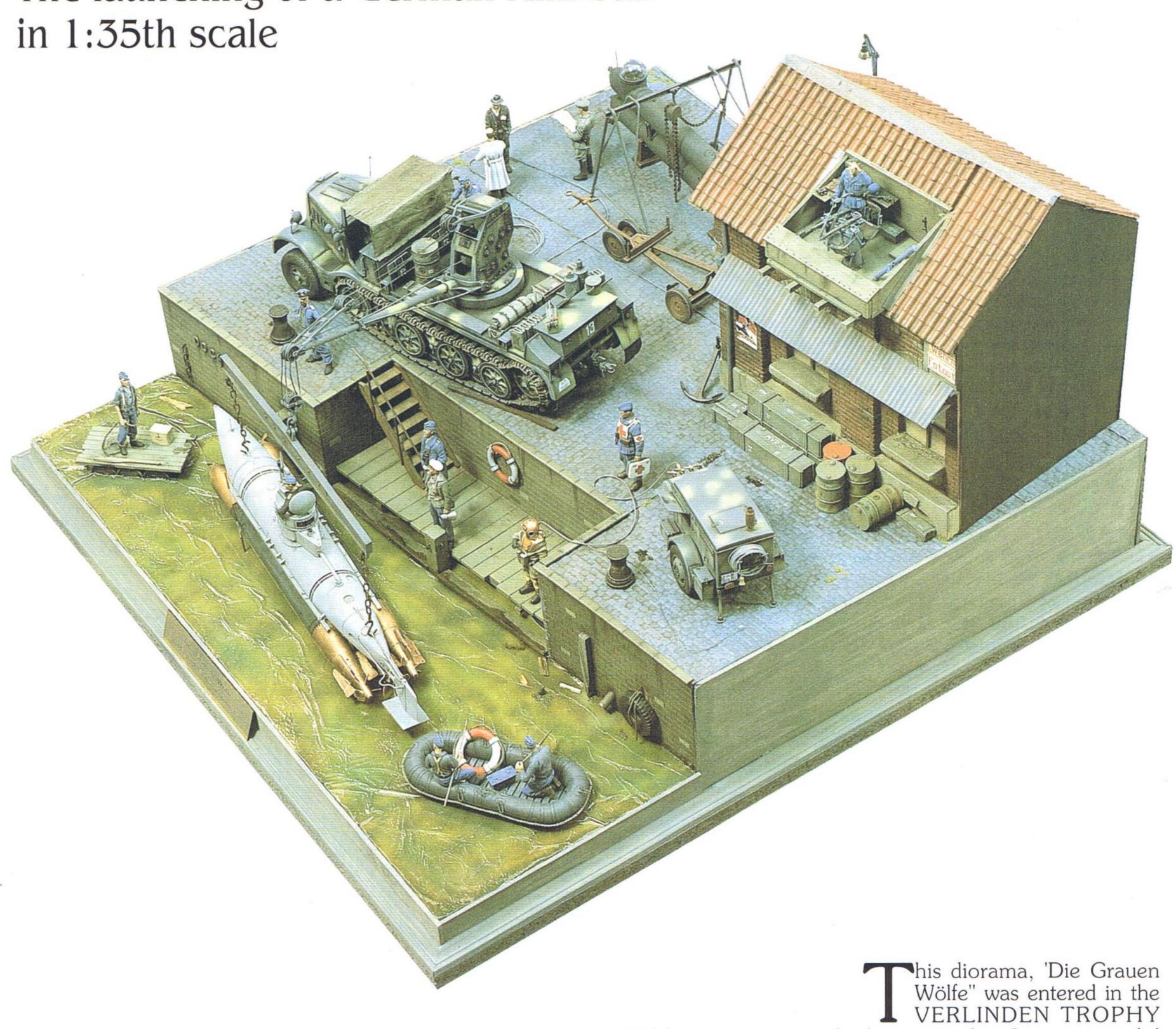


"Die Grauen Wölfe"

(The Gray Wolf)

a diorama by Martin SCHUH, Germany

The launching of a German Mini-Sub



Edited by



1993 competition which ran in the German model magazine "Kit". I was convinced that an original idea would get me valuable points, rather than a big diorama which requires many more hours to complete.

VP's release of an accurate "Biber" pocket submarine (the Germans call it "ein Marinekleinkampfmittel"), soon followed by the "Neger" (a human torpedo) seemed to be the perfect combination for an original diorama. Of course, this would involve the construction of some kind of wharf and water, but having gained some experience with previous dioramas this did not frighten me a bit.

To add to the military atmosphere I decided to use the 18

LIST OF ITEMS USED.

18ton Halftrack Air Compressor

DES **NKC**

VP items:

German Propaganda posters 14

Flexible Tubing Lead Foil 47

50

Barrels

131 Afrika Korps Commander

205 German Medic

234 272 German Dinghies, Small German Wehrmacht Officer

292 538 German Volkssturm German Tankers WWII

551 Military Supplies

Infantry Equipment WWII German Engineers Gas Station 1930-40's 637

676

745

Michael Wittmann 770

810 Biber

816 Neger

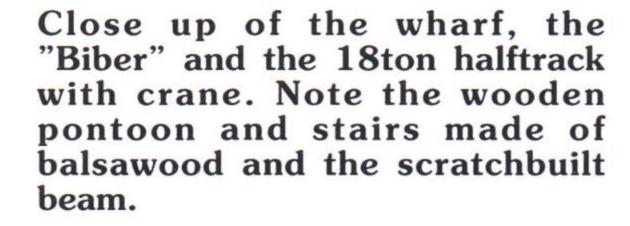
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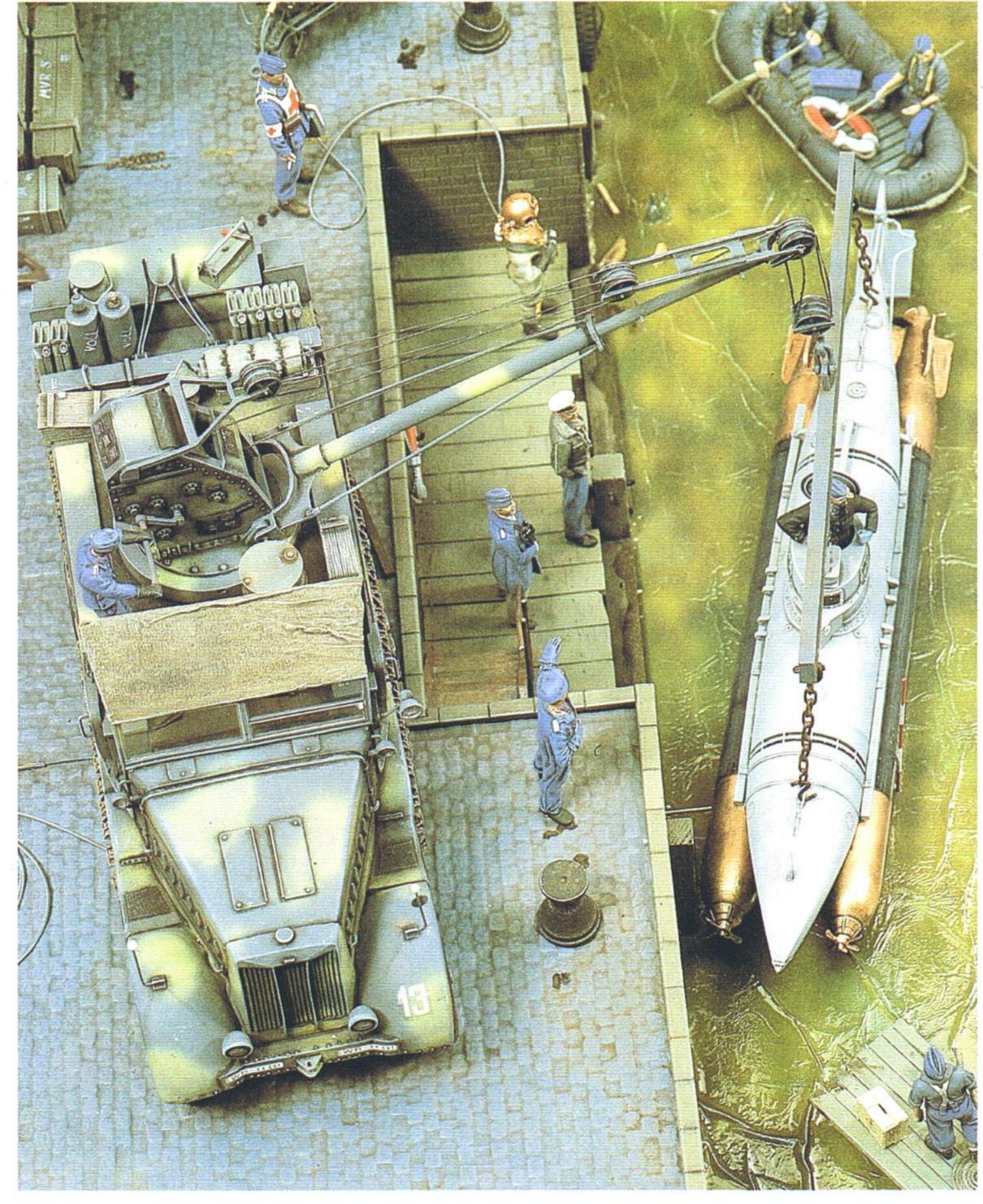
20017 Ruined Train Station

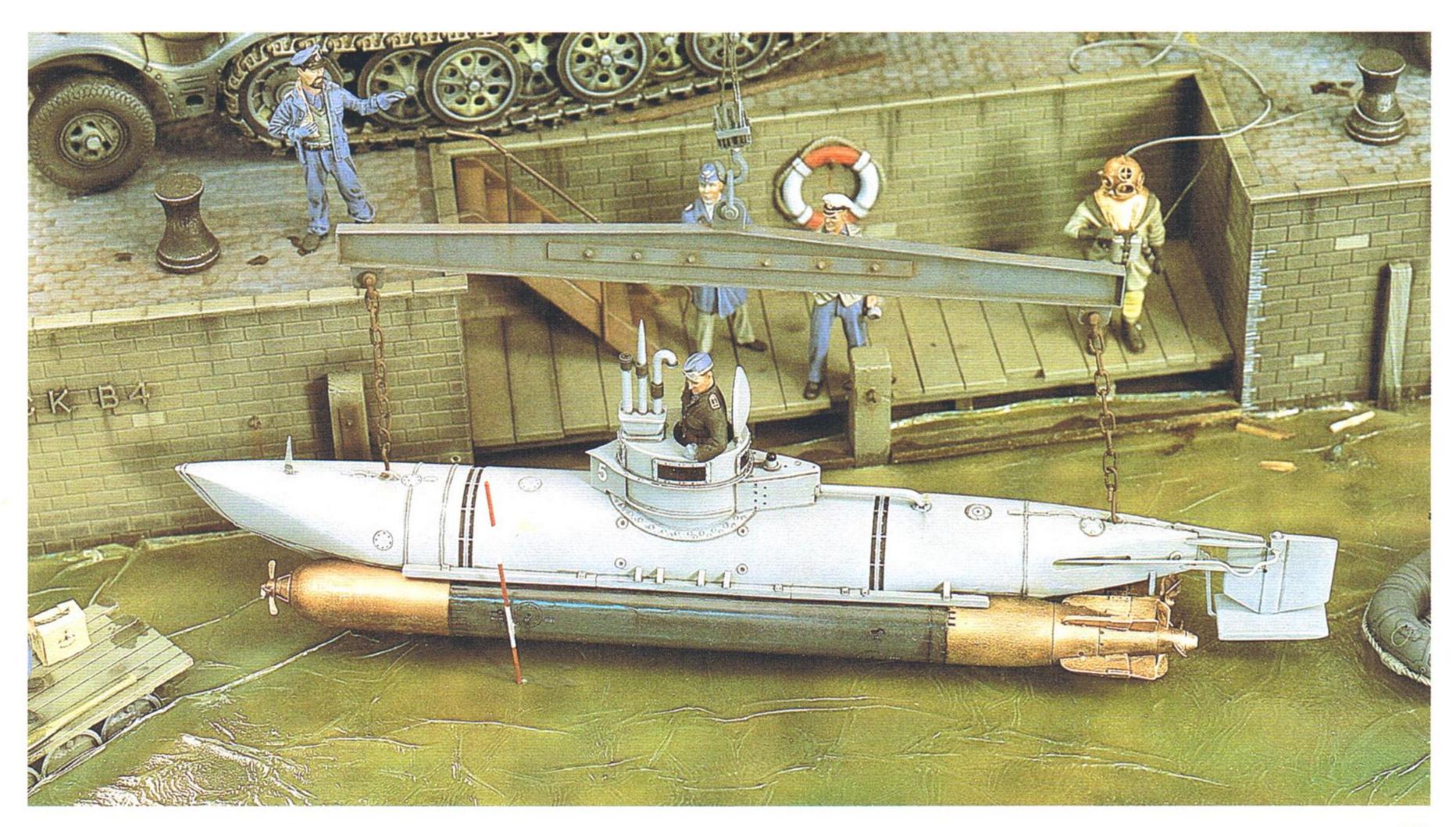
20019 Rooftiles

20021 Corregated Metal Sheet

20022 Cobblestones







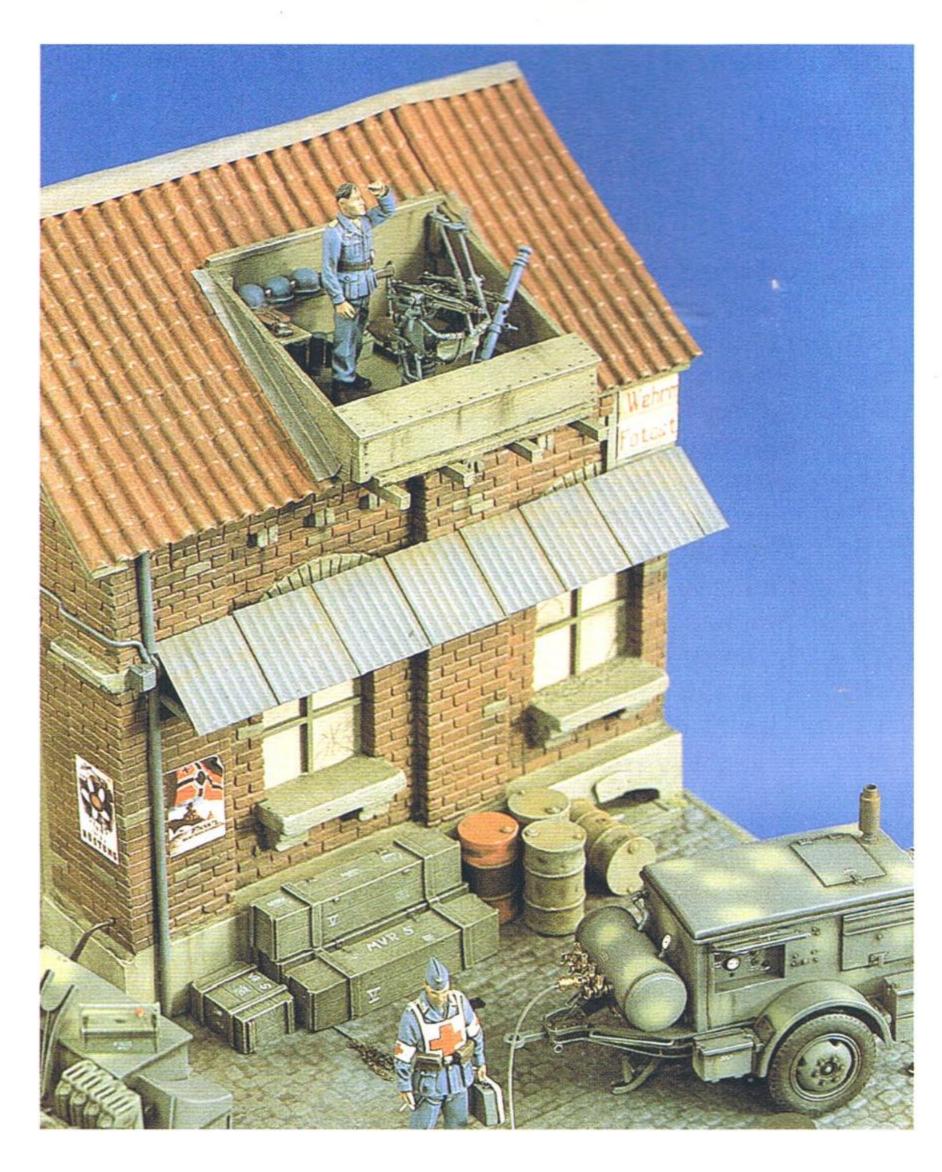
ton halftrack with 6 ton Bilstein crane, a resin DES kit which is very expensive, but which suits its purpose well (rather than a solid crane construction).

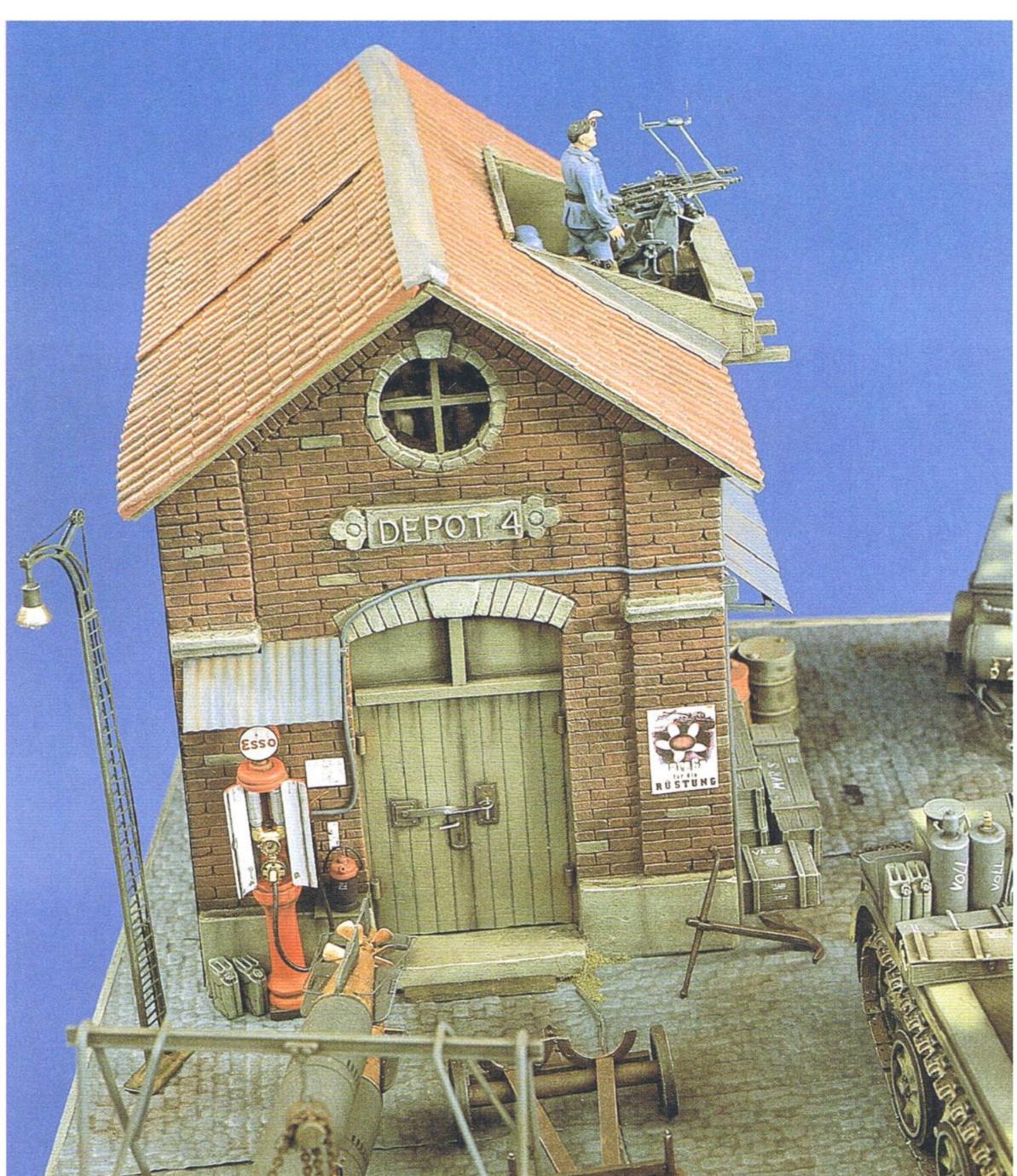
Trophy's Ruined Train Station had the proper characteristics for a small depot to serve as a backdrop. Some surgery with plaster was needed to fix the ruined part of the building. Trophy Rooftiles and Corregated Metal Sheet for the awning were used, the former cut to fit a Flak/Observation post. The complete wharf was complimented with sheets of Trophy cobblestones. VP's Gas Station was a blessing out of heaven because it added so much to the significance of the scene.

The list of items used includes many VP figures although some are from other manufacturers, like the diver on the planking for which an air compressor cart was added.

Although painting and weathering was executed according to VP's technique I added a number of my own findings and relied on past experience to give it a personal touch.

It is clear that this diorama would not have been possible without all the VP and Trophy products, and although it turned out rather expensive, I believe it is something to be proud of.





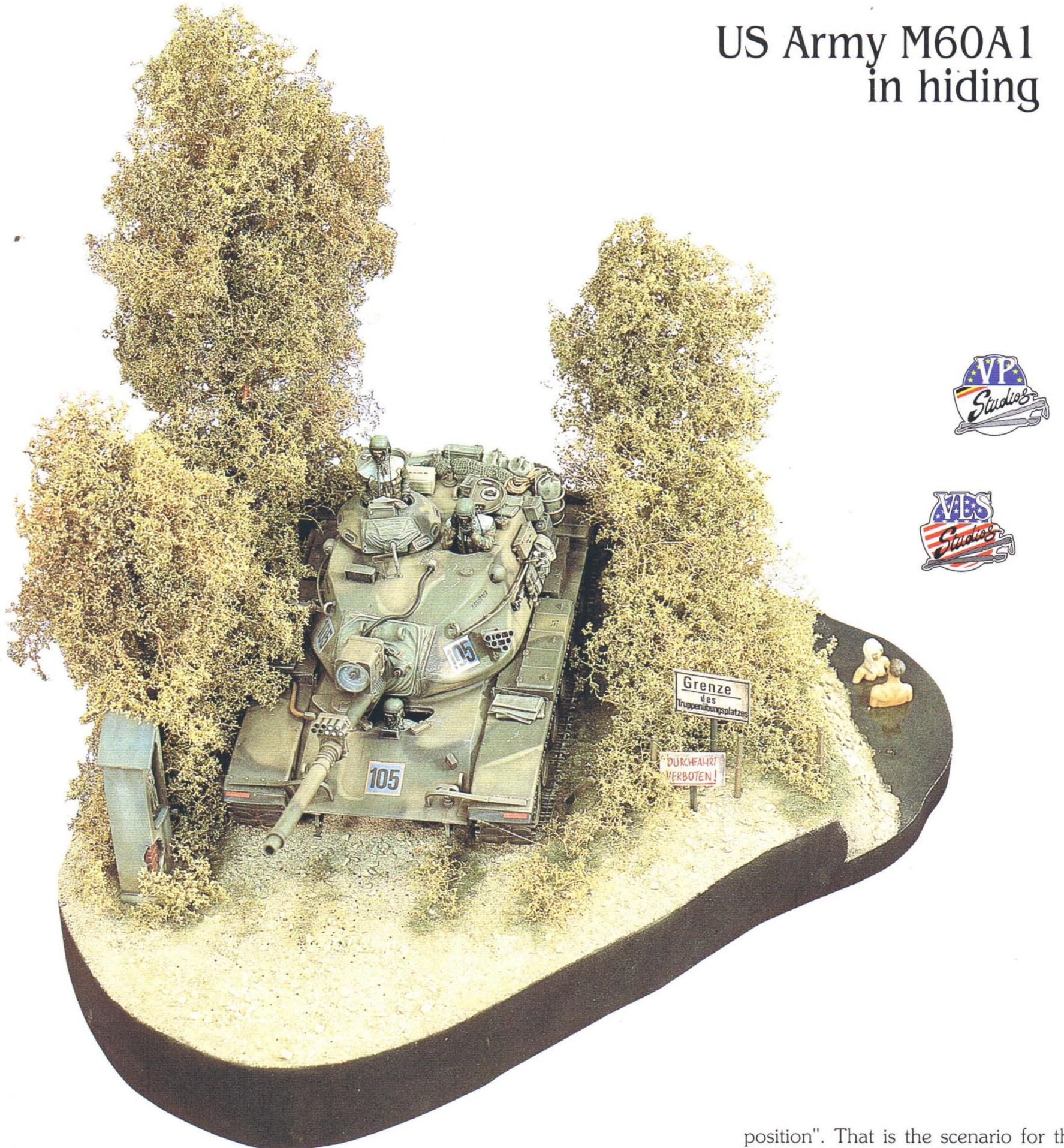
A closer look at the observation post with Flak in the depot roof and the crates and barrels against the depot wall.



VP's early Volkssturm figures perfectly suited the engineer and inspector in the corner, with a Wehrmacht officer standing close.

Amazing what can be done with a proper building, some VP accessories and some scratbuild items. The lightpost was taken from HO railway scenery which does not look out of scale here.

"Sweat Box"



Tust imagine, you are an American tanker, serving in Germany during the 70's or 80's. It's an extremely hot day and your commanding officer gets the bright idea to initiate a CBR (chemical-bacteriological-radiation) exercize. The M60A1 is hotter than an oven, the protective clothing and mask weighs a ton. You are in this situation

for hours trying to perform your assigned tasks under these circumstances. Your vehicle is assigned a hiding position in the hedgerows next to a small river, and guess what? You look outside and see a couple of teenagers frolicking in the cool water having a great time. Then the radio cracks, "Move out fast to your alternate

position". That is the scenario for this diorama. The centerpiece of the scene is the Tamiya M60A1 updated with the VP set (No. 320).

The camouflage pattern was airbrushed with green-brown-light sand and black. After the traditional "wash" the green and brown was drybrushed with lighter shades of the same basic colors. Figures are VP U.S. Tank Crew CBR dress. Kitbags, rucksacks, ammo boxes, in a word, the usual selection of gear stowed on exercises, was painted and affixed to the diorama.







uring WW II, when the need arose to provide high intensity fire to clear a path for advancing troops, U.S. Ordnance developed various types of rocket launchers. Certainly the best known of these was

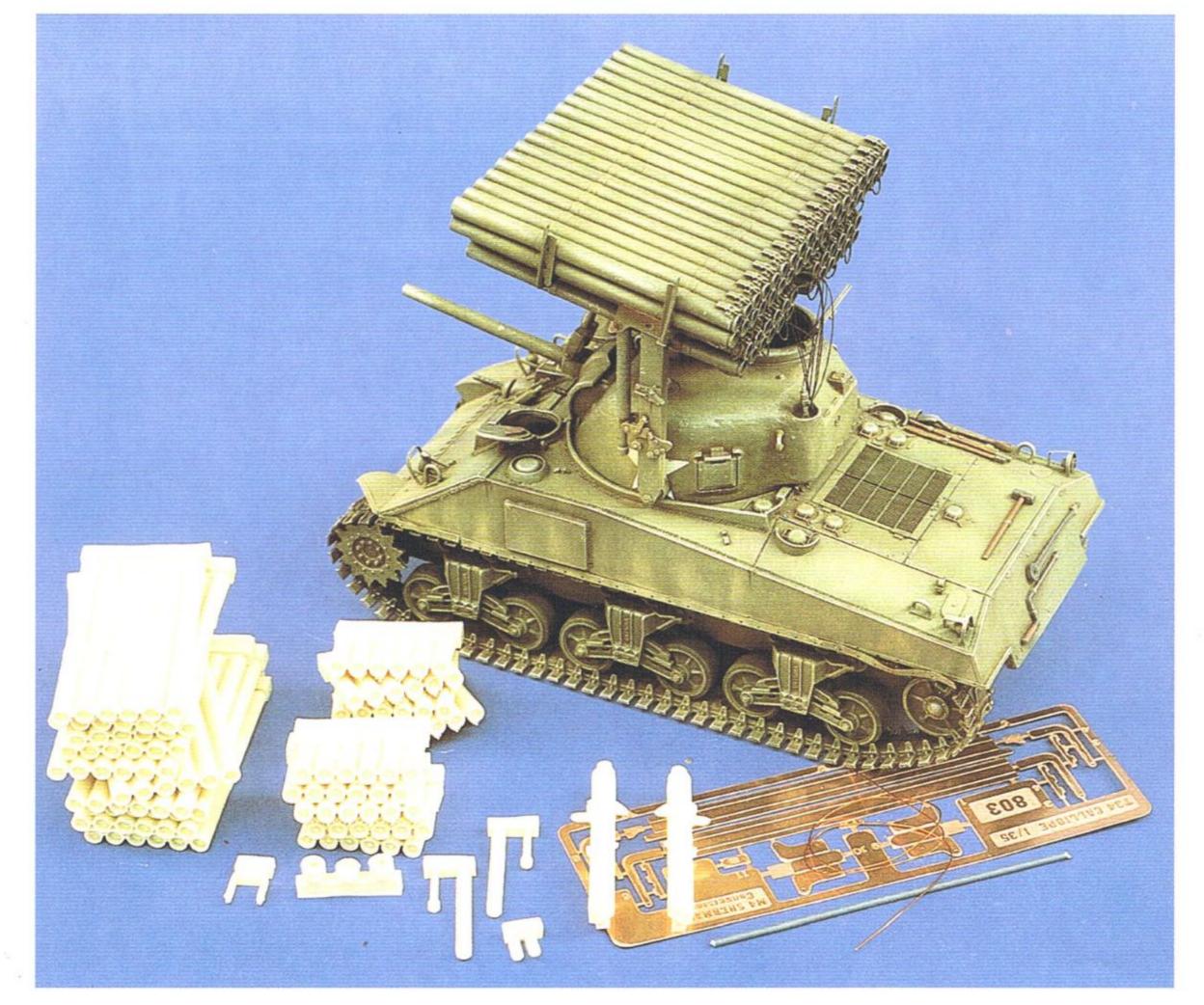
the T 34 Mount using 4.5 inch high explosive artillery rockets. Installed on a Sherman tank, they were nicknamed "Caliope" or "Screaming Mimi" due to the awesome sound they produced during action.

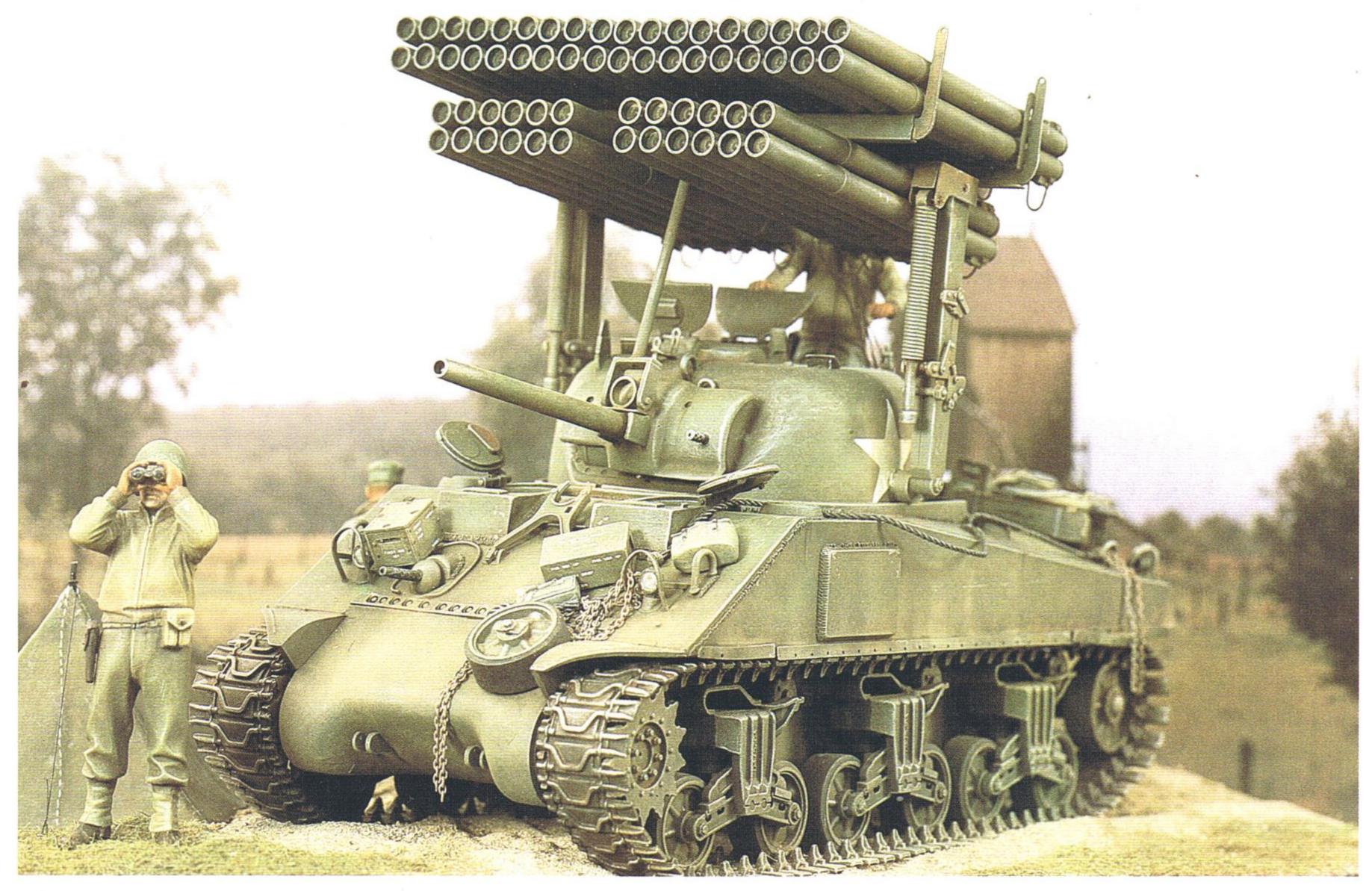
VP's T 34 kit, released several months ago, can be fitted to most Sherman kits currently available with little or no alteration. Designed specifically to be mounted to the Tamiya M4A3 Sherman. We used the Tamiya M4A3 chassis and running gear converted with VP's M4A2 Hull and VP's M34A1 Turret.

The completed conversion was airbrushed with Testors Model Masters Dark Green No. 1710. Next Field Drab (1712) was oversprayed achieving a green tone difference. The lower hull and running gear received a light coat of Humbrol Matt 29 simulating dirt and rust.

A liberal coat of flat household varnish completed the airbrushing. After allowing a few days to dry, a thin wash was applied with a mixture of Humbrol Matt Black and Burnt Sienna oil paint. Next we drybrushed with Humbrol Matt Brown No. 29 followed by French Artillery Green.

The diorama was kept to a simple setting, using the vehicle as the centerpiece. The usual equipment seen on and around American tanks from wartime photographs was selected from various VP accessory sets, painted and put in place. Figures are stock VP items. Foliage from the VP Trees and Hedgerows.

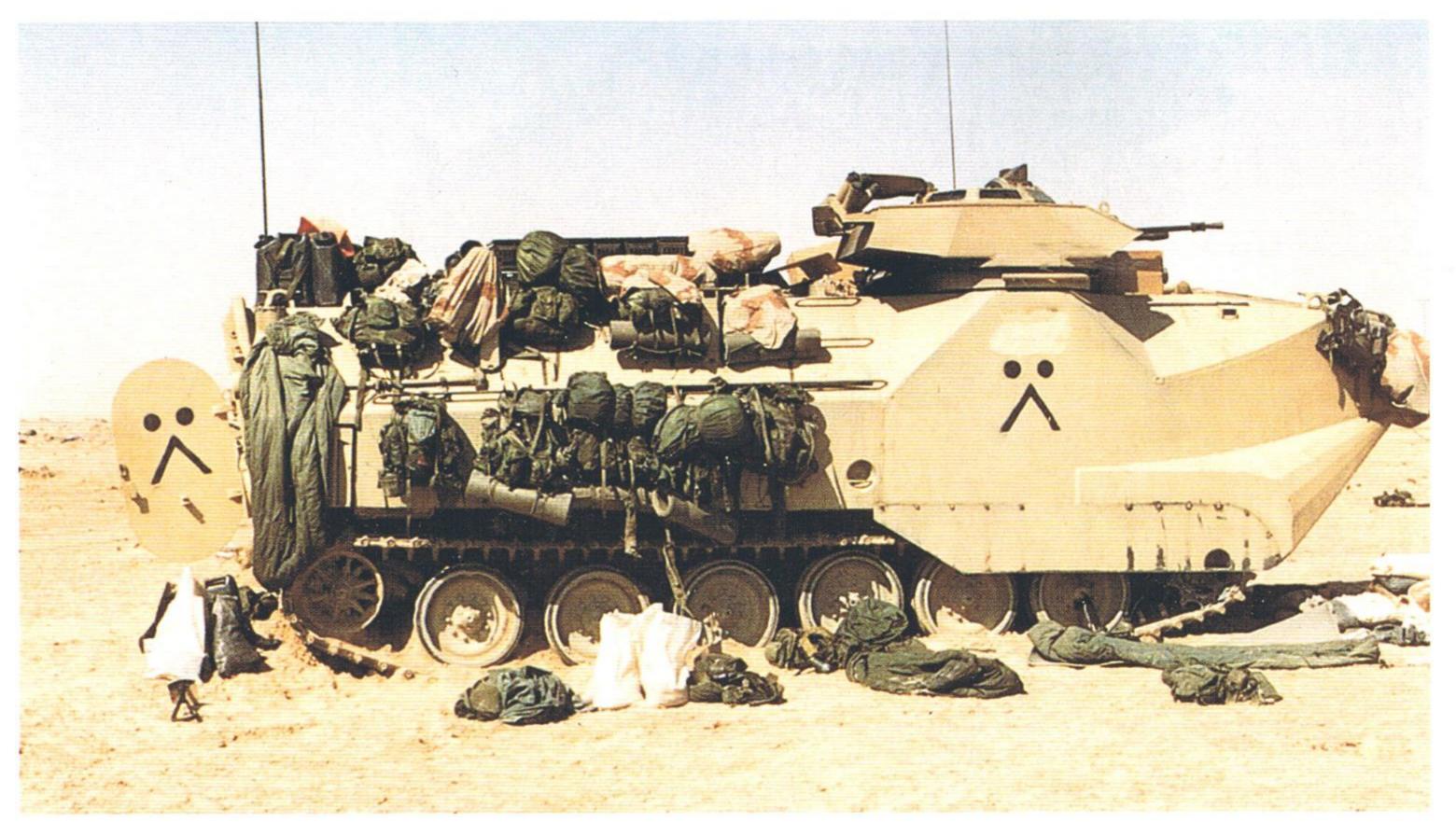




Above: An overall view of the vehicle in firing position, loaded and ready for action.

Below: Crew cleaning the .50 cal. machinegun at their improvised campsite.



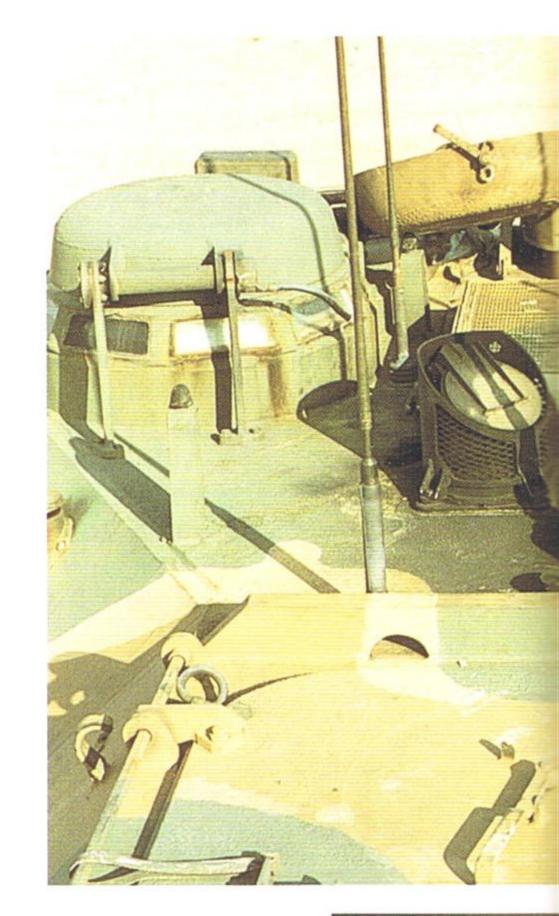


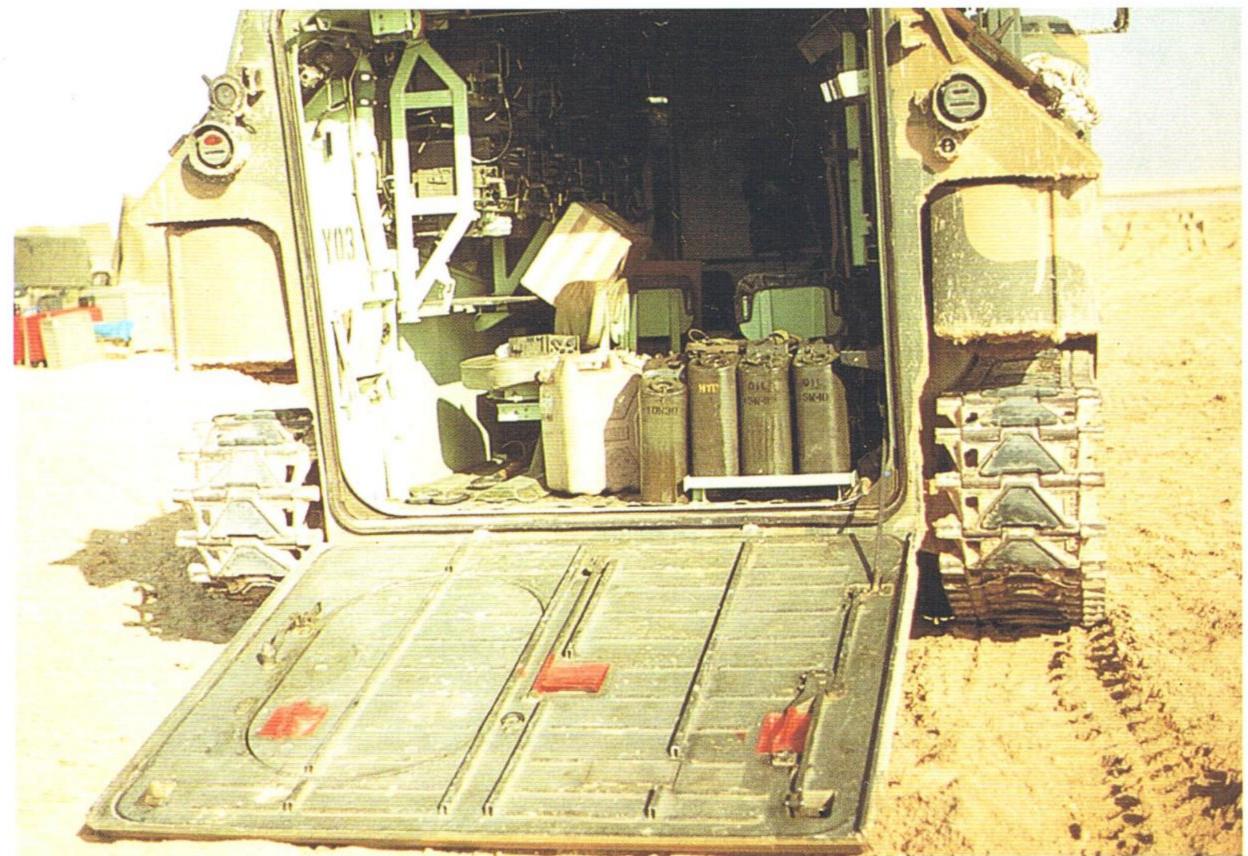


LVTP-7 details

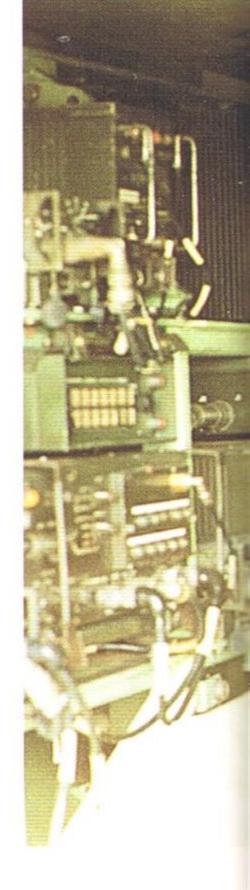
Photos by Joseph CRUTCHER Jr.

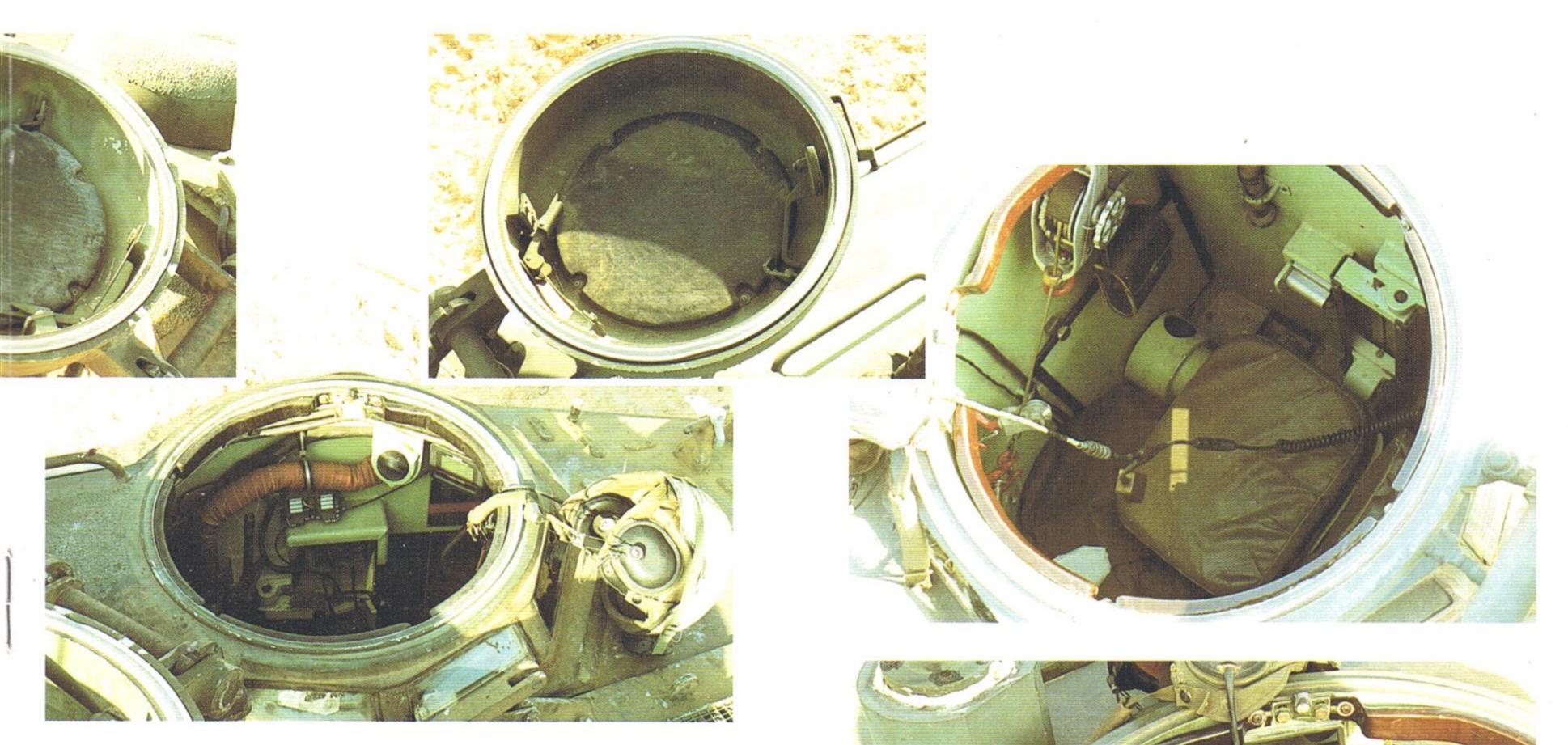


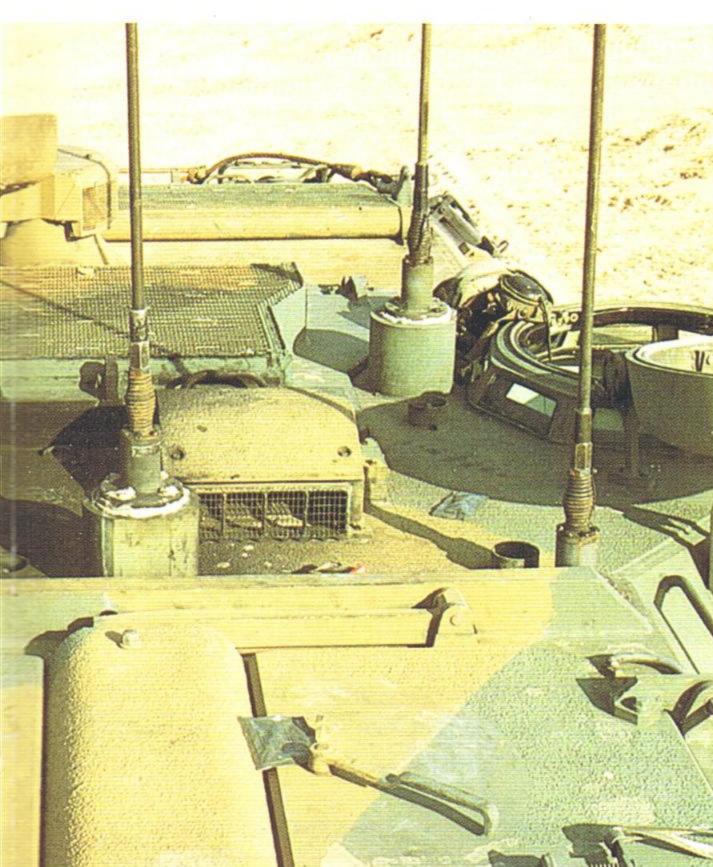




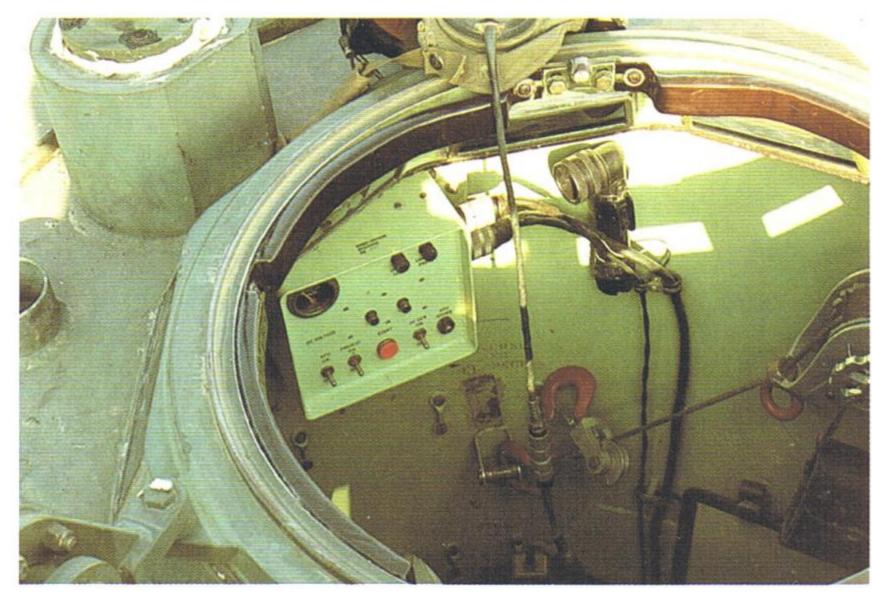


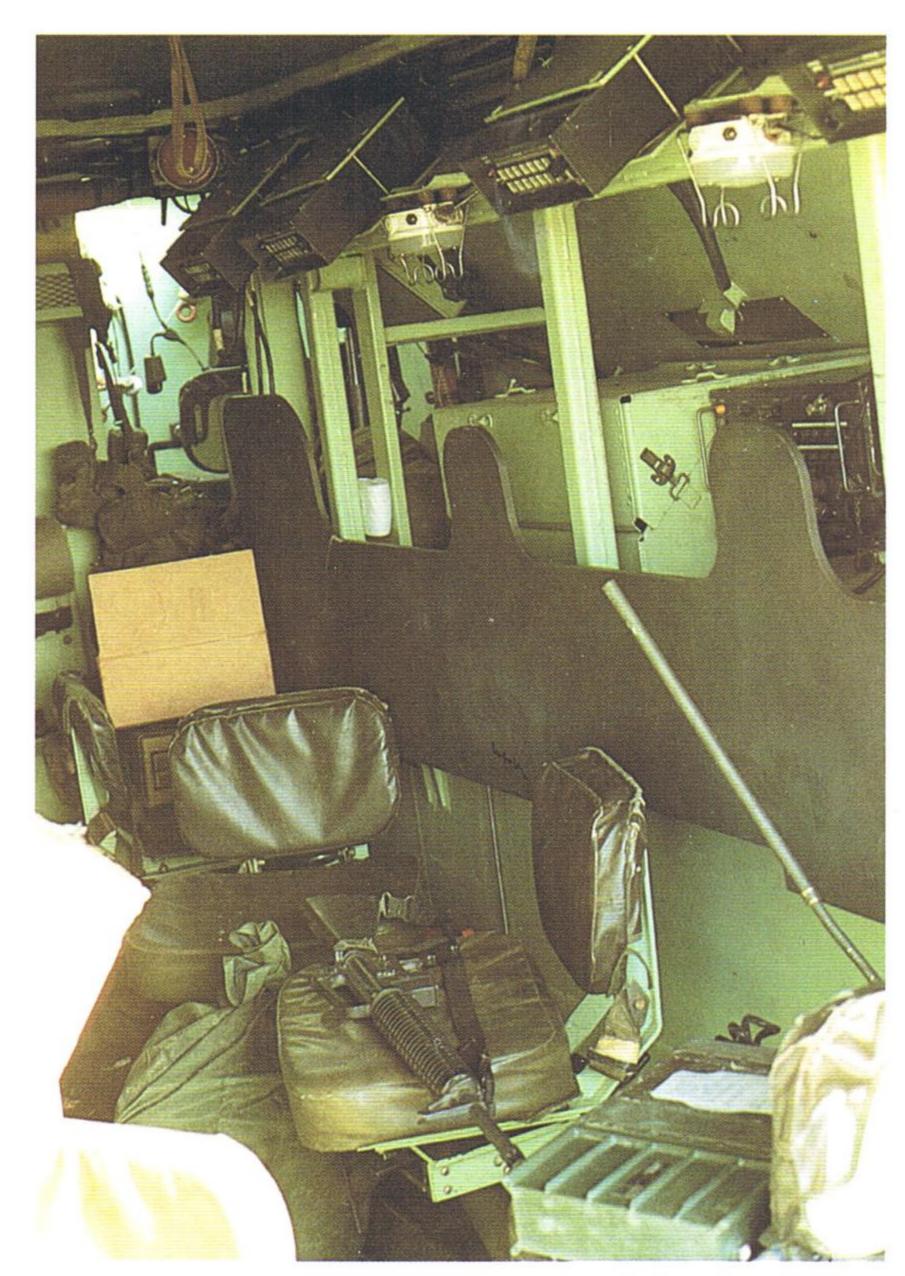










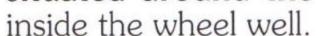


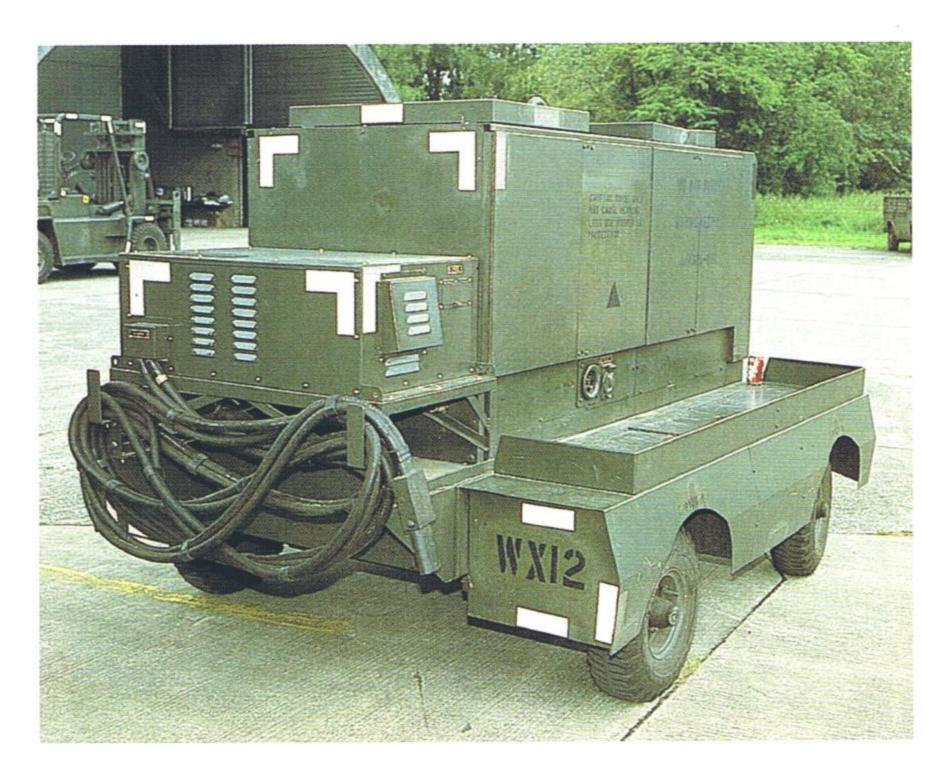


In focus: U.S. AIR FORCE Generator Set

nother important utility cart present on the apron is this Generator Set 72Kw 400 Hz with transformer/rectifier. It is used to supply the appropriate current to the onboard AC en DC electrical system for engine start and the operation of various electrical appliances while preparing and maintaining the aircraft (i.e. loading of belted ammunition). External power is also applied to the avionics cooling units prior to or inbetween flights.

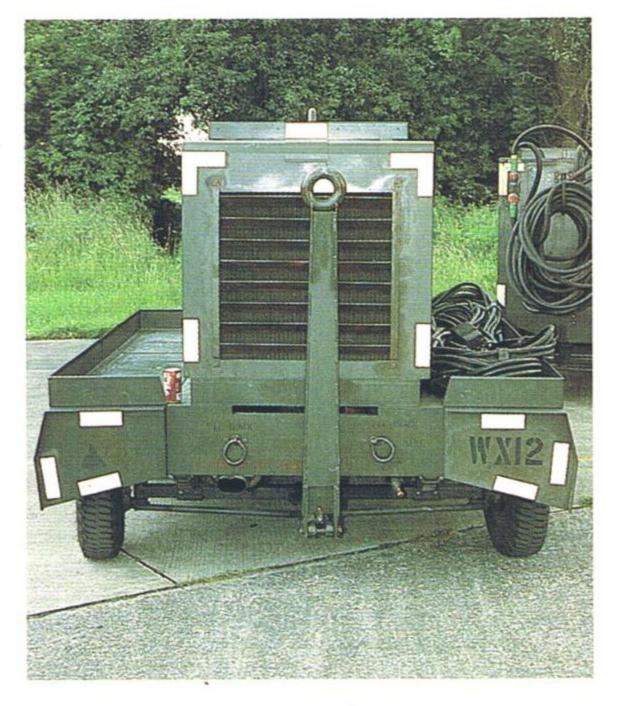
Most external power receptacles are situated around the cockpit area or







Rack-mounted aside the main body is a transformer/rectifier with build-in safeguard (operated by the current limit switch), to avoid the supply of excessive voltages.





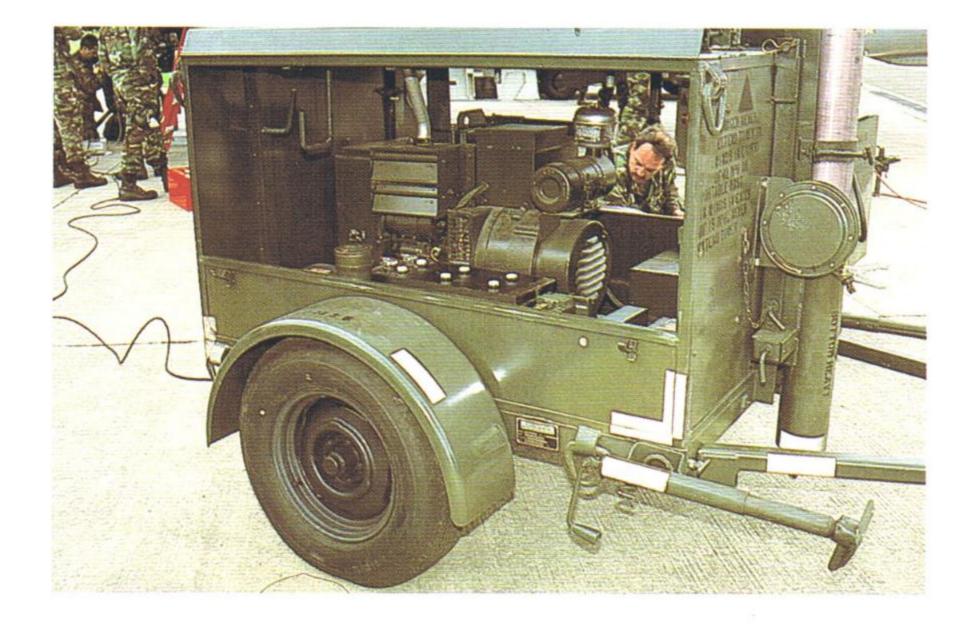
U.S. AIR FORCE Floodlight Set Trailer Mounted

ne thing the Gulf War has proven beyond any doubt is the surprise impact of a nighttime airstrike (already successfully tested with the bombing of Lybia). Now, every air force crewmember knows that loading ordnance and preparing an aircraft for flight is a delicate job, even in clear daylight. Maintaining the same accuracy (on which the mission depends) after sunset is another matter. Not all aircraft operate from a well-illuminated hangar or shelter and many of the fighters participating in the Gulf conflict were stationed on remote flightlines where no facilities were available.

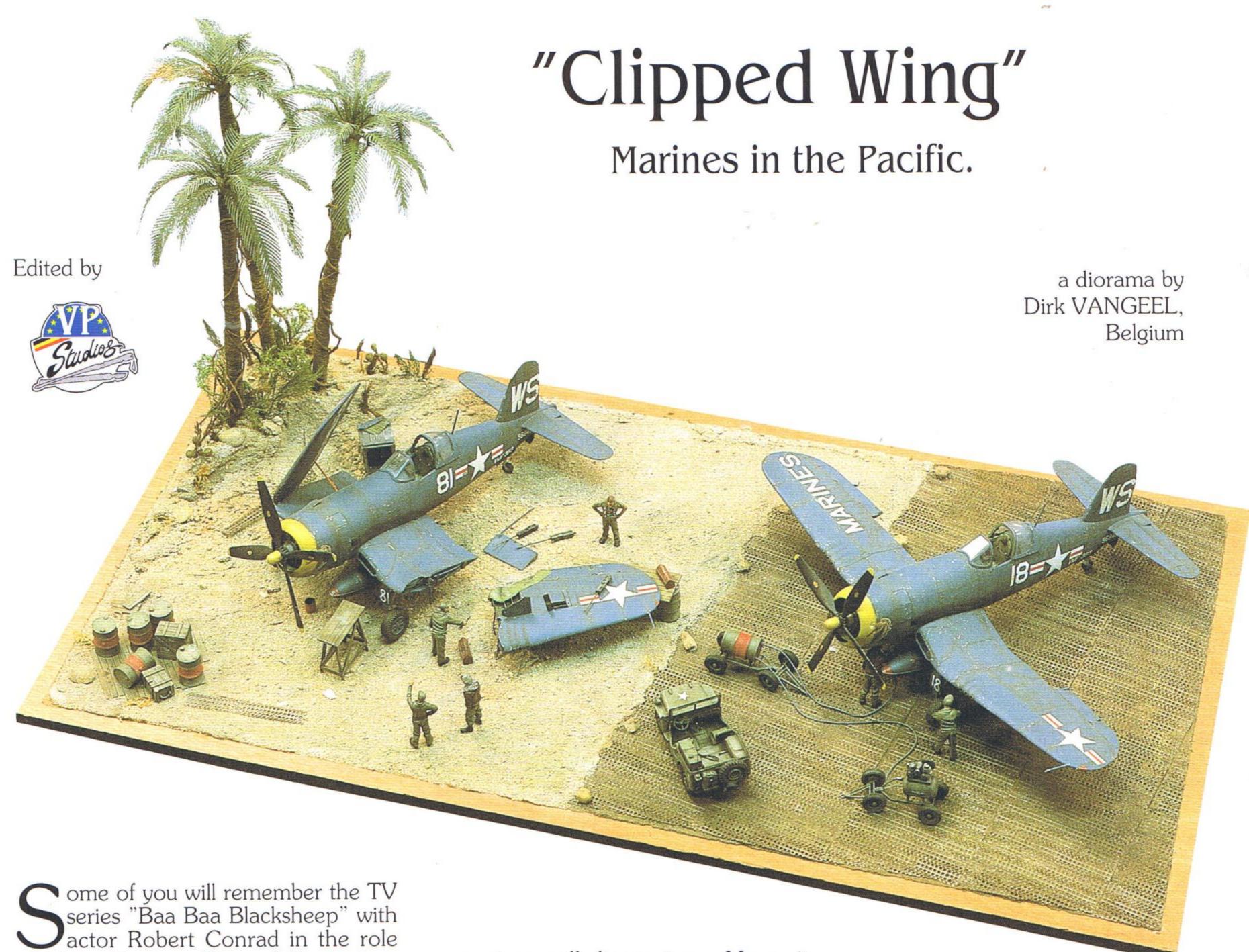
The Floodlight Set with extendable pole seen here is one of several types used by the USAF. It is wheel-mounted to be towed whenever necessary and power to the floodlights is supplied by the internally-mounted diesel engine.







Like most of the USAF utility carts described in previous issues, this one is painted Olive Green overall with reflective strips to corners and mudguards. Note the doors are always open when the diesel engine is running for cooling purposes. Also note the various inscriptions stenciled in black on cart and hatches.



Some of you will remember the TV series "Baa Baa Blacksheep" with actor Robert Conrad in the role of Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington. It all seemed a boys dream come true: flying a graceful bird in an paradiselike environment with enemies not worth talking about. Well, that's showbiz.

Anyway, the release of VP's F-4U4 Corsair, intended to be used with Hasegawa's splendid 1/48th scale kit, made me remember the series and the idea emerged to create that "boys dream" in my next diorama.

As mentioned earlier, Hasegawa's Corsair is a very nice kit, crisply molded, neatly engraved and with

correct overall dimensions. More, it wonderfully catches the sleek lines of this bent-wing fighter which was very popular with the men who flew it.

CONSTRUCTION

Unfortunately, as is often the case, flaps and ailerons are integrally moulded with the wings and interior detail could be called spartan. The attractiveness of carrier aircraft is their ability to fold their wings and displaying them as such in a diorama is very rewarding.

With this in mind, VP provided the

necessary items to lower all flaps and to have both wings folded, revealing the complete folding mechanism. To achieve this, some canibalizing is needed but with some care this works out well.

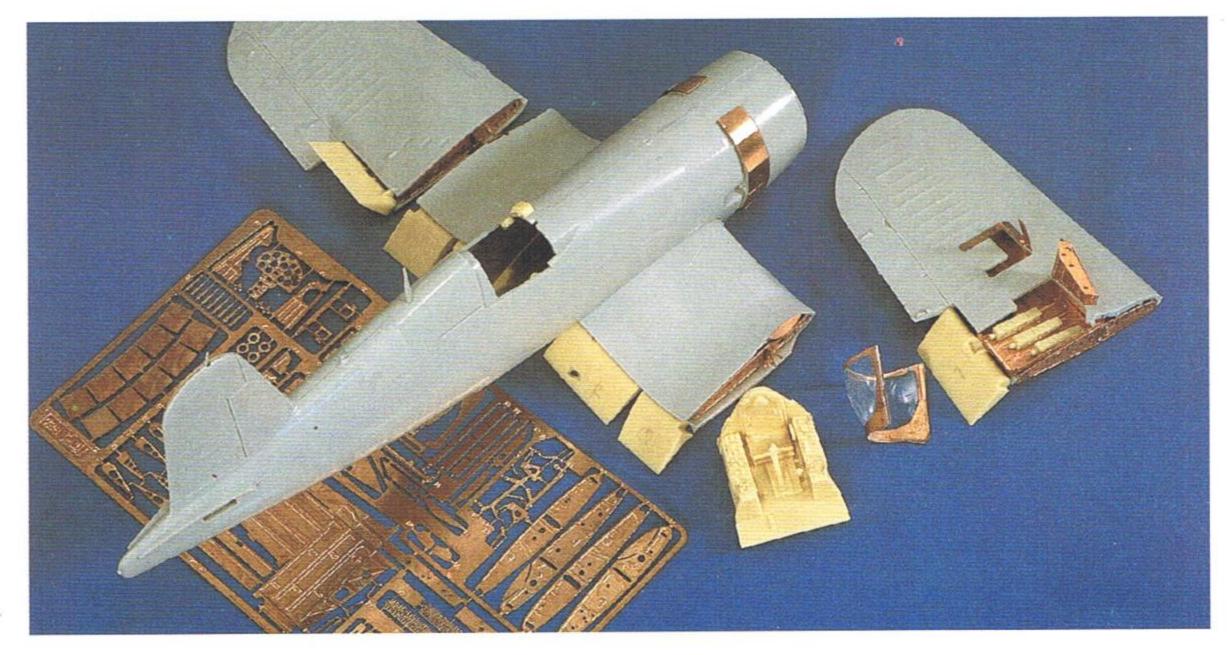
As an alternative, one complete wing ammo bay with guns is included for those who want to keep it simple (although some cutting of the wing is needed here too).

Needless to say, some time went into preparing this, but the very neatly molded cockpit tub saved a lot of time scratchbuilding.

To represent the wing folding mechanism, both left and right wing cross sections are enclosed and a photo-etched folding assembly, to be upgraded with various thicknesses of rod and copper wire. The photos with this article will be very helpful (Ed.).

Because the wing was too heavy to be kept upright only by this construction, a wing support arm from rod was added between wing and fuselage (like on the real aircraft).

A useful part in recent VP aircraft update sets is the photo-etched canopy frames, first to correct the often wrong



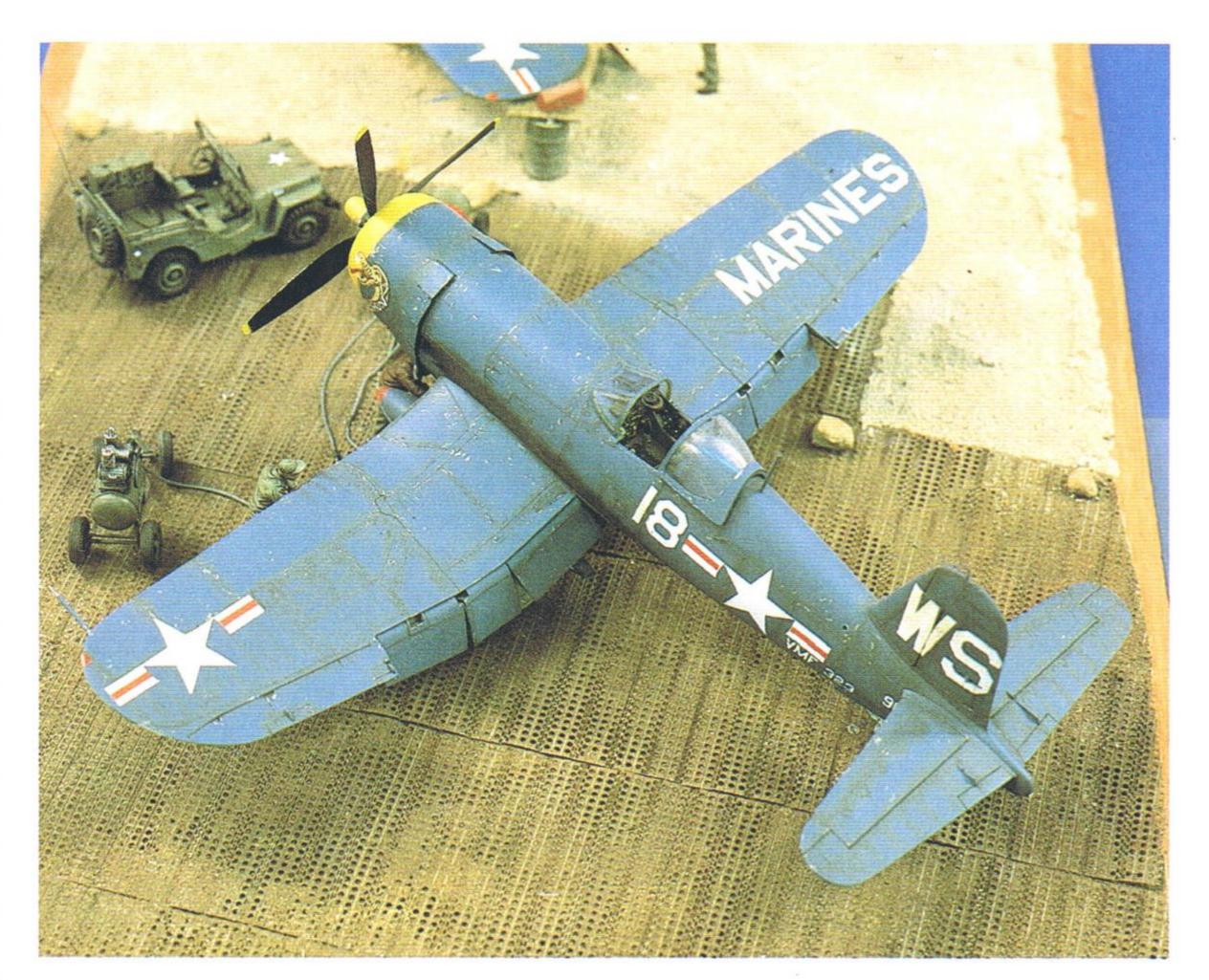
kit contours and second for ease of painting the frame without having to tape the clear part. The raised brass frame can easily be painted with a fine pointed brush. Remember to only use tips of glue at the edges of the frame and avoid superglue flowing onto the clear part.

Another way to make the model more attractive was to put the engine cowl flaps in a semi-open position which was achieved by gluing the enclosed brass-etched flaps on top of the kit cowl (without any surgery at all, glue at front and slightly lift at the rear).

PAINTING

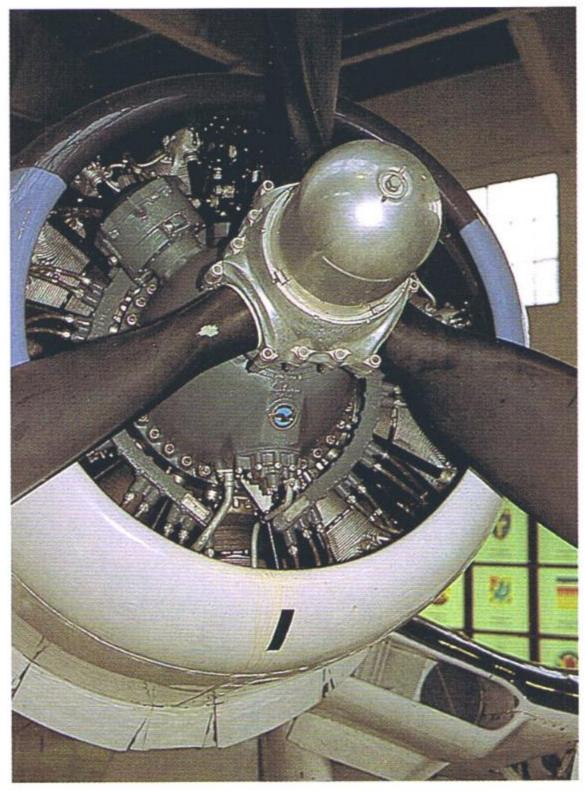
Whether you hate it or not, painting and finishing the cockpit interior is the first thing you do before continuing the assembly stage. Determine beforehand what will and will not be seen once the model is finished and the canopy is in place.

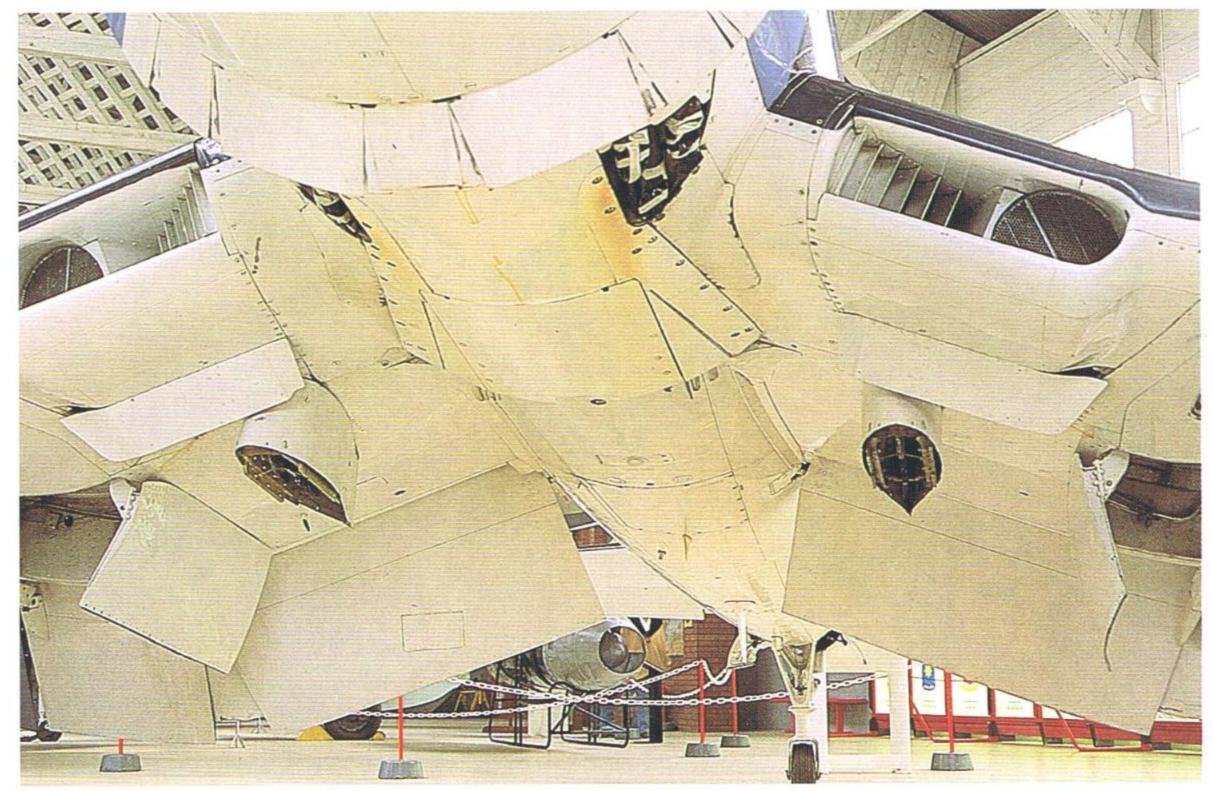
Both cockpits were base-coated with Humbrol MC21 French Artillery Green, then drybrushed with same plus Khaki Drill and plain Khaki Drill. A final drybrush with metal mix was applied to simulate wear and tear.







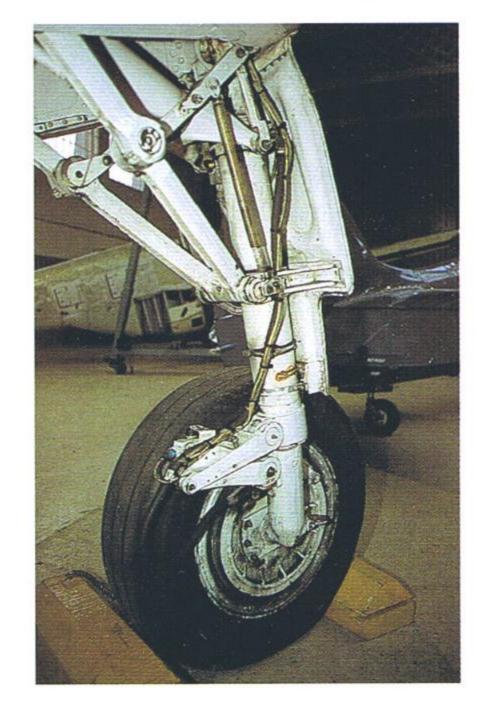


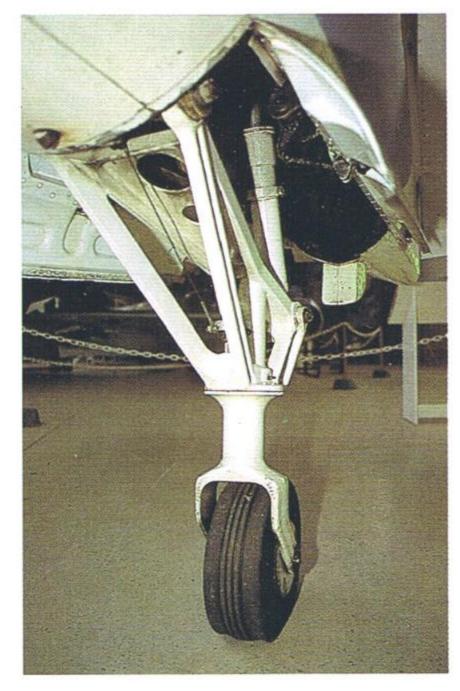


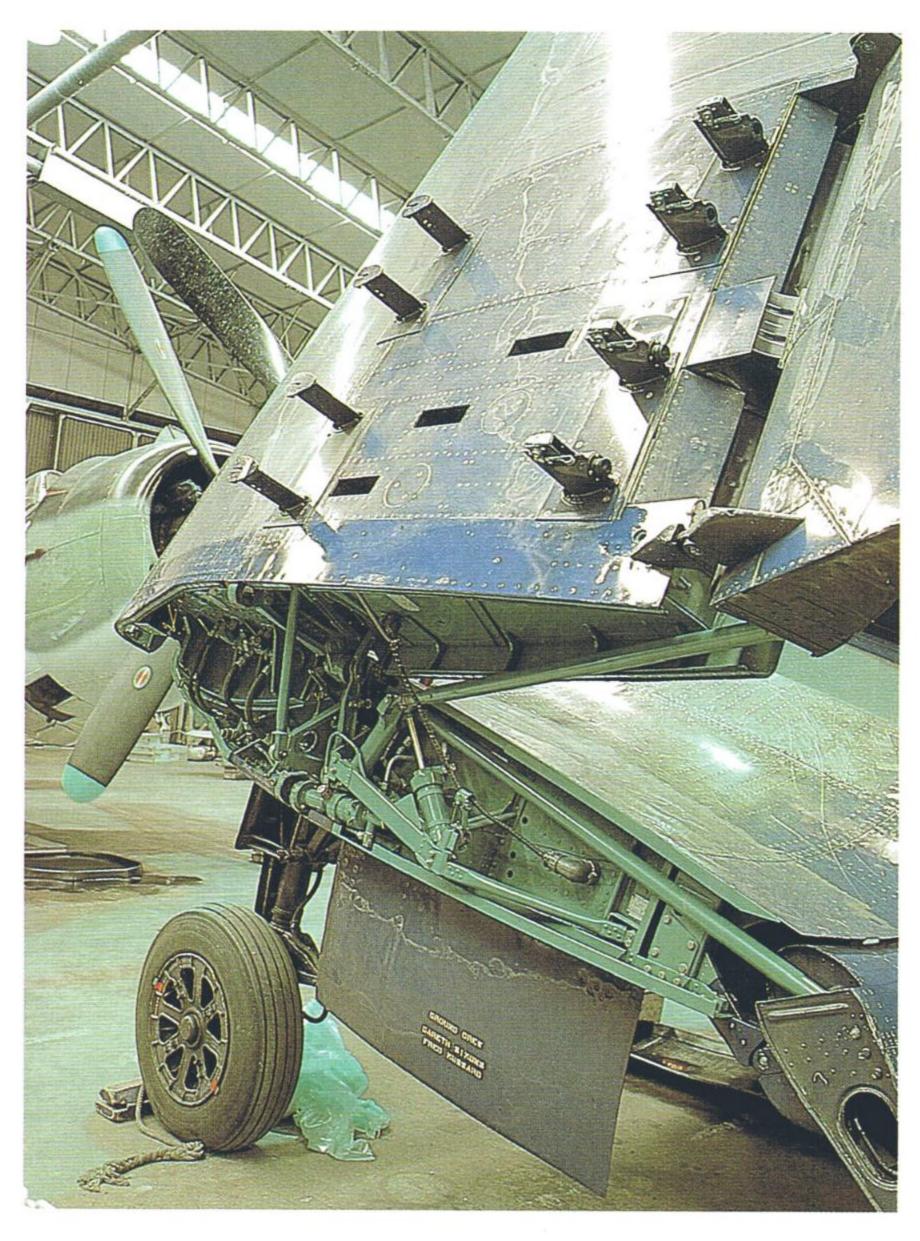


F4U Corsair in detail

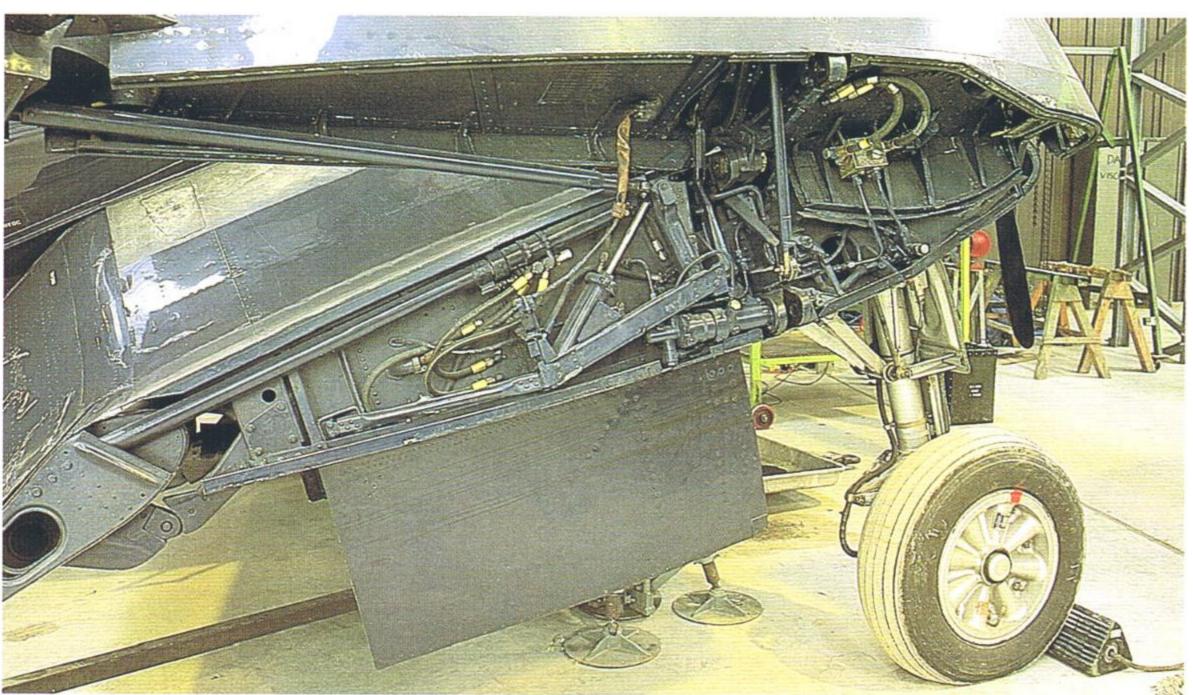
This double-page survey combines detail photo's of several different F-4U Corsairs stored at DUXFORD airfield. Some belong to the Fighter Collection, others belong to the museum while a few are privately owned. All detail shots shown here can be used to update your F-4U4 model. Although the seat differs, side wall detail is quite authentic.

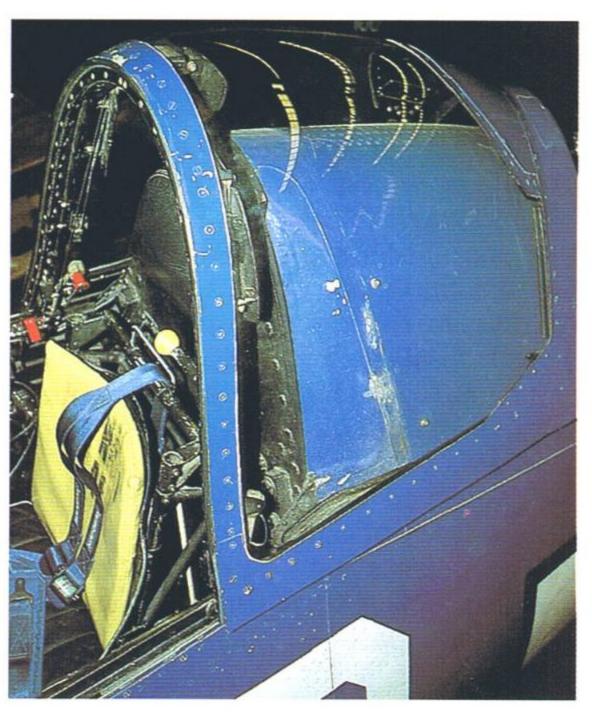


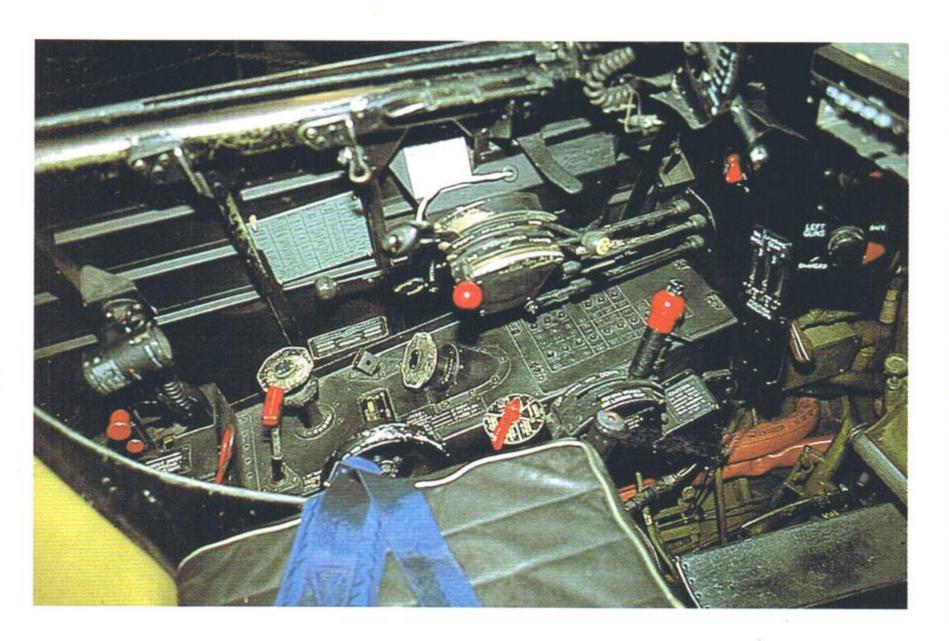


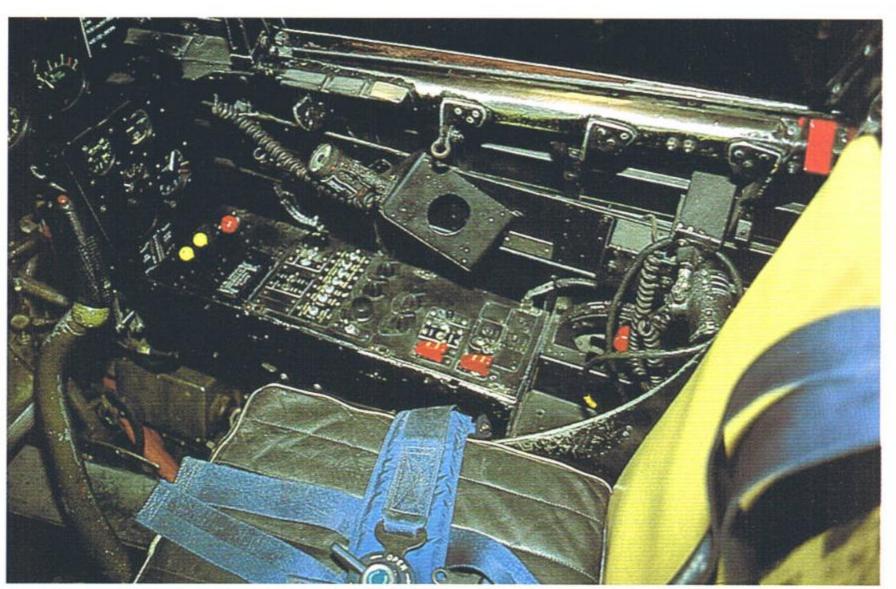


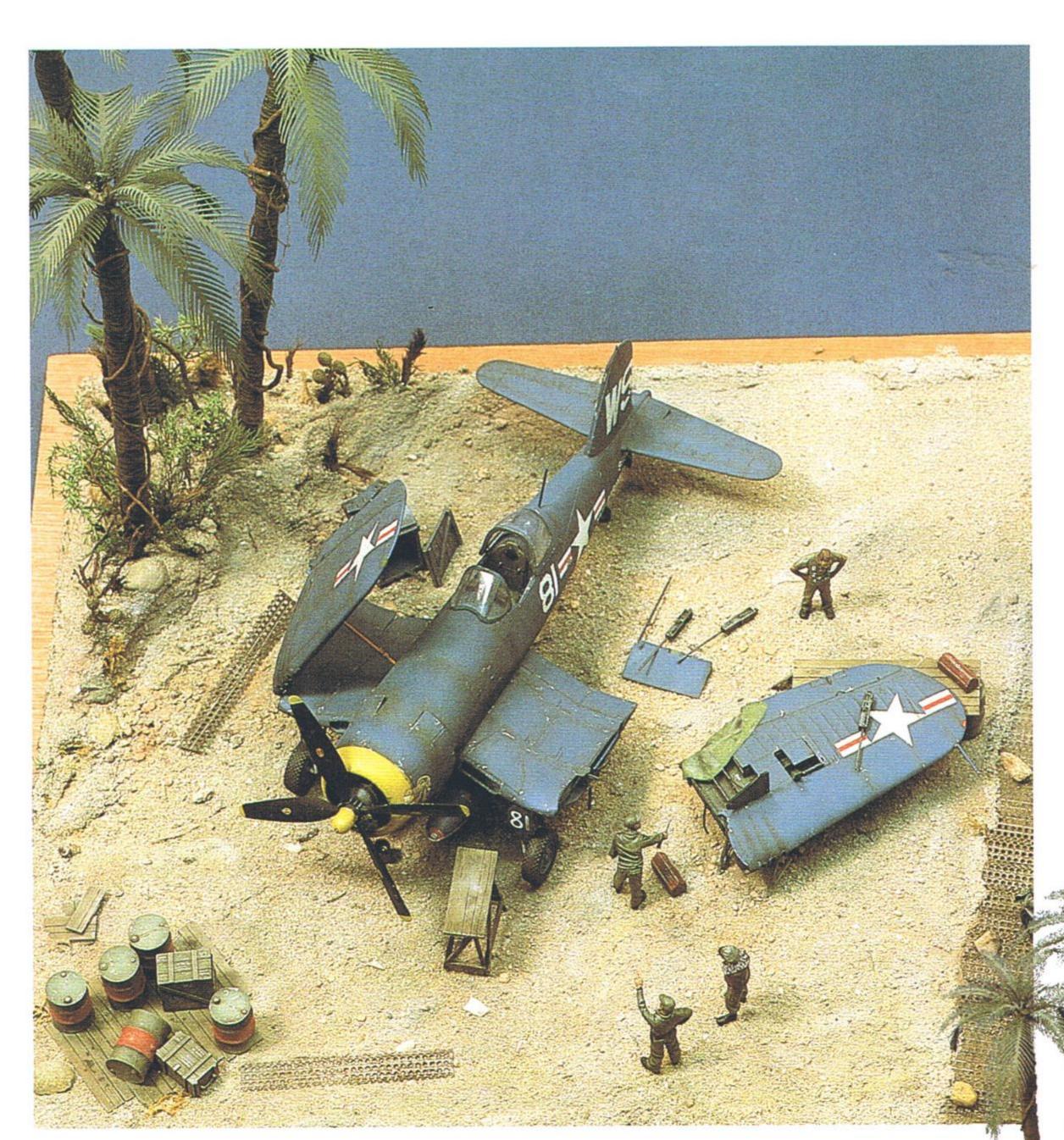


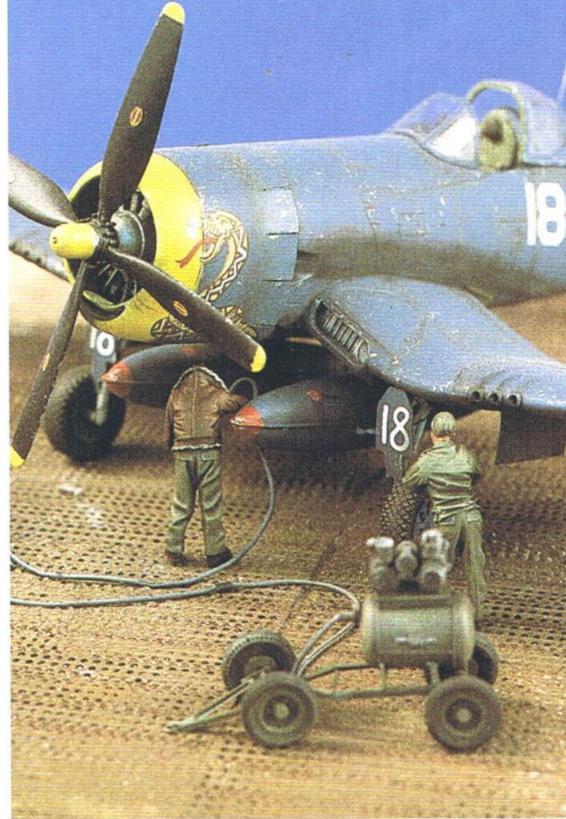












To simulate prolonged exposure to sunlight the exterior was given a base coat of Testors FS35044 Insignia Blue (instead of brand new Glossy Sea Blue). After highlighting with the same color plus FS16440 (Gloss Gull Gray) a thin coat of gloss varnish was applied to receive the decals (applied with a setting agent). Semi-matt varnish finished the painting stage. After drying (at least 48 hours), a Raw Umber artists oil wash was executed (not as heavy as with military vehicles). Chipped paint was achieved with a Raw Umber and silver mix, carefully applied. Oil stains with Raw Umber, kerosine spills with Burnt Sienna. Oh, FS33538 (Insignia Yellow) was used for the yellow parts. The

The folded wing interior received the same blue base color, a wash with Raw Umber, a drybrush run with FS35044 plus white and MC21(French Artillery Green). Chipping with MC21 and metal mix.

engine was pasteled with black and gray.

THE DIORAMA

To finish the diorama I was given numerous sheets of 1/48 PSP plating (VP release 884) which I used to support the airworthy Corsair. Fitting them together was not an easy task, but at least they did not need any paint or drybrush because they come with a realistic rusty metal appearance. A bit expensive but it looks fabulous.

The beautiful little Willy's jeep is from VP (N°522) but the compressor and refueling unit are scratchbuilt (a future VP release?). They were painted Humbrol HB15 (Green), drybrushed with MC21 plus Khaki Drill, washed with Raw Umber and highlighted with the base color. Figures, barrels and crates are also all VP, as are the palm trees.

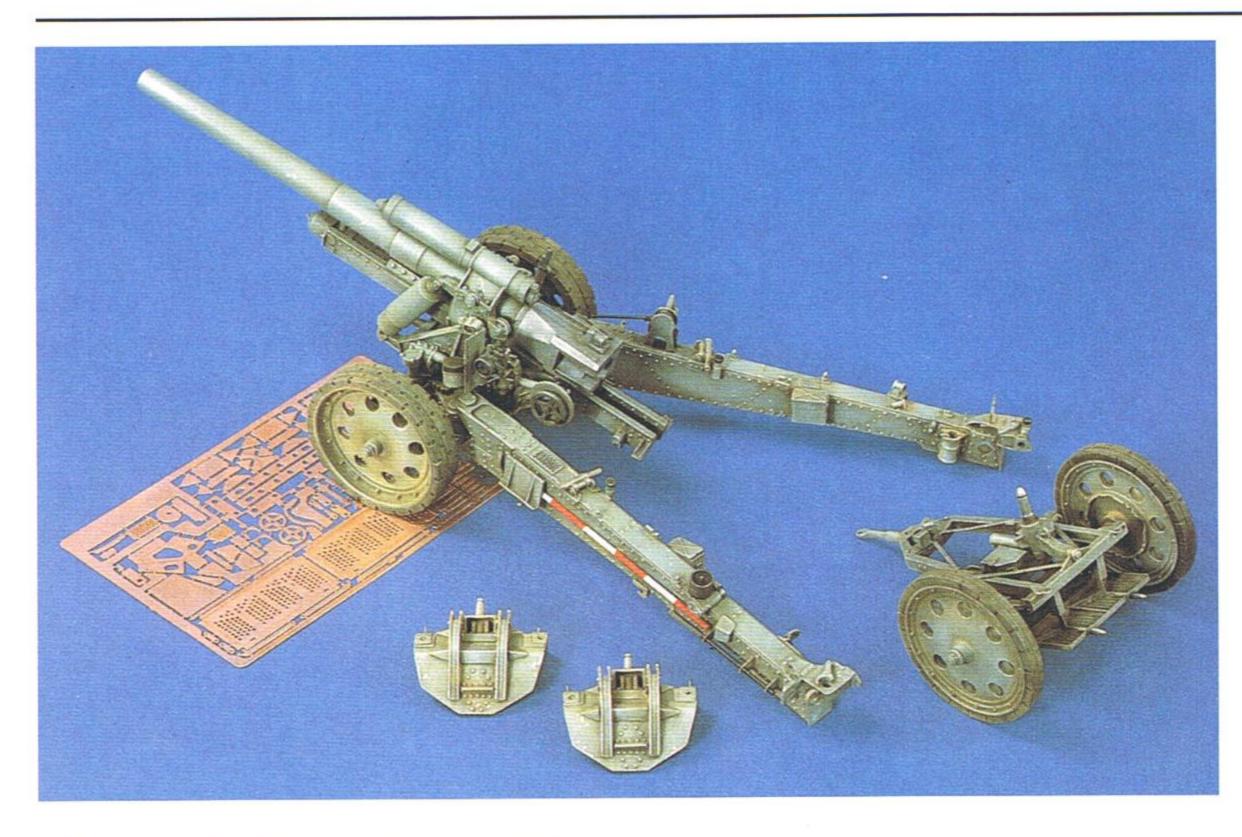


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SPECIAL UPDATE EDITION

May, 1994



15cm s.F.H. 18 Howitzer 1/35th

Probably the most famous WW II German artillery piece was the 150mm Schwere Feldhaubitze s.F.H. 18. Now available for military modelers in 1/35th scale with photoetched and resin parts. Included are plastic rods and copper wire. May be built in firing position or, using the included limber, in the towed position. The towing vehicle for this weapon was typically the 8 ton Sd. Kfz. 7. (Tamiya kit No.35148). Used by the German Army throughout the war on all fronts, from the North African desert to the Russian Steppes. (item No.887) March '94 release.



German Trench Raider WW I 120mm

Continuing the 120mm WW I collection, VP releases this impressive German trench raider.

Posed preparing for an attack, fixing his bayonet to the rifle. Protected against gas and fully loaded with 10 stick grenades. Complete with base and the everpresent trench rat. (item No.891) March '94 release.



P-38J Lightning Update Set 1/48th

Complementing Hasegawa's recent release, comes with highly detailed Allison V-1710 engine and brassetched hatches. New resin cockpit tub and seat (with brass-etched seat belts). A combination of the same materials allows the gun compartment to be constructed. Finally, as is customary, accurate brass cockpit framing is included. (item No.892) March '94 release.



German Infantry Overcoats 1/35th

Another addition to the 1/35th figure line is this set of 2 German soldiers dressed for cold weather. They can be used for the Russian front, Battle of the Bulge or any other winter period. (item No.893) February '94 release.



Assyrian Archer 650 B.C. 120mm

The first 120mm figure of an ancient Assyrian infantry archer 650 B.C. Action posed complete with arrow case and sword. Can be painted with various color combinations.

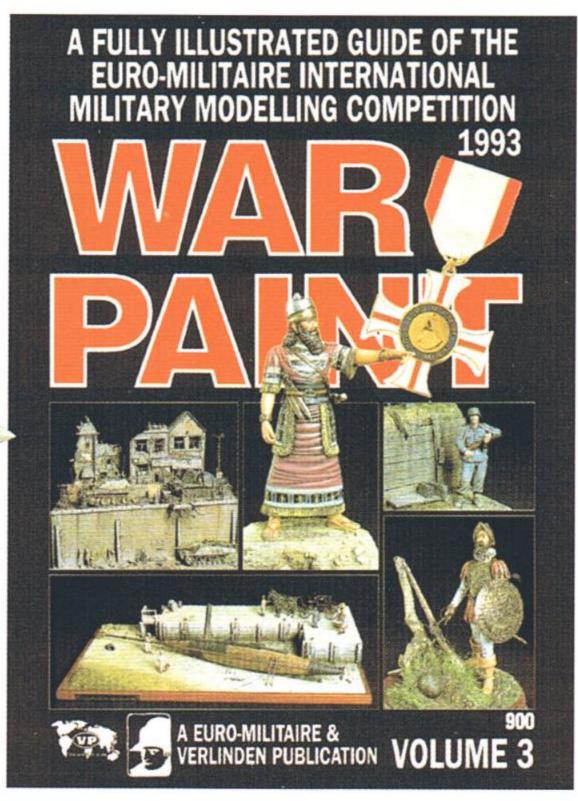
Recommended reference Osprey Elite No. 39. Base included.

(item No.895) March '94 release.



Nurses WW II 1/35th

This set of two German military nurses WW II can add an unusual and colorful touch to any WW II diorama or vignette. (item No.894) March '94 release.



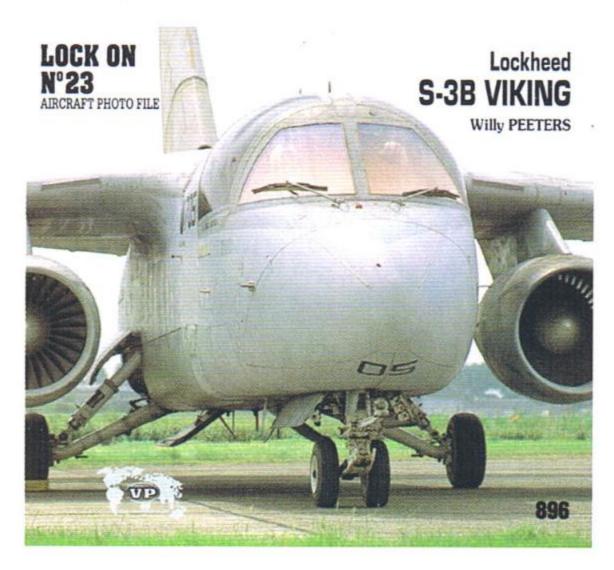
Warpaint Volume III

The third in the series of **books** covering the annual **Euromilitaire** competition. A selection of the best of the entries at the 1993 show.

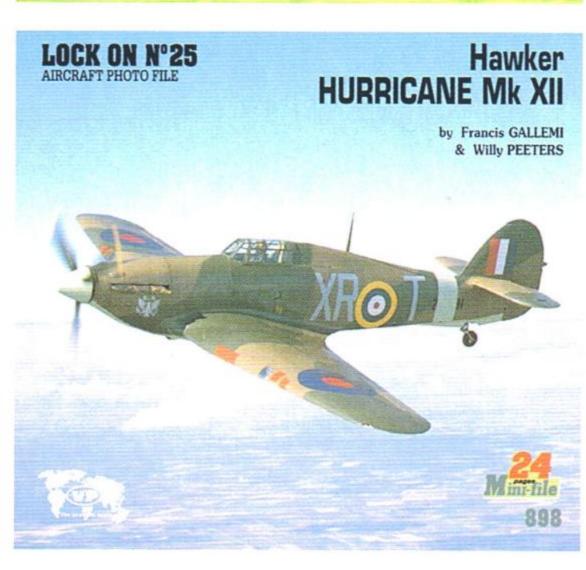
As with the previous Warpaint books, this is large format with full color photographs to stimulate your imagination and to help improve your painting skills, or, simply to enjoy. (item No.900) Scheduled for April '94 release.

Soviet Officers WWII 1/35th

A male and a female Soviet officer WW II in 1/35th are included in this figure set. For use with all WW II Eastern front dioramas and vignettes. (item No.905) January '94 release.







Three new releases in the popular full color LOCK ON Series. Never before have these aircraft been shown in such detail. Every hatch and cockpit was opened to reveal their secrets. (Items 896,897 and 898, March '94 release).





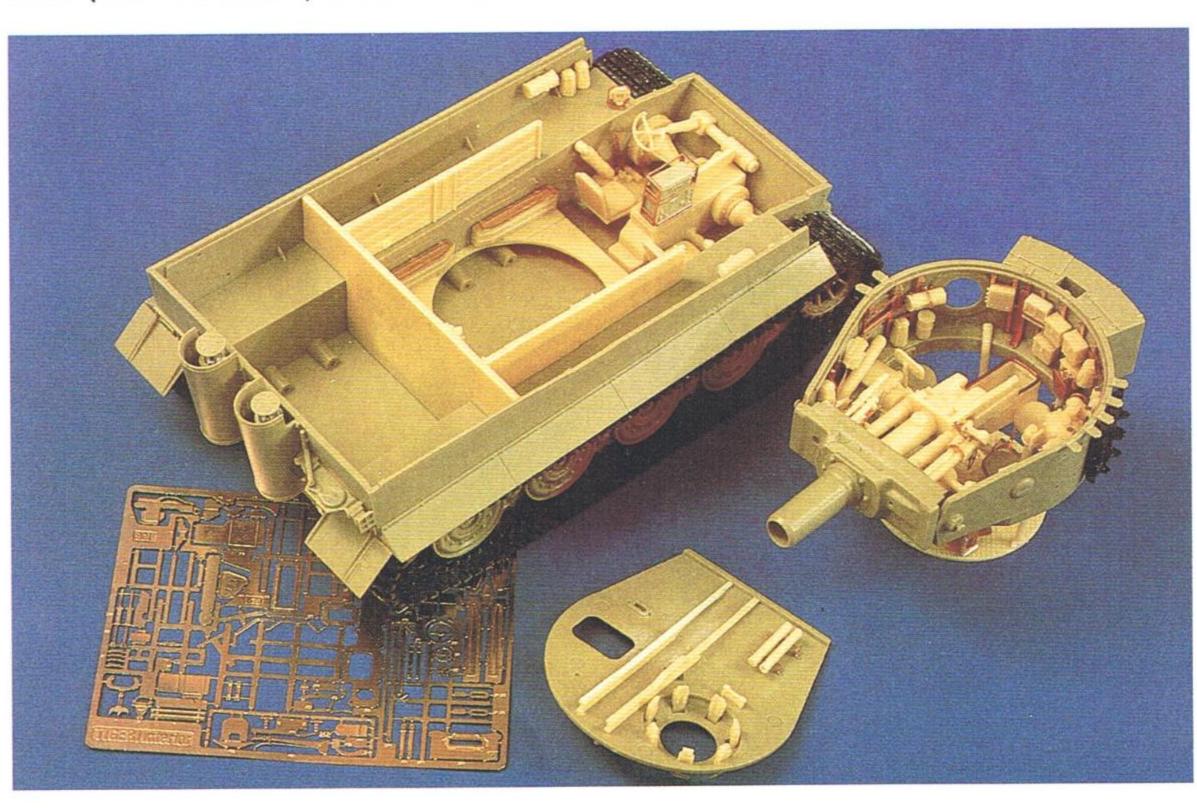
Kitchen Furniture 1/35th

This new release contains everything you need to completely furnish a full kitchen, 1930 to 1950 vintage. Table, chairs, stove, sink, plus a large selection of kitchen utensils, pots, pans, plates, tea and coffee pots and even a fruitbowl with fruit. (item No.888) March '94 release.



15cm Ammo 1/35th

To compliment the Feldhaubitze, a complete set of 15cm Ammunition containing cases, shells, metal and bagged charges. This ammunition can also be used with the Hummel Self propelled gun. (item No.899) March '94 release.



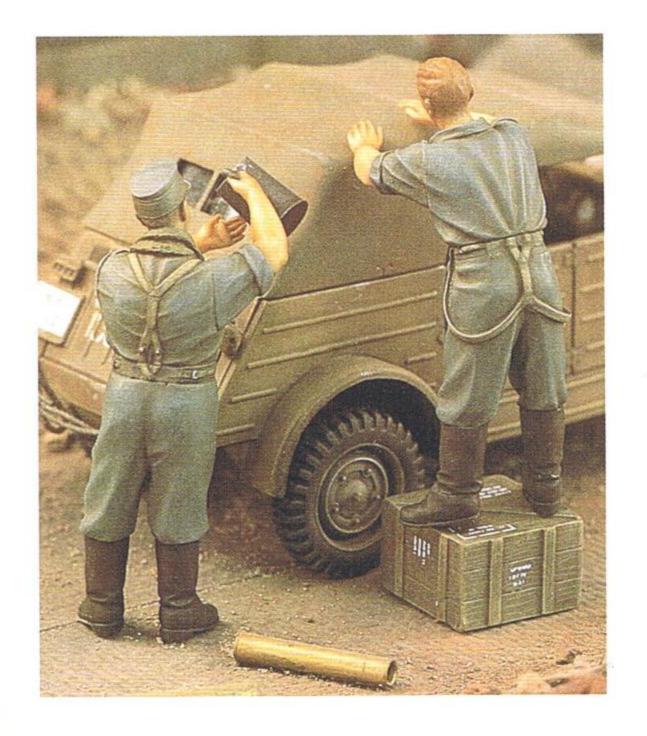
Tiger IE Interior Kit 1/35th

Armor modelers will be delighted by the release of this highly detailed interior kit. Contains everything you need to add a complete interior to the Tamiya Tiger IE. Resin and photoetched parts (item No.901) February '94 release.



Upright & Grand Pianos 1/35th

2 complete pianos, 1 upright and 1 Grand for use in 1/35th house interior dioramas and shadowboxes or as an eyecatcher amid the debris of a bombed out building. (item No. 903) April 94 release.



German Troops Cleaning 1/35th

Two very versatile additions to the ever growing range of VP 1/35th figures are these casually dressed Germans performing maintenance and/or cleaning jobs on vehicles and equipment. Can be used for oil or water refilling. Many other possibilities. A set that can be used over and over again. (item No.907) April '94 release.

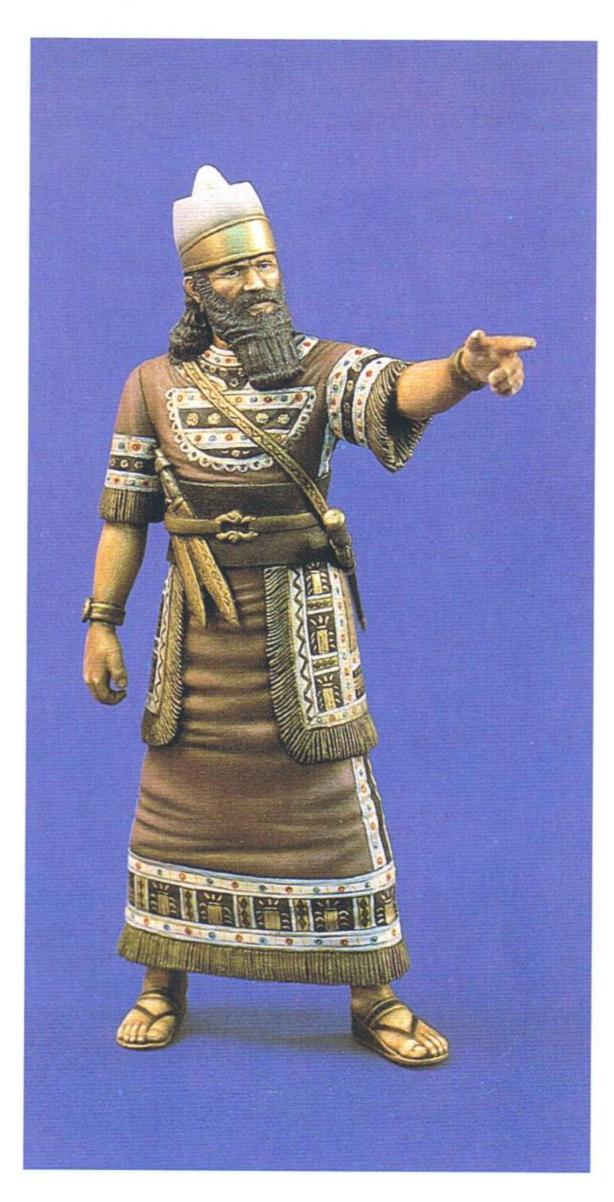
Look out for the next issue of VERLINDEN
PRODUCTIONS
Modeling Magazine
Scheduled for August '94



Roman Cavalry (Hippica Gymnasia) 3rd Century A.D. 120mm A highly unusual but very attractive and colorful figure is this Roman Cavalry Sports figure. A great action pose. Cavalry sports exhibitions were performed by the highest skilled members of the Roman Cavalry. (item No.902) April'94 release.

Assyrian King 9th Century 120mm This sytromoly colorful reproduction of

This extremely colorful reproduction of an Assyrian King, 9th Century B.C. cannot be missed by historical figure collectors. (item No.908) April '94 release.





Panzerkampfwagen IV Engine 1/35th

This highly detailed model of the Maybach HL 120 TRM, can be used in both the Tamiya and Italeri Panzer IV kits to give an extra dimension to that "special" model. This versatile model can also be used to enhance dioramas or just by itself as a "little gem" (item No.910), scheduled for April '94 release.



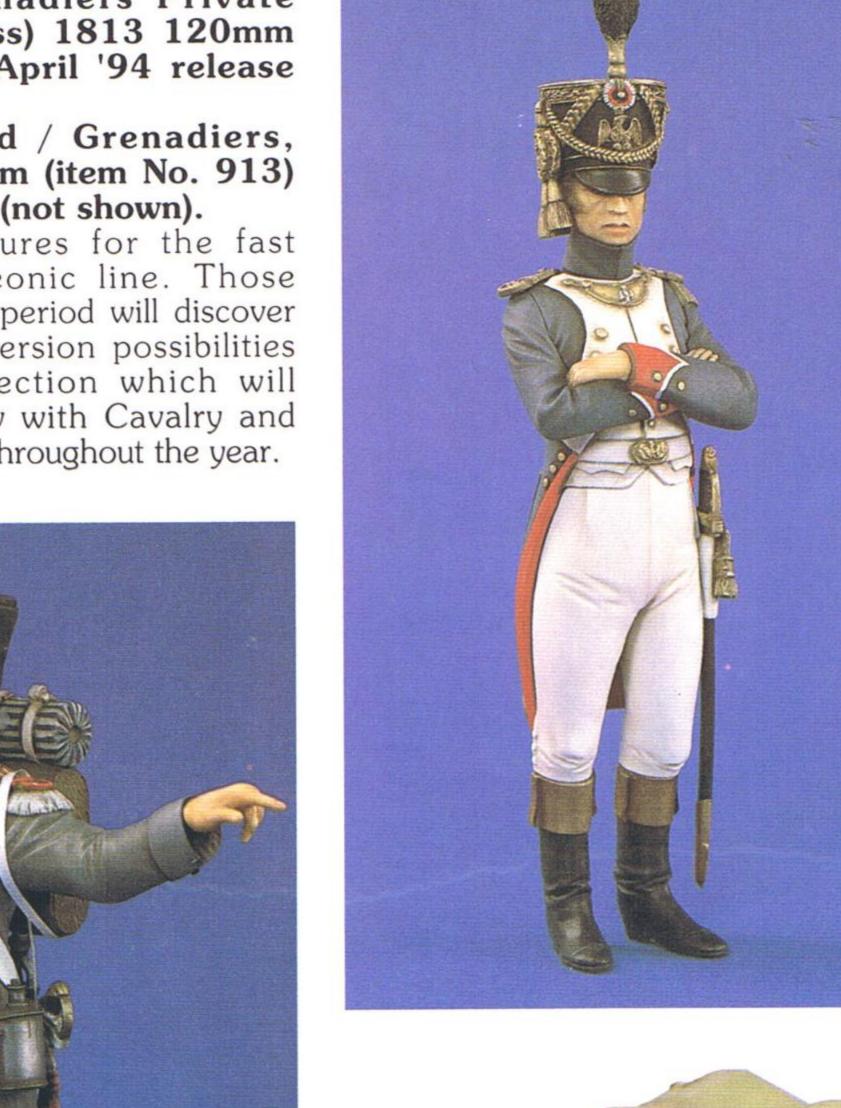
U.S. .30 Cal. Air cooled machine gun 120mm
Another useful accessory for 120mm figures, vignettes or dioramas, the well known U.S. .30 cal. air cooled machine gun. On tripod with ammo case included. (item No.906) scheduled for April '94 release.

Fuseliers/Chasseurs Officer 1810 120mm (Item No.890) March '94 release (shown at right).

Fuseliers/Grenadiers Private (Campaign Dress) 1813 120mm (item No.904) April '94 release (below).

Imperial Guard / Grenadiers, Drummer 120mm (item No. 913) May '94 release (not shown).

Three more figures for the fast growing Napoleonic line. Those familiar with this period will discover the endless conversion possibilities within this collection which will continue to grow with Cavalry and mounted subjects throughout the year.





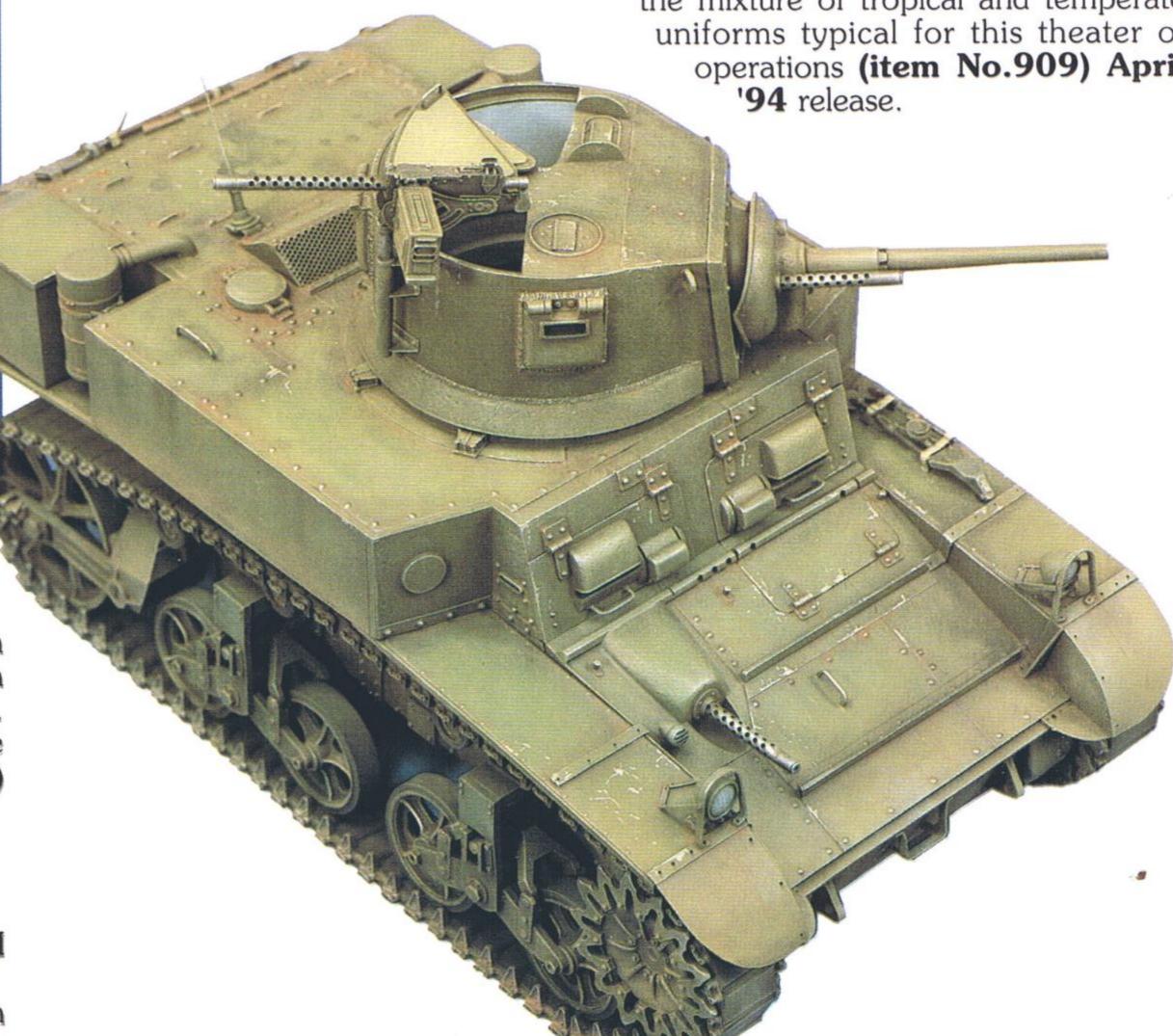
SS Officer Italy 1944 120mm

What makes this SS Officer unique is the mixture of tropical and temperate uniforms typical for this theater of operations (item No.909) April



German Stug. Crewman WW II 120mm

This German Sturmgeschutz crewman wears a combination of the field grey assault gun uniform and camouflaged trousers. He is also equipped with the limited issue leather cap with radio equipment. For WW II 120mm figure collectors or to use with VP's Sturmgeschutz III. (item No.914) May '94 release (not shown).



M 1025 Weapons Carrier Superdetail Set 1/35th

Also on the horizon are a complete Hummer weapons carrier Superdetail set, (for the Academy/Minicraft kit), containing a .50 Cal., 40mm grenade launchers, ammo cases for both weapons, complete radio equipment, new doors, new seats and rear cab door. (item No.915) May 94 release (not shown).



