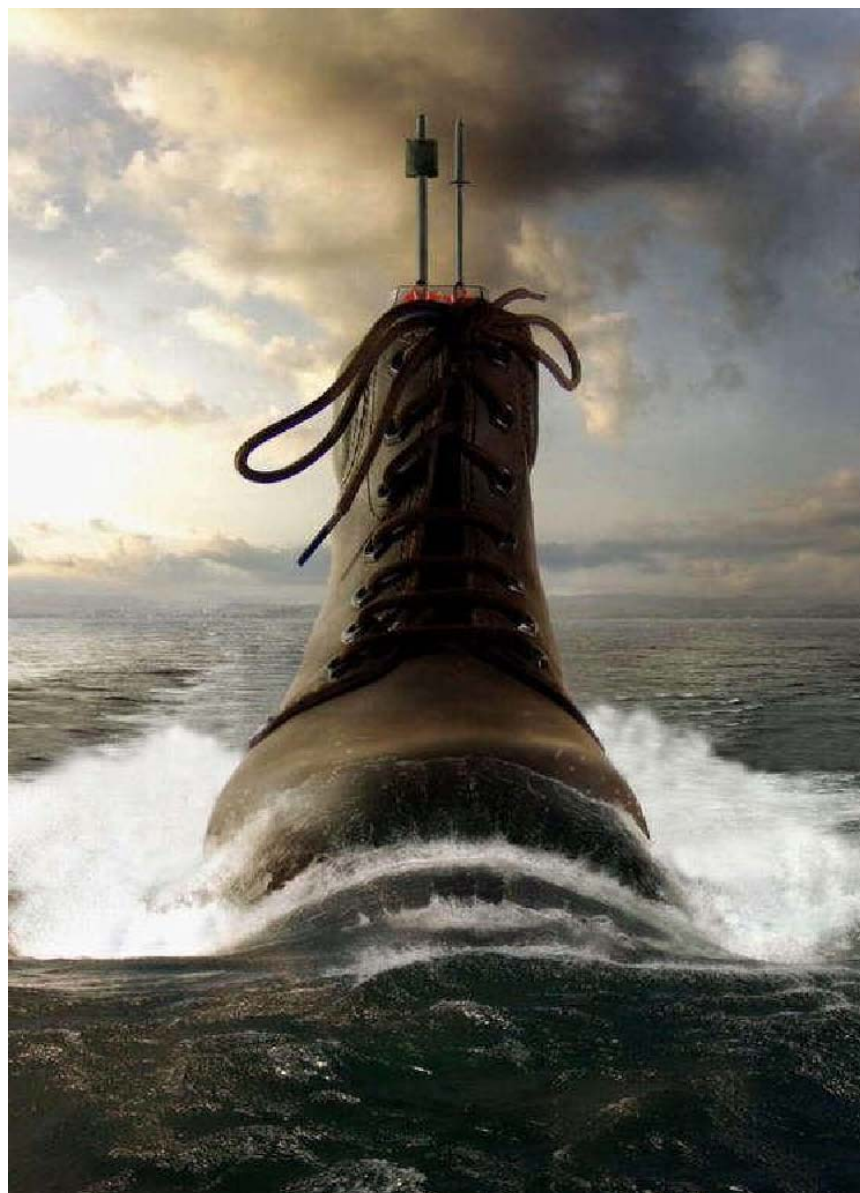




"STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine.



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Das Boot!

Peters Prattling

Next month – April 2006

Will be the “Modeller of the Year” competition for this season. This will work with the following guidelines/rules: -

- Any model entered in to the 2005/06 club competitions is eligible for entry.
- Each modeller is permitted to enter 1 model per competition class, i.e. 1 aircraft 1/72nd or smaller, plus 1 aircraft over 1/72nd, plus 1 military vehicle and 1 miscellaneous.
- The guest judges will simply choose 1 model from all those presented to be the modeller of the year.

Southern Expo 2006

As I write this we have a week to go until Southern Expo kicks off for this year. It seems that there is the usual expectation/excitement amongst the clubs about the show being held, in fact Milton Keynes have booked a coach for the trip on the Sunday. Here's hoping that next year when Robin and I take over the organisation the show will continue to be as well received and organised as previous shows, Wally has given us a high standard to aim for.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May

Just to remind you that the Annual General Meeting is coming up in a couple of months time at the May meeting. This is your chance to stand for election to one of the positions within the club if you're unhappy with those useless so and so's running the club, this will be your chance to do something about it. If you have anything else that you would like to add to the agenda for the AGM please feel free to send it on to me or Danny by the end of the April meeting.

Forthcoming Shows in 2006

Shows with **highlight** have been booked for us to attend.

1 st & 2 nd April (Saturday & Sunday)	Model-Ex 2006. Windmill Primary School, Windmill Lane, Raunds, Northamptonshire. 10am-5pm Saturday, 10am-4pm Sunday
29th April (Saturday)	Poole Vikings Model Club (IPMS Dorset). Parkstone Grammar School, Sopers Lane, Poole, Dorset. BH17 7EP. 10.30 am to 4.00 pm
29th & 30th April (Saturday and Sunday)	Scottish National Scale Model Show. The Dewers Centre, Glover Street, Perth. 10.00am to 5.00pm. Willie Wood 01259 722428 secretary@scotsnats.org.uk
20 th May (Saturday)	Southdowns show at Lancing, West Sussex – I've requested space for this show.
27th & 28th May (Saturday and Sunday)	Welsh National Model Show. Held at the Meas Artro Heritage Museum, Llanbedr, Gwynedd, LL45 2PZ. Contact Malcolm Green for details on 01341 241467
3 rd June (Saturday)	IPMS UK Salisbury Model Show. Wyvern College, Church Road, Laverstock, Salisbury SP1 1RE. 10 am to 4 pm
10 June (Saturday)	East Neuk Modelling Club Model Show and Swapmeet at the YW/YMCA Club, Bonnygate, Cupar. Doors open 10 am to 4 pm.
1st July (Saturday)	East of Scotland Model Show (IPMS Dundee). Marryat Hall, Caird Hall Complex, Dundee City Centre, from 10.00am 'till 4.00pm.
20 th August (Sunday)	IPMS Avon. Yate Leisure Centre.
3 rd September (Sunday)	IPMS Brampton. Priory Centre, Priory Lane, ST. NEOTS PE19 2BH
10 th September (Sunday)	Sutton Coldfield Model Makers Society Model Spectacular 2006. Sutton Coldfield Town Hall, West Midlands. 10.00 am. to 4.30 pm
17 th September (Sunday)	Wings and Things. Held at the Spalding Grammar School in aid of Lincs/Notts Air Ambulance
18 th & 19 th November (Saturday and Sunday)	Scale Modelworld – IPMS Nationals. The club IPMS branch return has been sent in to the Branch Liaison Officer so in theory we should have space booked for the show.

Toy Soldier, Wargame & Military Modelling Show

On the next page is an advert for the above show. If anyone from the club is interested in displaying at the show please let me know and I'll try and arrange a space for us.

That's all for now, so happy modelling.

Peter

SRP Toyfairs Ltd and Harfields Military Figures Present: -

TOY SOLDIER, WARGAME & MILITARY MODELLING SHOW

Sunday 9th April 2006

At Leigh City Technical College, Dartford, Kent

Dear Hobby Club Member

We are pleased to invite you and your club members to the forthcoming 'Toy Soldier, Wargame & Military Modelling Show' to be held on Sunday 9th April 2006 at Leigh City Technical College, Dartford, Kent.

For a printable show leaflet giving full details and a location map please follow this link:
<http://www.harfields.com/Show.html>

We would be most grateful for a mention of the show in your club journal, news sheet or website, please tell your members about the show at your next meeting. In return we would like to offer you 2 free show tickets, which allow early entry from 9 am. (Worth £12!) To claim your tickets simply email us your postal address or send a stamped addressed envelope to the address below.

Now in its fifth year the show continues to grow and has quickly established itself as the most unique, exciting and friendly hobby event in the country! The show will feature:

80+ trade stands. Including top UK traders selling products spanning all aspects of the Toy Soldier, Model Figure, Wargame and Military Modelling hobbies! : -

Toy Soldiers/Figures: All scales; Plastic, Metal, Kit, Military, Civilian, Action Man, etc.

Wargame: All types & scales of Figures, Military Vehicles, Terrain, Scale Buildings, etc.

Military Modelling: All types of kit; Plastic, Resin, Metal, etc

Other Items: Die Cast, Dioramas, Scenic Accessories, Model Paints, Books, Magazines, etc.

Demonstration / Participation Wargames by the: Old Guard, Herne Bay & Whitstable and Braintree Wargame Clubs plus others to be confirmed.

Other attractions: Remote control tank display by the UK Tank Club. Plus the American Civil War Re Enactors. The Southern Skirmish Association will also be present dressed in authentic Union and Confederate Uniforms.

Leaflet table - advertise your club or event free of charge!

Easy access from M25. See show leaflet for details.

Large free car park!

Cafeteria - serving beverages and snacks at reasonable prices.

Admission prices: - Adults £3.00, Seniors £2, Accompanied Children free. Early entry tickets will be available from 9.00 am priced £6.

We are always looking for Wargame Clubs, Military Modelling Clubs and Re Enactment Societies to put on a display and promote their hobby; a number of free tables are made available, please contact us if you are interested?

The show is being widely publicized in all leading hobby magazines, local newspapers and by direct contact with over 60 hobby clubs so a record attendance is expected! Journalists regularly attend the show from leading hobby magazines and the local press.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any additional information, show leaflets or a copy of the show press release.

Look forward to seeing you at the show!

With thanks

Andy Harfield - Harfields Military Figures

Tel/Fax: 01959 576269

Email: harfields@btinternet.com - Website: www.harfields.com

Wrighty's References

The Crazy Frog

No it is nothing to do with Axel F's infuriating mobile ring tone, I refer to Frogs kit of the Blackburn Skua, which must be the worst kit they ever produced, even way back in the 60's.

Inspired by the recent "Frog Spawn" competition when I made a Lysander, in the back of the cupboard was a kit by Revell I had put to one side on finding it was the old Frog moulding. I thought it's the same period let's see what I can do with it, as I make the Lysander. Also I had acquired the Magna Models replacement resin wings and tailplanes, plus a canopy replacement and had some spare wheels and undercarriage in resin left over from a Polish vacform of a Blackburn Roc, which I converted to a floatplane version.

When I made the original Skua, 30 years ago, references were very limited but even with current ones the difficulties seemed an exceedingly big problem.

I started using the existing fuselage; this had two inaccurate seats, no instrument panel, a floor and 2 crew figures. The bulkheads behind the pilot and in front of the gunner were inserted; between these 2 bulkheads were 2 fuel tanks side by side. Then the bulkhead behind the gunner was made and fitted with a radio transmitter and receiver. Card and scrap was used for this. The pilots' cockpit needed an instrument panel in 3 parts, plus sidewalls and sheet boxes; seatbelts were made from tape. The "Lewis" gun in the kit was nothing like it should be, so a new one was made from scraps, complete with the correct style mounting, in the rear cockpit a drop down chart table, first aid box and spare ammo drums were made up and fitted.

Now the 500lb bomb was on a swing arm release similar to the Ju-87 Stuka, but to my horror it was housed in a half round recess beneath the fuselage. Frog of course had totally ignored this. After several days thinking I felt that a small cockpit cover fitted upside down in the bottom plating of the fuselage might replicate the recess, finally I located one in the spares box, cut away a hole in the bottom plating and set the cover into this to form the recess and also filling the edges with putty. The swinging arm arrangement needed making up from sprue. The bomb was adapted from one in the spares box. Catapult spools and arrestor hook were also made up and fitted.

Now the resin wings left much to be desired, they needed cutting to remove the moulding pieces (no easy task!) as it was along the wing fold lines. The fit to the fuselage wing shoulders was not good but with the aid of plastic card shims and filler a reasonable joint was achieved. Due to the fragile nature of the resin, I added the cannon tips (4) to each wing, also cut out and glazed the navigation and landing lights, added formation lights to the wing tips and thinned down the trailing edges.

The wheel wells, like the wing, left much to be desired, but as little could be done to improve them I decided to leave them as they were not really visible on the underside and my replacement undercarriage parts would help disguise the fact that they were undersized and not deep enough. The resin undercarriage legs and kit wheel covers were now fitted, for this the well needed drilling to take the legs (actually trying to even up the legs I snapped one of and it would not stick back). I had to stick the cover and jacking arm to it and superglue the whole assembly to the wing leaving overnight held with blu-tack, when the wheels were added. The difficulty locating the wings and this repair left the starboard wing about 1/8" down on the port one, there wasn't much that could be done about this. Maybe a wheel chock could be fitted on the starboard side a 1/16" thicker to slightly lift and disguise this fault when on the base.

The kit engine and cowling are very poor; I found a 9 cylinder engine in the spares box that was better detailed and similar to the Perseus. Minor adjustments made it fit the kit cowling, which unfortunately had the cowl flaps moulded in a semi open position forming an unsightly ridge where it joined the fuselage. It cannot be thinned down as it would then not fit, again a disguise was used at the decal stage, I enhanced each flap division with a thin black decal strip and painted the ridge in an extra dark grey shade to give the impression of the flaps open and fading into the cowling interior when viewing from astern. (A position only a few would observe from!). The kit propeller and engine cowling bars (stretched sprue) were added and the engine was glued into place. The cockpit covers replacement unit was unsatisfactory to have in an open position, there after much struggle and test fitting the home made one on the model does show the interior work quite well. The framing was done with painted decal strips and Micro Clear glue used to secure it together and into position.

Now at the painting stage more unexpected problems came up, the kit plan offered 2 options, a land based training aircraft (Dark Green/Dark Earth/Sky) or an aircraft from 806 Squadron in June 1940 when on HMS Illustrious (Dark Slate Grey/Extra Dark Sea Grey/Light Sea Grey). The plan reverses the colours i.e. the land based plane is Slate

Grey and Extra Dark Sea Grey, surely this was not right? After reading an Ian Huntley article I was still confused as some aircraft brought ashore were repainted in the land based scheme, but references including this very aircraft were located, that made it clear this one the Illustrious machine I wanted to do was Extra Dark Sea Grey and Slate Grey. References only had the side view and I wanted the pattern for the wings. The kit plan was all I had, it did not look right. I had black and white photos of the training Skua and was able to determine they had somehow switched the wing pattern on this plane to the Illustrious machine and vice versa. Finding near matching to the FS numbers quoted in the Fleet Air Arm article I used Humbrol 127 Light Grey, 31 Slate Grey and 32 Extra Dark Sea Grey, thus finally completing this most difficult model.

I have read somewhere that a 1/48th kit of the Skua is being issued this year (2006), let's hope that they try a bit harder to get it right, I shan't be buying it. Still after 30 years the old inaccurate Frog can go and the Fleet Air Arm shelf is now complete again.

Alan

Painting Winter Uniforms



I was asked to write an article on how I paint winter white uniforms. As a modeller who has been to lots of shows and seen lots of figures I sometimes think to myself that there are others who do much better work than I do that might be better at this task. But as some of you have stated you really like my work I will try my best to explain how I paint winter uniforms and hope others with different styles will add their ideas also. Here we go:

I believe that the only way to paint a good figure is to start with a good figure. Now some might say what difference does the figure make and I can only say that in my opinion a good figure makes painting easier while a poor fig makes it tough. But I have seen some bad figs that were painted really well and changed the figure completely. There are lots of good figure companies out there and lots of guys in the winter uniforms so pick your fig and let's start:



Once the fig is built it's time to paint. I think white is one of the hardest colours to make right. I start from a dark colour and work to light. A must to remember is to use warm colours. I base coat the figure with a Pz. Grey colour Polly Scale works well this is a nice warm grey colour. After the grey dries I take an off white I use Polly S battleship Grey which is a white grey colour.



Dry brushing lightly up and down always dry brush up and down not side to side. A word about dry brushing figures some judges hate this style of painting so if you're worried about this you might use oils. Go lightly with the white grey so that the darker grey shows through in the wrinkles and folds. Now I take a buff colour and dry brush even lighter in the folds and wrinkles still leaving a little grey showing thru. This buff colour simulates sweat and dirt. You can use a slightly darker colour like sand. Once the figure has dried a while I take white sometimes Polly Scale sometimes Oils and hit the high points on the uniform. Be careful here as you can over do it. Just highlight it a little. Once done I paint the belts and equipment. When this is done I mix a thin wash of very light grey and put very thin line wash along all the equipment to act as a shadow.



Now depending on where your figure is you can add mud and dirt to the knees or elbows of your figure giving him that in the field look. That's my method although it's not the only one. I hope this helps. Oils can be done pretty much the same but with different methods of blending. I have also used Vallejo and these work but under different drying time and more a thin layering effect instead of dry brushing. Well that's it. Good luck add your own ideas and have fun. Oh one last point for those who say I can't do figs, please give them a try trust me I didn't think I could do figs but once you start they really become addictive you'll add them to all your armour and soft skins.

An article taken from the internet.

Norfolk Nerd

A few weeks ago out for an afternoons drive near Norwich airport we decided to come off the main rd and take some of the smaller side roads. In a small village called Frettenham we came upon a small garden nursery and a shop.

Stopping for a few minutes to have a nose around I spotted a sign that for a museum at the rear of the property. Looking in the small hut was a pleasant surprise. Cutting a long story short it turns out that the owner has a licence to explore aircraft crash sites especially a site close to the village where a Consolidated B24H Liberator "Belle of Boston" crashed during the last war. Well the few minutes stop turned into at least an hour. He calls this hut "the Belle room" because it contains the collection of artefacts that he has found at the site.

Included apart from parts of the aircraft was a name tag from one of the airman and a few personal objects.

So fickle is fate, the owner told us that when the aircraft crash landed the aircraft slid nose first into a tree killing two of the crew. It was later worked out that if they had been two feet to one side the nose would have missed the tree. He has also corresponded with some of the crew's families in America and some have even been over to see him and the site. One of the crew was only 18yrs old. Well worth a visit.

Figure Modelers	
Weirdness scale:	5
Creativity scale:	8
Nerd Scale:	5
Anal Retention Scale:	10
Prima Dona Scale:	10

Everyone, and it doesn't matter WHAT you build, respect figure modelers, and for ONE simple reason...to make a figure look right, you need to replicate the human face in miniature. Think about it, as ugly as you are, there's someone out there who can paint a miniature version of your mug, and make it look like YOU. As simple as that may sound, it's not...in fact, it's probably the most difficult thing to accomplish in scale modeling. Shading, blending, tones, are all things that take time, patience, and practice to perfect. Figure modelers have taken things to a higher level than most of us are aware of. Figure modelers tend to be a bit more stand-offish than other modelers, because most realize they've achieved a level of skill that most of us will not. They also tend to be a bit more...shall we say...detail oriented..."It took me about 340 hours to sew those 54mm scale buttons on this figures tunic..." Uhhh...okay...too many thinner fumes methinks.

Ship Modelers	
Weirdness scale:	1
Creativity scale:	9
Nerd Scale:	3
Anal Retention Scale:	8
Prima Dona Scale:	8

Ship modelers...the modeling of ships has been around far longer than all other types, simply because ships have been around for thousands of years. Ship modelers are looked upon as 'in their own world' by all other modelers, for ship models themselves exude detail and difficulty. Other modelers are intimidated by the amounts of photoetch, rigging, and small parts that go into the average ship kit... Ship modelers rarely brag about their models, simply because it's too much work..." Well (sigh), I started out with the Tamiya USS Missouri...and after I bought the White Ensign and Gold Medal Models PE sets, well, I added about another 2500 aftermarket and scratch built parts to the model. It's taken me about 2 years to build, that includes the scratch built 40mm mounts, all the internal compartments above the main deck level, the operating radar, the flyable aircraft and working catapults, the 1/8 mile of rigging line I added, and the actual USN WW2 paint I added for scale effect. That's about it...no big deal really. Hey, that's a nice P-51 you got there...but what's that smell??" Ship modelers are, to model show judges, what Vikings were to Scottish sheep herders...most of them have no clue what's about to befall them, and most have no clue what they're looking at...good, bad, or ugly. Since the only 'reasonably experienced' ship model judges are probably the ones that have entered the category, ship modelers are left to the mercy of their car, Sci-Fi, Armour, and Aircraft brethren, and the vast majority of them can't tell a bollard from a bit. The response for judges to tackle the ship category is enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey (remember?) and folks reluctantly agree to try to determine the best models in the category.

I guess it's this misconception about ship models that makes ship modelers unique amongst our fellow hobbyists, because I've noticed that very few of us remark to other modelers (especially the 'others') about how easy it actually is.. More of the hard-core aircraft and armour guys are beginning to see the light, and are venturing into ships, jokingly called 'The Dark Side'. And it's nice to see, because they're bringing with them a vast array of techniques and knowledge, for none of us, even the most experienced modeller, can afford to stop learning.

HISTORY RETURNS

Er' indoors whilst doing some researching on the net came across a government site for the department of culture media and sport. Looking through it she came up with this and because it lists 30 sites I will spread it over the next three months so watch this space.

CHOCKS AWAY! DAVID LAMMY SECURES A FUTURE FOR THE AVIATION SITES THAT PROTECTED OUR PAST

Historic airfields linked to the First World War, the Battle of Britain and the dambusters are amongst 255 buildings listed by culture minister David Lammy. The list includes

- One grade 1 listing – the 1938 Uxbridge underground bunker containing the Group Operations Room from where the vital 11 fighter group was commanded during the Battle of Britain.
- Three Grade 1 listings--- the 1910 hangars at Larkhill and the operations blocks at Debden and Duxford, both fighter stations vital to the Battle of Britain.

19 of the 31 sites listed are owned by the MOD.

These listings are the result of a thematic survey of military aviation sites by English Heritage, which consisted of a long process of evaluation and consultation both with the MOD, military historians and the private owners of some of the sites. The survey highlighted the importance of focusing on the protection of airfields, which have a historical importance on an international scale.

The Battle of Britain was one of the defining events of the Second World War, some historians even argue of the 20th Century, and was associated with a limited number of sites----the most famous one is Duxford.

The headquarters at Uxbridge preserved exactly as described by Churchill in his famous account of September 1940, are also among the listings.

1. BICESTER (Oxfordshire)

Bicester was built as a bomber station from 1924. It retains, better than any other aviation site in Britain, the layout and built fabric relating to both the first expansion period of the RAF and subsequent developments up to 1940.

The grass airfield survives with airfield defences, bomb stores, perimeter track and some hardstandings added during the Second World War.

2. BIGGIN HILL (London Borough of Bromley)

Britain's most celebrated of fighter stations. It retains a particularly fine officers mess of 1934 and a good group of technical and domestic buildings (mostly 1930—34).The latter include the best preserved married quarters group associated with a nationally important site. The flying field, with later runways, retains defence posts and fighter pens from 1939.

3. CALSHOT (Hampshire)

Opened in 1913, Calshot is the best – preserved of a chain of contemporary seaplane bases. The surviving group of hangars of 1913—18, now listed grade 1 exemplify the development of military aviation over this period in Britain.

4, CATTERICK (North Yorkshire)

Originating as a home defence station in 1914, Catterick is the best preserved fighter sector station in the north of England. It retains a group of First World War hangars and expansion Period buildings dating from the the 1920s and 1930s. Fighter pens and defences were added around the airfield at the beginning of the Second World War



Oh no I've superglued my fingers to my spigot