



# FEBURARY 2022



When you tell your colleagues you're spending the weekend with a model...



**Their expectations**



**Your expectations**

We seem to have weathered the storm of the last COVID variant, numbers at club nights continue to float around the 15s, we all look forward to welcoming those of you who we have not seen since 2020 back.

Our model show for this year is booked for 4th June, more details to follow in the coming months, keep an eye on the website and your inboxes.

#### Flash Mod

We are having our first physical Flash Mod in a long time on 6th Feb 10am start, see last item in the newsletter for more information.

#### Expect the Unexpected

I for one look forward to a growing membership during 2022, and an increase in the number of model shows...

#### 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.

Articles for the April 2022 Issue to me please by March 25th 2022

Email me [modelclub@ipmssalisbury.co.uk](mailto:modelclub@ipmssalisbury.co.uk)



## Club News

Our annual **Model Show** will be held on 4th June 2022, more information on this will be coming your way in due course.

**Flash Mod** - 6th Feb our first physical get together since way back when, again more info to follow.



### Fairey Gannet AEW

**HMS Ark Royal August 1978**  
**Alan Wilson Kit 1/48 England 2021**



I became aware of this through a post on Britmodeller by Bentwaters81tfw in 2019. Produced by Alan Wilson (from Iceland), the 1/48 resin Gannet AEW3 was shown at Milton Keynes April 28 2019 with refined and re engineered masters and improved clear castings. A quick response to Alan soon had a sample delivered to my daughter in the UK which I collected when I arrived home in 2020.

Kit parts breakdown is typical for a resin kit. The fuselage is in 2 halves incorporating the fin, with single piece castings for the wings and tail planes. An interesting assortment of

small parts included some very neat wheels, Cockpit with seat and instrument panel. The undercarriage doors were usable but a few other parts including the undercarriage struts and arrestor hook were too thin and really only suitable as templates to make new items. My kit came with 3 cast resin canopies, all of which were very thick had bubbles in the hood.

The opportunity to detail the Interior of the rear fuselage was too appealing so I started by grinding the resin away with motor tool. Front and rear bulkheads with floor and ceiling were added from plastic card. The Interior was painted Mr Colour 40



for a slightly off black. Plastic card was added to make Side consoles and cover over the rough surface. Rod and sprue being used to create details. Radios and radar box's were fitted to front and rear bulkheads. These were painted black with controls picked out in white and radar screens with gloss blue. The two seats came from the spares box and were fitted with seat belts. The pilots cockpit was built as per the kit which was already very good. 100g of fishing weight were added behind cockpit.

The instructions point out that the undercarriage is over scale in order to be strong enough to take the weight. The resin legs still looked dubious due to their size and the fact the resin is never that strong so I decided to make new ones from brass rod and tube using details cut from the kit parts. These came out quite well and are very solid.

After a good few coats of Halfords grey to get a smooth finish I changed to a coat of white. The fin and propeller were painted gloss white then yellow (Mr Colour 109) and finally black with appropriate masking to get the final squadron markings. The rest of the model was pre-shaded with black to ensure a worn appearance. The Dark Sea Grey (Mr Colour 331) was painted and finally the sky (Mr Colour 26) was done panel by panel. I missed the wing walkways so had to add these later.

The instructions actually tell you not to use the decals which is a new approach. The recommendation is to photocopy them onto clear decal film but I decided it would be easier to make my own so printed the letters on my inkjet then used Xtradecal roundels. This would also allow me to build a Gannet from the last cruise of HMS Ark Royal 1V to go with my Phantom and Buccaneer from the same period. I did try to use the bee in the white circle but this curled up into a ball and shattered once in contact with water so I eventually created my own artwork on MS paint and printed them onto white decal film.

Eventually with no more excuses I had to tackle the canopy. Quite a bit of material needed to be taken off the inside of the windscreen frame and instrument coaming to allow a good fit without having to cut into the clear parts. Having the rear section of the canopy open was driven by the 3 supplied in the kit all having air bubbles which I figured would be less noticeable with the canopy open. However the thickness of the resin left it perched unrealistically on top of the fuselage so I decided to plunge mould a new one. I got it right on the 4th attempt which was quite good! This is paper thin and very fragile but looks more realistic than the kit item.

Final parts were the cabin doors thinned and installed in the open position, various aerials and rigging using EZ Line painted black. The arrestor hook was made using an Aeroclub hook fitted to a needle drilled into the lower fuselage.

Overall I'm very happy with this resin kit filling a big hole in my FAA collection.

**Colin W**





## Who Killed Michael Whittmann?



Born on the 22nd April 1914 Michael Whittmann rose to become one of Germany's leading tank aces.

After service in the German Army as a private during 1943-36, Whittmann enlisted into the elite Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler. Once again after service in the 1939 Polish Campaign, Whittmann led a Stug III assault gun Platoon during the Spring of 1940 Balkan War. Next he was involved in the invasion of the Soviet Union, during which he received the Iron Cross 1st Class and also promotion to SS Oberscharfuher (Sergeant) for his outstanding performance as a destroyer of Russian tanks.

After going forward for officer training, SS Unter Sturmfuher (Second Lieutenant) Whittmann rejoined the Leibstandarte in December 1942. Whilst serving with the division's equipped with the Tiger 1's of 13th Heavy Battalion, he again performed well.

During the July 1943 Battle of Kursk, thanks to his careful planning of actions and his unshakable calm he maintained during battle, this company then formed the body of the newly raised 101st SS Heavy Tank Battalion. His continued well planned forward thinking command as an officer earned him further recognition, promotion and further awards.

But! in June 1944 the British designed Sherman Firefly, upgraded with the longer barrelled 17 pounder arrived on the battlefield and was supplied with 5 variants of ammunition, they were:

- 1) A.P.C round (The Armoured Piercing round)
- 2) A.P.CBC round (The Armoured Piercing Ballistic Capped)
- 3) A.P.D.S.SV (The Armoured Piercing Discarding Sabot Supper Velocity)

4&5) 2 Standard Mk1 High Velocity Rounds

With these new armour piercing rounds the Firefly outperformed the Panther and the Tiger I, and given the new on the scene King Tiger II and earned the reputation as a potent tank killer.

In August of 1944 the Firefly would take on the awesome Tiger Commanded by now SS Hauptsturmfuhrer (Captain) Michael Whittmann and four other Tigers and this is where the age old question and argument "Who Killed Michael Whittmann?" keeps being asked.

There were three main contenders

- 1) 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry
- 2) The Canadian Sherbrooke Fusiliers
- 3) RAF Hawker Typhoons

After many a long year of arguments, debates, a major independent battlefield study was undertaken. Experts with sophisticated state of the art and highly accurate instruments with laser range finders could pinpoint each position, also each tank position, to give a clear and accurate picture of the battle.

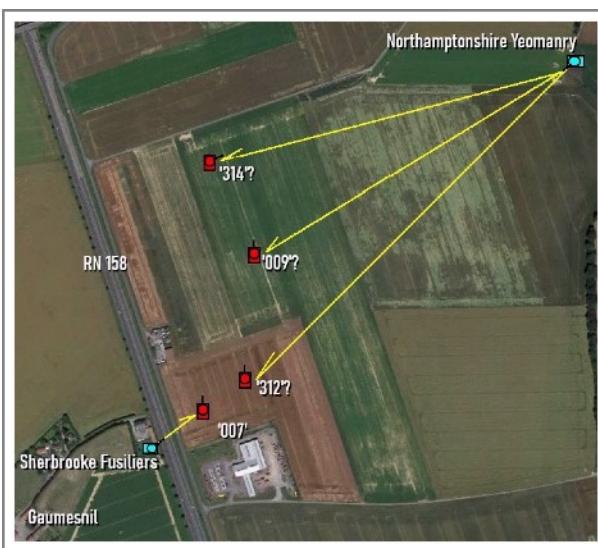
First to be investigated was the possible Hawker Typhoon strike and its awesome rocket destructive capability and its strike points, and debris signature, did not match the destruction that the German tanks received.

So a Typhoon air strike was ruled out.

Two other possible contenders remained, the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry and the Canadian Sherbrooke Fusiliers, both were armed with the Sherman Firefly.



The original map of the area was consulted and all positions of British & Canadian and German forces were added.



It was the lead tank of the Northamptonshire Yeomanry that edges forward from the wood, halted to observe the five German Tiger 1 tanks that were advancing up slight hill 800 meters away, and made ready to fire on them. The Canadians were just arriving at a long wall in front of them and halted and they too began to observe the Tigers, who were totally unaware of their close proximity and continued up the hill. The Canadian Firefly's and the Tigers were only 90 meters apart.

With the larger armed, longer ranged barrel and ammunition, the lead tank of the Yeomanry opened fire and destroyed at least four of the Tigers, and then fired on the last Tiger, the round struck the tank but seemed to bounce off its hull, nevertheless its turret blew off its body. All tigers were destroyed.

Only years later could the vital question be answered.

Yes it was the 1st Northamptonshire Yeomanry lead tank that killed four Tiger tanks, this was proved by the projectile entry point on the righthand side of the four tanks.

But it was the Canadian firefly who killed the German tank ace SS Hauptsturmführer (Captain) Michael Whittmann.

The ammunition entry point was found on the lefthand side of the rear of the turret and a moment later the explosion within the body of the tank blew off the turret, caused by the internal stored ammunition exploding, and ending the mystery of Who Killed Michael Whittmann.

**Ray**





## Revell Razor Crest



An In box review (which has also been started) on Revell's very new Razor Crest release.

The Mandalorian was televised (or streamed) to our screens in 2019, it brought new characters into the Star Wars universe primarily the 'Mandalorian', Din Djarin, an adopted warrior who followed the Mandalorian bounty hunter code, as well as the irritating Grogu (called the baby Yoda by nearly everyone) though I fear I may be in the minority in calling the baby irritating. Din Djarin pilot's the Razor Crest, a ship that has a distinct look that while fitting the Star Wars aesthetic is unique in its own styling.

The Razor Crest is an ST-70 Assault Ship that has looked better since its service with the New Republic flying its current owner around the Outer Rim. Originally a scout ship now armed with a

pair of laser cannon in the nose and is capable of hyperspace travel as well as atmospheric flight from the twin nacelles that house the sub-light engines. The glazed cockpit sits above a large hold containing a carbonite freezing chamber and personal armoury.

Revell have had the license for Star Wars for a long while as well as providing a conduit for Bandai Star Wars kits to be sold in Europe. Some of Revell's kits are pretty toy-like with low parts and clip together styling. While nice they are not considered in the same way as their Bandai counterparts or even a real world Airfix kit. This Razor Crest kit is not of that heritage despite exhibiting some of the bulky locating pins symptomatic of a clip together kit. It is most definitely not a clip together but does have a simplified build breakdown. Labelled at 1:72 it is well-detailed, in fact very well detailed with styling that replicates the old ILM kit bashing rather than the bland CGI style of recent times. My only real criticism with the detail is regarding the Pilot himself who's proportions look off due to being made to fit the pilot's seat.

101 parts including a clear sprue and a substantial stand make up a model that will be just over 33cm in length once completed. The kit comes in light grey styrene and includes a decal sheet. If not using the stand you have a number of options for landing gear deployed as well as ramps in various configurations. The lasers can be rotated but the method of assembly is more challenging than it needs to be and I can't see why you'd follow it even if you did want them to rotate.

So far the kit has been a total joy. Big parts and great definition that makes painting very enjoyable to do.



**Sibo**



## FlashMod 2022

After a number of Virtual Flashmods that have been successfully run during the Pandemic I am pleased to put forward the first physical Flashmod for 2022 and the first for over a year.

It will take place on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> February at the Air Cadet hall set in the TA Centre, Portway, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts, SP4 6BY.

Access is controlled at the TA Centre so any club member who wishes to take part must be at the gates between 09.35 to 09.55 to gain entry.

As with previous Flashmod, bring along any unstated kit and boast yourself from 10am till 4pm before the group decides who has best used the time. No equipment is on site, though you can use Airbrushes and sprays if you bring one along.

A pack lunch is suggested, but Sibo will provide Brew kit and Biscuits.

**IPMS SALISBURY**

# SCALE MODEL SHOW

**4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2022**

**9.30 am - 4.30 pm**

Wyvern College Sports Hall  
Church Street  
Laverstock  
Salisbury  
SP1 1RE

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