



# AUGUST 2020



## IPMS SALISBURY



# MODELS FOR HEROES

21ST JULY 2020

**V**irtual meetings going well, great to see so many of you joining in the conversations and keeping us all abreast of what you are doing, especially modelling during the continued lockdown.

Tuesday 21st July we welcomed Malcolm Childs from Models For Heroes who joined us via Zoom to talk to us about M4H and the work they do.

We are very pleased to be a support of this worthy charity that helps all our veterans.

Please visit our **Models For Heroes** page to see the full talk.

We can all help by donating any unwanted kits, these must be unstarted, nothing cut off the spurs, unpainted and definitely not glued, opened kits are fine.

Sido has a M4H box in his shop, so please drop them in it, of course you can purchase another kit or supplies while you're there.

## Models For Heroes

Malcolm Childs talked to us about M4H its role in helping veterans from all the services, and how we as a club have helped, especially our very own Oz & Sibbo for their contributions.

### Please Note:

Articles and news are always welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. BUT views and information thus expressed are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the editor or the club as a whole. Editor: Richard Clarke

Articles for the Oct 2020 Issue to me please by September 22nd 2020

Email me at the usual address.

## Club News

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### Virtual Club Meetings

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**A**s lockdown restrictions ease we are still no near to holding club meetings in the scout hut, this may be for some foreseeable time, so if you want to get your fortnightly dose of modelling banter then please join us via Zoom.

Meeting details are emailed out prior to the event. It is easier than ever before to join on any device, you do not have to download any software, just click on the link and follow the instructions and choose the viewing option that best suits you. You can pop in and say hello and leave, or stay for as long as you like.

When we do return to normal meetings then we will have to follow the procedures that the scout hut have in place, wiping down all surfaces, bring along your own drinking vessels etc, wearing of masks and sanitising your hands.

We will keep you informed, when the time comes as to how we, along with the owners of the premises will conduct our meetings in the future.

You can catch all the latest club news via our [blog pages](#), with videos of members discussing their latest builds and WIPs.



### Calendar of Events

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**O**f course our calendar of events has been curtailed somewhat, but we are trying to carry on as best we can with the technology we have.

We have had a Virtual Model Show. Zoom meetings continue to grow with more members joining all the time, our first Virtual Flash Mod.

We had an outside speaker join us in the shape of Malcolm Childs from M4H.

Our theme nights continue, see below for what we have coming up.

You can of course send in pics of your builds.



### (Virtual) Theme Nights 2020

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- **Aug 4th** - Maritime
- **Sept 1st** - Land Rover
- **Oct 6th** - Red Arrows 55 Years Young
- **Nov 3rd** - AGM & Gulf War
- **Dec 1st** - Xmas Meal?



### Up Coming Model Shows

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**M**odel shows continue to fall by the wayside, not for want of trying, but I think it may be the restriction and procedures that establishments have to adhere to; sanitising areas after use, wiping down surfaces throughout the day etc.

As most shows happen on school premises, this will be an added complication, as schools try to get ready for the start of the Autumn term.



## CALLING ALL GROUP BUILDERS..

### **August 6th completion deadline fast approaching.**

We have finished builds from Richard, Phil & Mike M.

There are a few nearly there, Nick's being one, Sibbo close behind, but who will finish their builds before the 6th August deadline?

We have not had any news reference John, Paul, Alan, Chris or Iloannis' builds.

If you have finished then please send pics of your finished builds.

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## GROUP BUILD VIDEO

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I want to make a video of all the finished Spitfires, so will be asking for top notch images, preferably against a neutral background, white would be best.

Will need several pics of your spitfire, different angles, side views etc., more details to follow...



## Applied Logic

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**T**he immediately recognisable Brodie helmet designed by John Brodie was in a slightly modified form the 'Helmet Steel Mark I' in British Army speak and the M1917 Helmet in the U.S. where it was fielded by British 'Tommies' and American 'Doughboys' fighting in the first world war. Front line issue for British Soldiers started in September 1915, though only to units actually at the front, being kept as trench stores and handed over between units as they rotated through the front. It would not be until the summer of 1916 when wider issuing of the helmet would allow it to become a personal item.

Brodie's design was widely exported and copied and via some small changes was still in use during WWII, with some nations equipping front line soldiers with this simple device right up to the late 1950's. The idea of a steel helmet to protect the head from shrapnel seems so obvious that no-one would consider not wearing one but initially there was criticism from several quarters not just about slight flaws in the design like rim size but more over that numbers of casualties being admitted to field hospitals had risen since the helmet was introduced.

Focusing on the apparent facts of what was being reported from the trenches and first aid posts (or latterly from CASREPS and Log reports ) can hide more accurate reasoning. The correct term is **Survival bias** and can be seen readily from a WWII study conducted by many Allied nations on where to apply armour on aircraft to best protect them from enemy fire. Due to armour's weight and therefore the resulting sacrifice of speed or payload, armour was kept to a minimum; selecting it's optimal position was critical. The allies collected data as aircraft returned, mapping all the strike marks from enemy fire and built up a picture of airframe vulnerabilities.

At one location, the Statistical Research Group at Columbia University in America a statistician charged with identifying the possible areas on an aircraft needing armour realised the team were focusing on the wrong data and should be considering absent data ( the basis of Survival Bias). Abraham Wald examined the damage done to aircraft that had returned from missions and recommended adding armour to the areas that showed the least or no damage. This contradicted the US military's conclusions that the most densely hit areas of the plane needed additional protection. Wald noted that the military only considered the aircraft that had **survived** their missions and returned home; any planes which had been shot down or otherwise lost had therefore not been unavailable for damage assessment. Thus Wald reasoned any holes in a returning aircraft showed where a bomber could take damage and still return home safely. Wald proposed that reinforcement was need in areas where the returning aircraft were un-damaged since those were the areas that, if hit, would cause the plane to be shot down and lost.

The same process explains why the number of reports of injured WWI soldiers increased after wearing helmets became policy. Soldiers who might previously have been killed by certain shrapnel hits to the head (and therefore never showed up in a field hospital), were now surviving the same hits, and therefore made it to a field hospital.

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It probably sounds obvious but until Abraham Wald put forward his theory to the US Navy, statistical data was used rather than analytical intelligence to inform decisions. Slowly this has become what is known today as Operational Analysis. Wald's theory is often used by teachers to get students to think 'outside the box'. Indeed it was my own daughter that pointed me to Wald's work which I've woven into Brodie's tale.

I wonder if that means having a hunch isn't accepted anymore?

Sibo



## Vought Corsair F4U-1D

**RNZAF Rukuhia 1945, Tamiya 1/48; Thailand 2020**

**G**reetings to all from Covid free Thailand. This is my second build of the Tamiya F4U-1D kit which, like the first one, is in RNZAF Markings but depicting the earlier 4 colour scheme. I had an exchange of pictures with some friends about the disposal of RNZAF aircraft in 1946 so decided to model this as a post war derelict aircraft. Supplied under the lend lease agreement, all the New Zealand Corsairs were collected at Rukuhia (now Hamilton Airport) at the end of the war. After inspection by the USA, they were scrapped. My original plan was to use a Lockheed Ventura for this but there were more Corsairs and this is a new concept for me so better to practice on a smaller model!

To try and make the aircraft look derelict like the originals, I needed the wings folded, guns stripped out with bays left open, propeller, engine and main wheels removed. I trashed the cockpit by sawing off some of the details, radios and drilling out the instruments which have been 'recovered for spares'. This seemed a real shame after a lifetime of detailing cockpits but realism is the key. The gun covers were cut from the upper wings and basic structure of ammunition trays and gun troughs built from plastic card based on pictures of machines in the Solomon islands. Exhaust ports were drilled out from the lower fuselage and nose cut away to reveal engine mountings built from plastic rod and scrap. The vandalised cockpit was installed and everything painted with Zinc Chromate.

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I gave the cockpit a wash of the final dark green, leaving some primer and natural metal exposed. I also thinned out the rudder and elevators before removing some of the fabric using an engraver, leaving a few shreds of loose material. This gave a good representation of sun damaged fabric exposing the aluminium structure beneath. Landing and identification lights were also drilled out and the window under the cockpit was deleted, all adding to the dereliction.

Rukuhia is a very extreme climate with intense sunshine broken by lots of very heavy rain. This would be very effective at stripping paint from the upper aluminium surfaces as well as rotting fabric from the flat areas.

To replicate this a base coat of silver was applied and masked with hand cream to expose bare metal. To give the effect of the sun and rain, the camouflage colours were sprayed on free hand

using several shades of each. Light on top and darker beneath. I also hand painted the national insignia to help the fading and the worn and toned down effect.

I wanted the plane to be an anonymous representation of the many aircraft at the end of the war but it looked odd without serials. Serials were applied the using Airfix decal fix and once dry, sanded with a 400 grit stick. This removed enough to fade the numbers but still left the anonymity. To put it in context I made a simple diorama base with sheep added to be sure it's in New Zealand!





Finally here is a picture of the Corsair as it is now. Packed into a plastic tray ready to be loaded with my stash and other 180+ finished models into a 40' container and shipped to the UK. Yes, my work in Thailand is done so I will be returning to the UK in August. Depending on whether we have to do quarantine, I hope to see you all at either the August or September meetings.

**Colin**



## Italeri 1/35 BMP 1

**A** surprise model kit can be a mixed blessing. It's always nice to get a gift especially when it's a model but if unexpected you have the dilemma of when and how to build it. You don't want to appear ungrateful but if its not on your build list you may not have a desire to build it. Thus it was I found myself on Christmas day with ITALERI Kit number 6520, a 2014 release. It is in fact the ESCI kit from 1990, Italeri having acquired some of Esci's molds when the company ceased. It is not the first BMP1 that Italeri have ever released as in 1990 they were releasing the DRAGON tooling in their own box; Dragon's kit having been tooled 1988/89. I already knew the Esci version having chopped one up to add an interior years before the excellent TRUMPETER BMP1's were released. I never finished the attempt at scratching an interior though I've never given up the project as the box with all the parts and plasticard internals still resides in my loft.



So back to Christmas day. I, like most club members, already had a few builds underway but modelling with all its clutter is not an option over the festive period especially when family and friends are dropping in. What was acceptable in the hubbub of Christmas was keeping everything in the box so during that lull the Boxing day brings I decided I'd just enjoy the simplistic kit with some cutters, a bit of sandpaper and a bottle of liquid poly.

The kit belies its Esci origins as the part count was low and much detail is moulded in place. The rear crew doors for example are already in place on the hull back plate. The hatches are separate but not reflecting how they would appear if opened so must be glued in place. At the time Esci were leading the way with Link and Length tracks when nearly every other 1/35 manufacture was supplying vinyl track belts as standard. Italeri have not added to the basic plastic at all, and in fact have lessened the potential of the kit by redrawing the instructions in the Italeri style. This redrawing has resulted in parts being omitted from reference or being shown fitted in one stage but missing in the next. I had to refer to the 3 view marking diagram to show me where the front sand covers went as they are not mentioned at all. A significant hole is on the top hull which is shown on the instructions but no part shown to be fitted. This hole wanders around the diagrams as each stage is reached so I never knew what it was intended for, perhaps a digging tool? Sadly, the instructions are the biggest let down, but the basic nature of the build meant it was almost intuitive to build. Getting the box like hull together was simple but alignment was an issue perhaps due to warping.

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I trimmed the rear plate width and added putty to the front belly plate. The turret was nicely detailed and an AT3 SAGGER missile is included that I did not need to use. If using I'd suggest replacing the fins with Plasticard as they are on the thick side. I was matching in principle some photos of discarded IRAQI vehicles left across the battlefield after the first Gulf war. Many of these were recovered to vehicle holding sites so would have the ordnance removed.



The kit instructions have paint and marking options for an Iraqi vehicle but I already had a look in mind. Pre finishing the kit in Russian green as all BMPs leave the factory and then after a coat of hairspray used Vallejo Sand/Ivory Air Color number 075 which gives a lighter yellow more similar to the faded Iraqi sand than the Model Color Iraqi sand 819. Some irregular over spray of green and white ID panels finished the airbrushing, the next event was using toothpicks and sanding sticks to distress the finish and reveal some of the original Russian green. The tracks were sprayed a dark brown while still on the sprue. Using liquid-poly the link and lengths were added starting at the sprocket to ensure the individual links align, slack taken up at the rear idler. I rubbed them lightly with graphite and dry brushed the teeth in silver. More attention will be directed to the tracks once placed onto the diorama I have in mind.

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This Esci/ Italeri kit was nowhere near the level of detail and complexity that current kits exhibit. It meant that much of the build had been completed on Boxing day- a real change from the drawn-out process that some modern kits entail. Further finishing was completed over the following week. It is in effect done, but as with all dioramas, the vehicle only represents part of the effort. The BMP will be part of a 1991 OP Granby diorama, finished in the dishevelled look that Iraqi armour had at the end of the war. Remember that hole I mentioned, at least 3mm in diameter? Well my abandoned diorama lent itself well to having flotsam around the BMP so I added a blanket and discarded helmet to hide it.

**Sibo**