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NEWSFLASH

March 2020



International Plastic Modelers' Society/USA Membership Application / Renewal Form

New ☐

Renewal ☐

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Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Chapter Affiliation, if any: _____

Junior (17 years or younger)	\$17.00	_____	Date of Birth: _____
Adult One year	\$30.00	_____	
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Three years	\$86.00	_____	
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Foreign Surface	\$38.00	_____	

Family (1 set of Journals) _____ ← Adult fee + \$5.00 # of cards? _____

Your Signature: _____

If recommended by an IPMS member, please provide his/her:

Name: _____ IPMS #: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Cash ☐ Amount: _____

Check ☐ Check #: _____ Amount: _____

Billing Address, if different than above -

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Applications should be printed and mailed to: IPMS/USA, P.O. Box 1411 Riverview, FL 33568-1411

Hello Swamp Foxes, Welcome to the March 2020 Newsletter.

Hopefully many of you have had some good bench time over the last month, It was good to see the models and works in progress at the February meeting, I look forward to seeing some more of your work at the March meeting Wednesday 18th March, 18.00 – 20.00 at Lexington Main Library.

February's meeting was opened by the President and all the points were covered, The Club paying for IPMS Membership for club members was further discussed and was unanimously voted in favor of, I will bring forms to the March meeting for those members needing them. After any other business we went on to the Show and Tell of members models.

From the Front Office...

Howdy, all. Here's what's going on...

1. Dues. Dues are still being collected—if you have not paid, please do so. Remember, to qualify for the IPMS/USA membership you need to have paid your dues for the year and attend at least one meeting.
2. IPMS Membership. If you have paid your dues, please fill out the Membership form that John includes in each newsletter. For those who cannot download, we will have blank membership applications at the meeting. We will then send the whole batch to IPMS/USA's Office Manager.
3. June Show: This month, we will have a short session on scoring and skill levels.
4. Models. Bring your models in for Show and Tell—even Works-In-Progress (WIP) are welcome. We want to see what you're working on!
5. Upcoming Events: These are next up on the horizon:
 - IPMS/ Atlanta Scale Modelers hosts AtlantaCon 2020 on 21 March at the IAM Local 709 Hall, 1032 S. Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA, 30060. Information can be found here: <https://www.ipms-atlanta.org/annual-contest> (Postponed/Cancelled) Watch this Space.
 - The Fire Support RIPCORDER diorama will be officially unveiled on 28 March at the South Carolina Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum, 301 Gervais Street. A flyer is included in this newsletter.
6. Area Clubs: Don't forget the other modeling organizations in the area:
 - a. SCMA, First Monday of the month, 7PM, Genova Karate, 169-B Hwy 378 West, Lexington.
 - b. AMPS Central South Carolina, 6:00 PM, Second Wednesday of the month, Richland Library, 763 Fashion Drive, Columbia.



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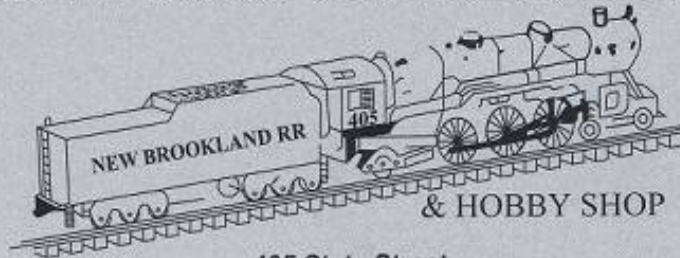


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SUPPORT THE LOCAL HOBBY STORES

BLYTH COASTAL BATTERY



TO BLYTH TOWN CENTRE

SEARCHLIGHT ENPLACEMENTS

ENGINE HOUSE

TO THE A193

BEACH

AMENITY BUILDING

PLAZA

CAFE

PICNIC AREA

PROMENADE

CAR PARK

BATTERY OBSERVATION POSTS

PORT HOUSE

GUN ENPLACEMENTS


SHELTER

VISITOR INFO POINT

MAGAZINE YOU ARE HERE

BLYTH BATTERY

DEFENDING OUR PORT



March 1943. A 6-inch gun being mounted at Blyth Battery of the Devonport Dockyard. The gun is being moved by a crane. The photograph is credited to the Royal Naval School of Artillery.

OPEN SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS
11.30am to 4.00pm
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At the start of the twentieth century, the port of Blyth and its submarine base were strategic military targets on the north east coast, at risk of enemy attack.

Blyth Battery was built and armed with twin 6-inch guns to protect this vital location, defending it against coastal bombardment and beach invasion. Not only did the Battery serve solidly in two World Wars, its buildings also found a new, fun lease of life during peacetime, helping holiday-makers and day-trippers enjoy the seaside landscape of the Links. This allowed the site to stay so intact whilst other north east batteries were demolished or altered.

Today, Blyth Battery has been strikingly restored with over half a million pounds of conservation funding, and is run by the Blyth Battery Volunteers. Blyth Battery is now a Scheduled Monument and is protected from harm, a fitting tribute for a site which courageously defended the port and its submarine base during their hour of need.

www.blythbattery.org.uk
or telephone 07881 462284

Northumberland
Northumberland County Council

LOTTERY FUNDED

ENGLISH HERITAGE

NORTH EAST ENGLAND COAST GUARD

The use of fixed artillery to protect the coast from hostile ships is one of the oldest practices in the history of England's defences. From the fifteenth until the second half of the twentieth century, coast artillery provided home security as well as protecting communications and trade networks across the British Empire.

The term Battery refers to any place where artillery is positioned to allow the guns to cover a particular area, such as a line of communication or the approaches to a vulnerable location. During this time batteries of fixed guns formed the first line of defence for the navy's anchorages and the larger commercial ports.

Apart from a brief period early in World War II, when improvised batteries formed a continuous cordon around the coast, England's modern stock of coast artillery sites was dominated by positions originating before 1900. Coast artillery was finally stood-down in 1956.

Defended Port Batteries were one of four classes of twentieth century batteries which can be identified - the other three are Anti-Motor Torpedo Boat Batteries (AMTB), Emergency Coastal Batteries (ECB), and Temporary and Mobile Artillery (TMA).

As might be suggested by their name, Defended Port Batteries were established around major British commercial ports from the beginning of the 20th century until the abolition of coastal artillery in 1956.

The Tyne was the northernmost permanently defended port in England and the artillery of the area was organised around Blyth, Tynemouth and Sunderland. All coastal batteries where sufficient physical remains survive to illustrate and provide information about the site's original form and function are considered to be of national importance.

The World War I Battery at Blyth is well preserved and retains the full range of features characteristic of this type of coastal battery. As well as evidence for its original layout including the surrounding defensive enclosures, these include the gun emplacements, operational buildings and ancillary buildings. The survival of the associated searchlight emplacements enhances the importance of the monument. This battery has been identified as one of only 28 examples of its type in England which have survived in a complete state. The fact that it was reused during World War II, when some alterations were made and a new Battery Observation post was constructed, adds to the importance of the monument as a whole. Blyth Battery will contribute to our knowledge and understanding of the two World Wars and it stands as a highly visible reminder of the measures taken to protect the coast of England during the 20th century.

Details

The monument includes the above and below ground remains of a World War I and World War II coastal artillery battery, situated among sand dunes in the South Beach area of Blyth. The monument is divided into two separate areas of protection.

The bombardment of Hartlepool in December 1916 by the German High Seas Fleet killing 86 civilians and injuring 424 was a turning point for coastal defence. It prompted the development of a wider coastal defence plan, and construction of a battery at Blyth commenced in August 1916 by the Durham Fortress Engineers RE. The new battery's prime purpose was to prevent enemy landings and engage motor torpedo boats, but by the time of its completion in February 1918 it was also intended to protect the submarine depot ship *Titania* at Blyth.

During World War I, the battery housed two six inch Quick Firing guns and two search lights. The guns were manned by four officers and 75 men of the Tynemouth Royal Garrison Artillery. Officially known as Blyth Battery, the battery was also known as Coulson Battery after the RE Officer responsible for its construction, and also as Link House Battery. The battery buildings are depicted on the third edition OS map for the area and are shown as two separate areas, each surrounded by an enclosure provisioned with landward defences. The exact nature of the enclosures is uncertain but they may have been temporary constructions.

In 1925 Blyth Battery became incorporated into the development of the South Beach amenities when two of the buildings were converted into public toilets.

In February 1940, the battery was re-excavated and by 14th March it was ready and mounted with two six-inch B.L mk.7 guns. Initially called Seaton Battery, it was renamed Blyth Battery in June 1940. The battery was now manned by A Battery, 510 Coast Regiment R.A (TA) with five officers and 110 men. The regiment was an independent Fire Command and commanded Berwick, Amble, Druridge, Gloucester and Blyth Batteries.

By April 1944 Blyth Battery was manned by the Home Guard and in late November 1944 was placed in care and maintenance.

The first area of protection contains two gun emplacements, various shelters, a Royal Artillery store, a World War I and a World War II battery observation post, a magazine and shell store and a block house. These were all contained within an enclosure and traces of the position of this enclosure are preserved in the sand dunes on the north and east sides, where they are visible as prominent scarps. The two gun emplacements are Listed Grade II.

The gun emplacements each housed a six inch gun and are of typical World War I open form. They are seaward facing and each is fronted by a sloping apron of reinforced concrete. During World War II, each emplacement was provided with overhead protection in the form of a flat roofed superstructure, to protect the gunners from aerial attack. The gun emplacements are linked by a wall with a lower, flat-roofed, rectangular building to the rear. This building is divided into two separate rooms to form two lying down shelters in which the gun crews would rest. Access to the shelters was along a narrow lane to their rear. During the World War II alterations, the shelters were modified by the infilling of the original stairs and the insertion of a new door through the west wall. Internally much of the woodwork survives and one retains an original stove. The internal wall face at each end contains cupboards fitted with iron doors.

Immediately opposite the more southerly of the two shelters there is a rectangular flat-roofed building that was used as a Royal Artillery store during World War I; gun and instrument parts were stored here and it also served as a workshop for the battery's artificer. During World War II it was used as sleeping quarters for the gun crews.

To the south west of the store the officer's and men's shelters are contained within a rectangular building which was originally divided into three compartments; for the men, for the officers and a smaller room for the Battery Sergeant Major. This building was converted into public toilets between World War I and World War II.

The magazine and shell stores which stored the reserve ammunition, are situated to the rear of the gun emplacements. Facing west, this structure was built into the face of a sand dune. An artificial mound which originally protected the entrance has been removed. The complex of four rooms includes a shell store, a shifting lobby, a magazine and a lamp room. The western face contains two doorways with a narrow opening to the right, giving access to the surrounding blast space. Internally much of the original woodwork and fittings survive. From this structure shells and cartridges were carried on trolleys to recesses beneath the gun emplacements.

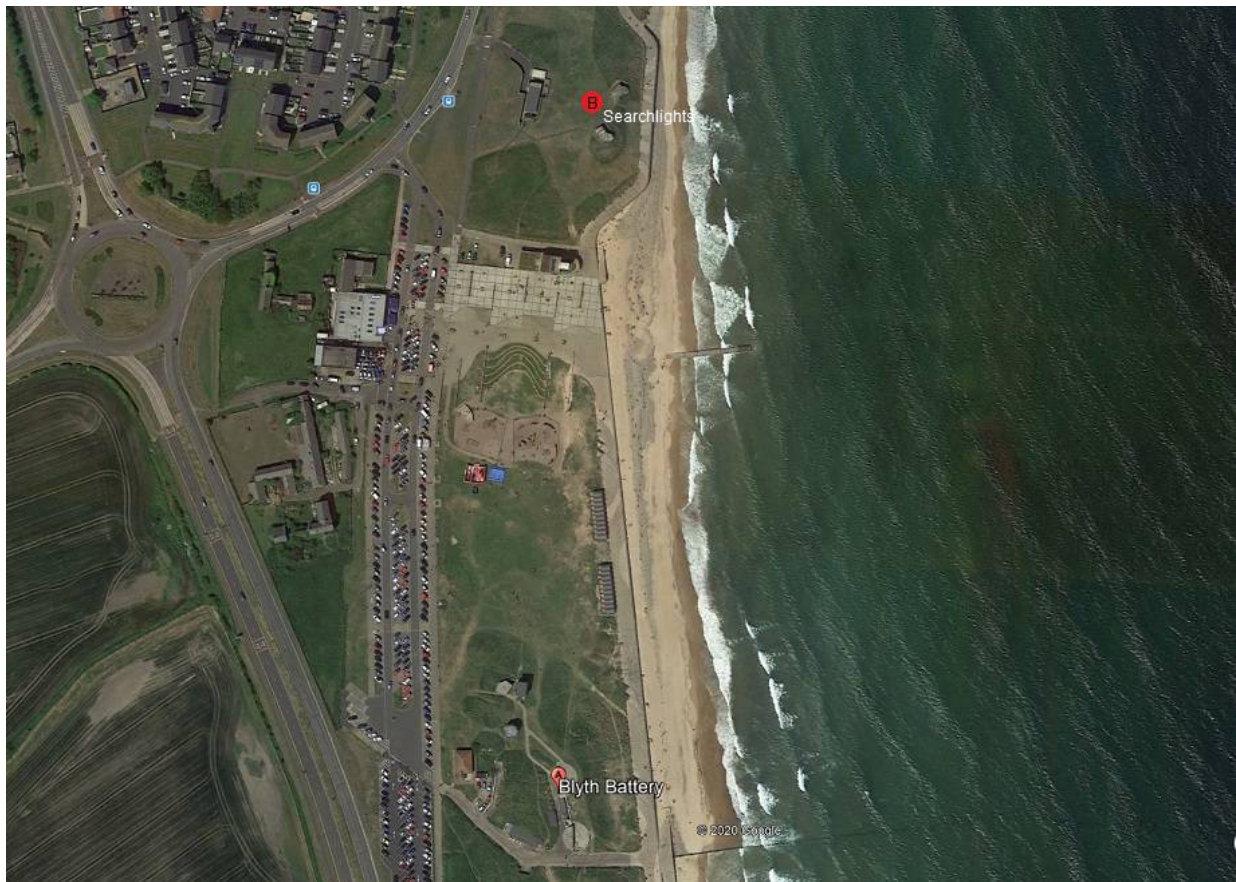
The World War I Battery Observation Post, where all operations were controlled, is situated to the north of the gun emplacements and magazine complex. This building is visible as a two storey flat-

roofed tower which retains metal range finder housing on its roof. On its western side a metal stair leads up to a balcony supported on cantilever brackets. The lower storey housed the signallers, fire commander and associated services while the upper storey contained the battery Commander Post and the Defence Electric Light (D.E.L) installation Directing Station. When the battery was recommissioned during World War II, this Observation Post was superseded by a new Battery Observation Post which was completed in August 1940. This new building, situated immediately north of its predecessor, is visible as a rectangular, flat-roofed tower of two storeys. The lower floor is divided into two rooms thought to be the Regimental Plotting Room and the signallers post. The upper floor of this building was equipped with a Depression Range Finder; the original pillar of which remains in situ.

Situated between the two Battery Observation Posts there is a five-sided block house which formed part of the landward defence of the battery. It has a flat concrete roof, a doorway, two hatches and nine loopholes. The five largest loopholes were intended for riflemen, while the four small loopholes were intended for machine guns and housed lamps to illuminate the immediate area at night. During World War II, this blockhouse was used to house an artificer's workshop. Situated between the two Battery Observation Posts there is a five-sided block house which formed part of the landward defence of the battery. It has a flat concrete roof, a doorway, two hatches and nine loopholes. The five largest loopholes were intended for riflemen while the four small loopholes were intended for machine guns, and housed lamps to illuminate the immediate area at night. During World War II, this blockhouse was used to house an artificer's workshop.

The second area of protection lies 300m north of the first, and includes two World War 1 D.E.L emplacements and an associated engine house. These buildings were also originally contained within an enclosure provisioned with landward defences, the line of which has been preserved in parts by the amenity landscaping of the surrounding area. The engine house, its outbuilding and enclosing walls are Listed Grade II. The emplacements are constructed of reinforced concrete, steel and brick, and situated approximately 20m apart. They are small rectangular buildings with semi-octagonal flat-roofed projections at their seaward corners. Although they were originally intended to be protected by the surrounding enclosure and its defences, it is considered that protective block houses were never constructed and the search lights themselves appear to be self-protecting. Each has a doorway and window in the landward side and machine gun loops in the other walls. The curving part of the projection contains a large opening, originally furnished with sliding shutters which were drawn back when the light was exposed. The emplacements were operated from a director station located in the World War I Battery Observation Post. The more southerly of the two emplacements is divided into two parts; the seaward facing projection housed a 90cm search light which was separated from the other part by a wooden partition containing the duty crew. During World War II it is thought that only one of these search lights was operational.

Some 50m west of the search lights there is the engine house and an associated outhouse to the north which provided the power for the D.E.L installation. This is visible as a rectangular brick building within a sunken, walled enclosure with concrete dressings and a reinforced concrete roof. The enclosing walls are extended to the north west to provide a flanking approach. An embayment on the north wall contained cooling tanks and an embayment on the east wall retains its bases for petrol and oil tanks.





1, Magazine & Shell Store





2, Shelter and Latrines





3, War Shelters & Royal Artillery Store





4, Northern Gun Emplacement





5, Southern Gun Emplacement





6, First World War Battery Observation Post



7, Second World War Battery Observation Post



8, Blockhouse



9, Northern & Southern Searchlight Emplacements





**This plaque is to commemorate
the Skylighters Searchlight site TT114
(also known as "Link House" Farm, Blyth)**

It is dedicated to the 827 men and officers of
the 225th Anti-aircraft Artillery Searchlight Battalion
of the US Army who were deployed over Blyth and Tyneside in March 1944 in the
Defence of Great Britain under operational control of the 30th British AAA Brigade.

"Whilst in Blyth we sharpened our skills in high altitude tracking of aircraft and our
stay in this part of England was marked by a gracious acceptance by the local
population which helped us in our mission to gain the knowledge we needed.

The Battalion left Blyth in May 1944 and landed on Omaha Beach in June of that year
as part of the invasion of Europe and the defence of Normandy.

"We will always be grateful for the help given to us by the local population."



225th AAA Searchlight Battalion Veterans Association

Additional Pics



First & Second World War Battery Observation Posts



Northern & Southern Gun Emplacements



REMEMBERED

24 August 1917



Lieutenant Edmund Kenneth Wallace Brown
Aged 23
Buried at Horton Churchyard

Private 202131
George Edward Beavon
Aged 19

Private 26392
William Harry Henderson
Aged 18

Private 202685
Jesse Blunn
Aged 17

Private 36217
Edward Gordon Noy
Aged 18

Private 243009
Thomas Fortey
Aged 18

Private 202962
Fred Shale
Aged 19

Private 26694
Harry Blanchard Southern
Aged 18

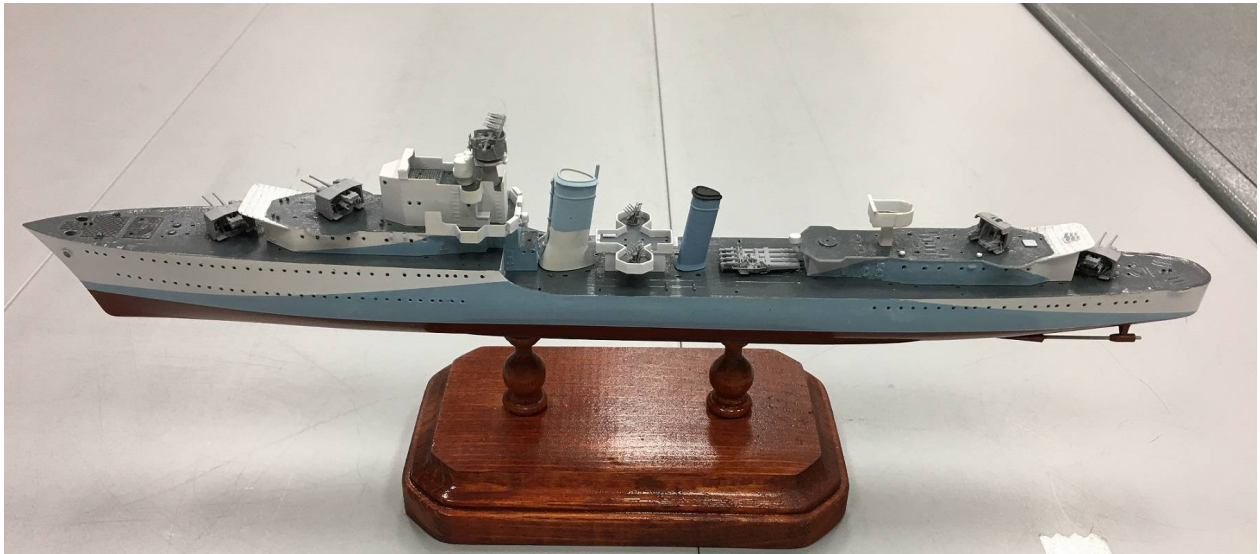
Lance Serjeant 292172(679)
John Riley
Aged 26

On a hot August day in 1917 over 600 soldiers of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment were on a route march from Horton Camp. They stopped to rest on Blyth beach and were given permission to cool off in the water. Many had never seen the sea and some could not swim. Tragically no-one understood the strong undercurrents of an ebb tide and very quickly some of the men got into difficulties. Others went to their aid and also floundered. Lieutenant Brown organised human chains to attempt a rescue and seven soldiers were saved while eight were swept out to sea. Sadly Lt Brown lost his footing and despite efforts to hold onto him, he, too, was drowned.

A Sad Loss Remembered

Use of the internet revealed much of the information here, Thanks to the Crazy Cat Lady for the Pics.
John Currie

Pics from February Meeting



John Currie – Trumpeter – 1/350 Scale HMS Eskimo with 3D printed weapons and radar (WIP).



Tom Wingate – Revell – 1/32 Scale Me 262.



Brad Shealy – Tamiya – 1/35 Scale Opel Blitz, 3T 4x2 cargo truck.



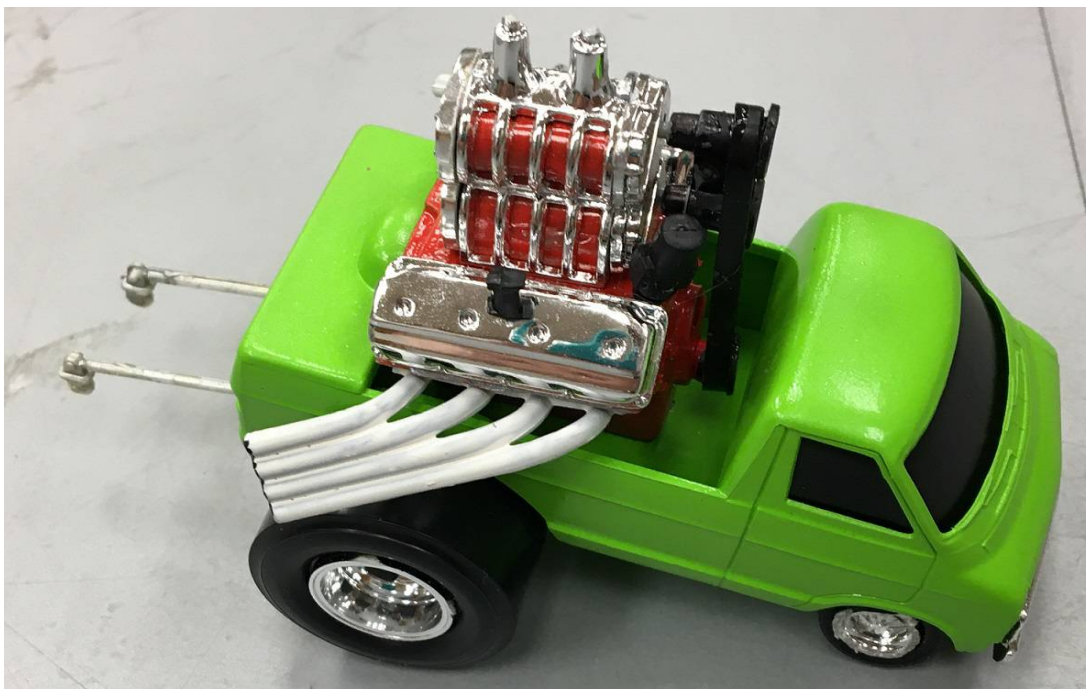
John Melton – Dragon – 1/35 Scale T-34/85 NVA.



Darby Erd – ICM – 1/72 Scale I-18.



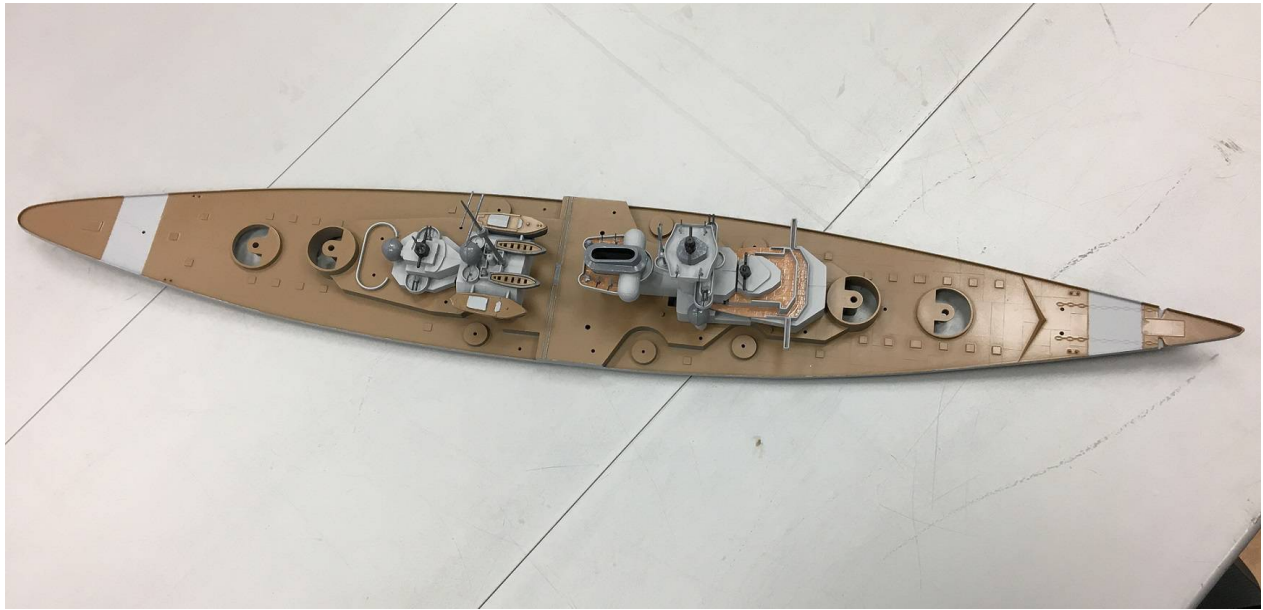
Darby Erd – ICM – 1/72 Scale SU-2.



Donnie Greenway – MPC – Little Zinger.



Donnie Greenway – AMT – 1/25 Scale Beetle Bus.



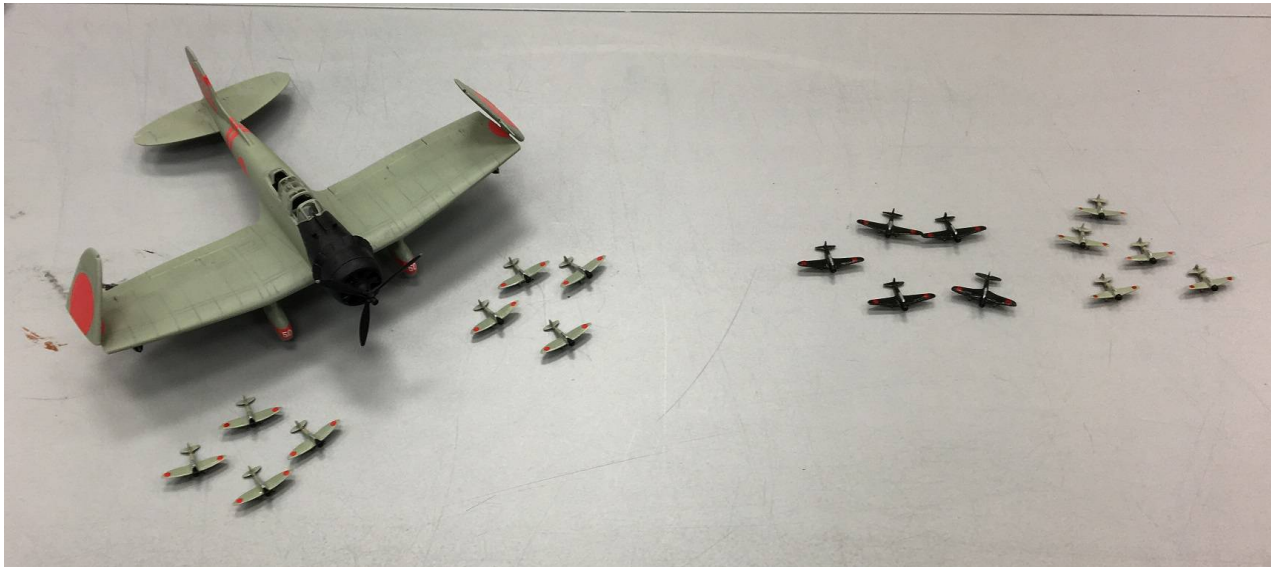
Norman Foote – Lindberg – 1/350 Scale Bismark (WIP).



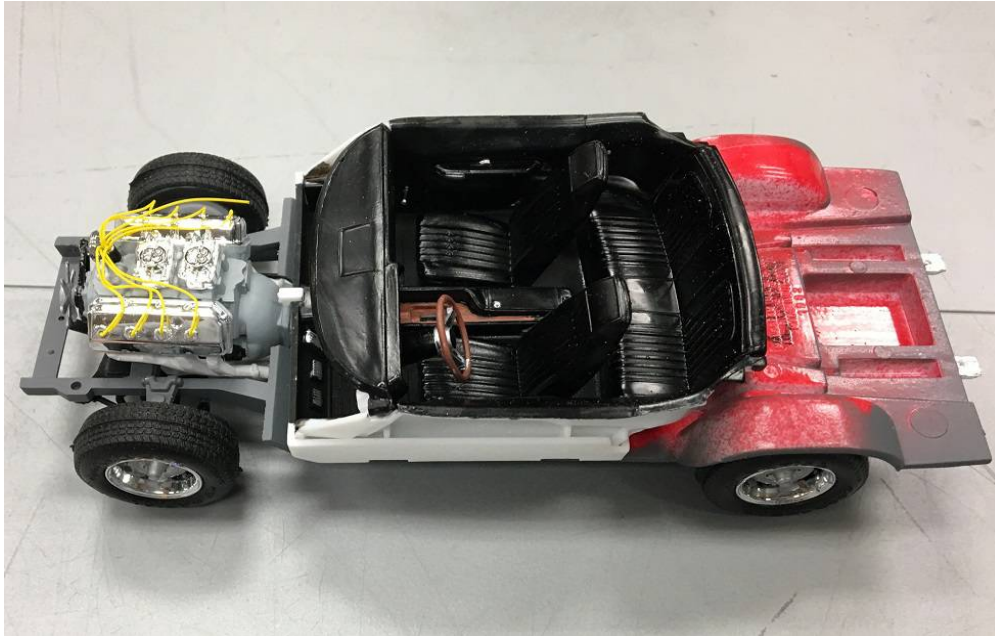
Norman Foote – Revell – 1/48 P-61 Black Widow.



Mike Gearon – 1/35 Scale Scratch RTV Molds and Castings.



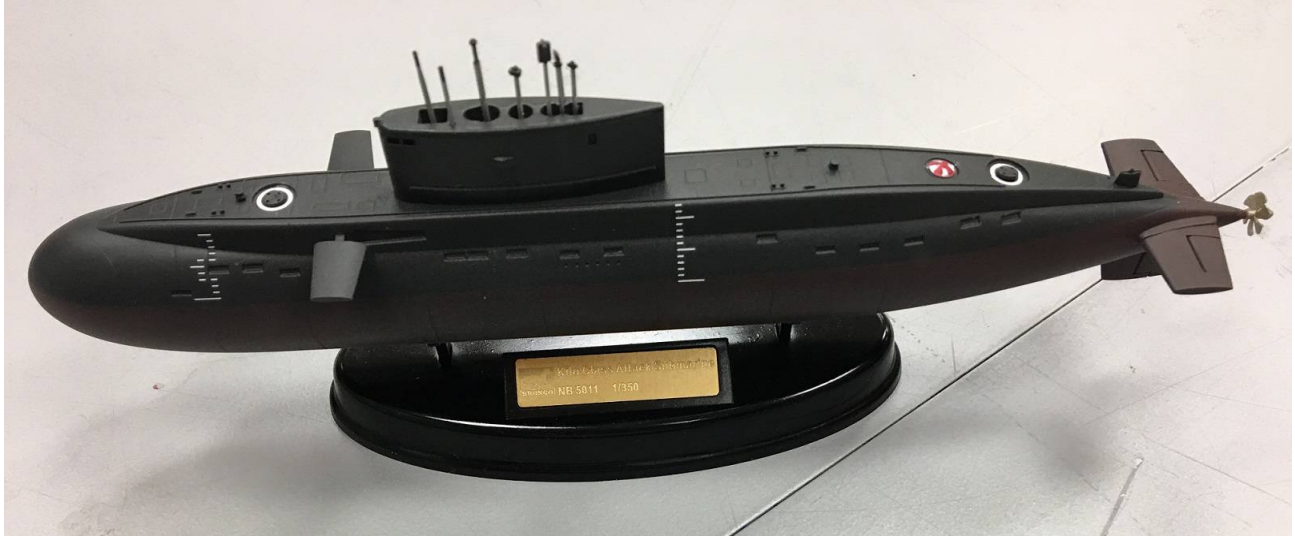
David Koopman – Cyber Hobby/Various – 1/72 + 1/700 Aichi Type 99 “Val” + Vals/Kates/Zekes.



Mike Martucci – Revell – 1/24 Scale 71 Cuda Convertible (WIP)



Eric Schrowang – Avanti – 120mm Scale Sipahi Cav 17th Century.



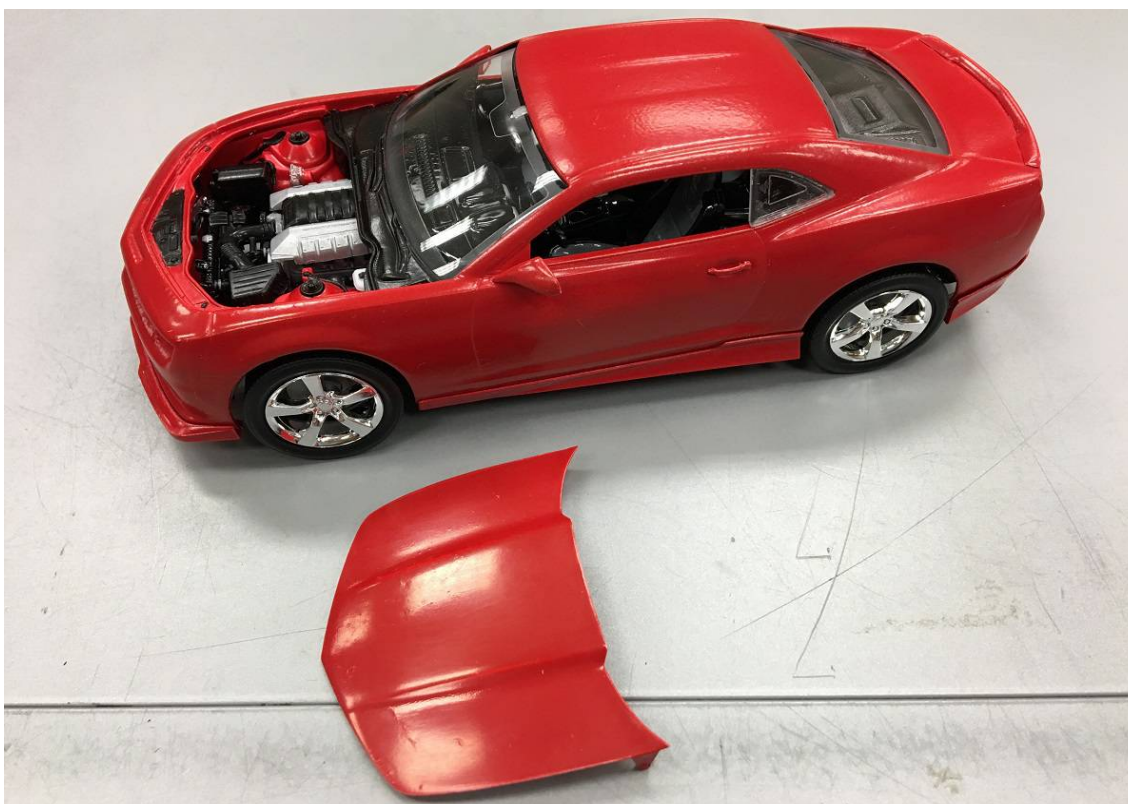
Zach Chapman – Bronco – 1/350 Scale Kilo Class.



Zack Chapman – Eduard – 1/48 Scale FW-190 A3.



Kevin Cook – Luis Hildago 3D – 1/72 Scale Vietnam US Infantry.



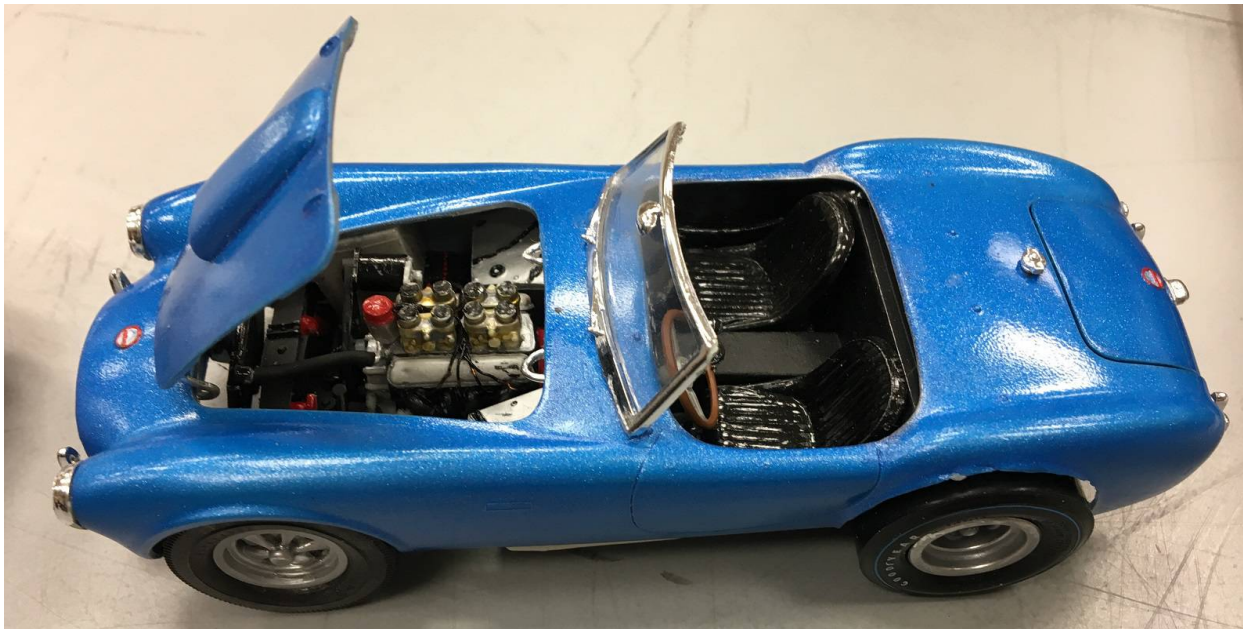
Kevin Cook – Revell – 1/25 Scale 2010 Camaro.



Fred Stalbaum - 1/6 scale 3D printed Superman + Batman



David Hoover – AMT – 1/25 Scale 1963 Cobra



David Hoover – AMT – 1/25 Scale 1963 Cobra Dragon Snake.









Unveiling of a NEW DIORAMA- Fire Support Base Ripcord South Vietnam, 1970

Saturday- March 28, 2020 10 AM-4 PM

**SC Confederate Relic Room and Military
Museum- 301 Gervais Street**

In the spring and summer, 1970 the 101st ABN was engaged in a savage campaign with NVA forces on the eastern edge of the A Shua Valley. FSB *Ripcord* was established on a mountain with the plan to interdict NVA supplies and troops into South Vietnam. The base came under a month-long barrage of enemy mortar and automatic weapons in July until it was evacuated on 23 July. There were more than 143 KIA and several hundred WIA, but the American public did not hear this story.

Find out more, meet Ripcord veterans and learn how the Wildcat chapter of the Armor Modeling and Preservation Society designed and built a new detailed model of *Ripcord*. This diorama is an early introduction to the upcoming Vietnam exhibition that will open at the CRR in September 2020.

11 AM: Defending FSB Ripcord: what it was like and how I survived:

Frank Marshall, Craig Van Hout, Dick Hines

2 PM: Researching and building a diorama of FSB Ripcord, 2018-2020:

Mike Roof and two members of the building team discuss the research and the detailed construction methods

3:30 PM: Lt. James Lawrence- The meaning behind the sacrifices

Lt. James Lawrence, a Citadel graduate and veteran of the Battle of Ia Drang, November 1965, will examine his role in the first big battle of South Vietnam and suggest some parallels it has with the campaign at Ripcord, what does it mean to us today?

Through the day living history members will display uniforms, equipment and weapons of the Vietnam era in the glass atrium outside the museums entrance

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Well thats all folks

See you at the next meeting Wednesday 18th March

John