

Scale Views

The newsletter of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association – Issue 1 2020

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Editor: Bill Renfrew

Scale Views appears at least four times a year as a supplement to APMA, the Association's quarterly magazine. The Editor welcomes contributions from all members.

General meetings are held at Gladesville Sporties 181a Ryde Road Gladesville 2111. Doors open at 12.30 PM. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month except for November, which will be on the first Saturday of that month.

To submit material for inclusion in *Scale Views* you may contact me by the e-mail address apma.newsletter@gmail.com, see me at a general meeting or send correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 464 Cremorne NSW 2090. If you require a reply to your letter send a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submissions for inclusion in the magazine and newsletter are most welcome.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the members or committee of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association or of the Newsletter Editor.

Visit the APMA web site at:
<http://apma.org.au>

Plea from the Magazine Editor:

Articles are urgently needed. Write more articles. These do not need to be multi-page efforts as most issues need small filler pieces. They can be historical or small pieces on modelling techniques. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Editorial Droppings (IOAH OM)

Greetings all and welcome to the first issue of *Scale Views* for 2020. I hope that all had a pleasant Festive season and that you all managed to build the stash a little more even though the free time should have been used to reduce it. I also hope that all are OK despite the traumatic events of the last few months. The Neuremburg Toy Fair should have been held but I have not seen many announcements of coming kits although some have surfaced at a variety of web sites. It appears that the main releases coming, at least in terms of armour, will probably be from the modern era. By that I mean items introduced into service after about 1930 but I guess we will just have to wait and see.

The AGM was held in December and a "new" committee elected. I offer them my congratulations and all the best for the coming year. It is good to see at least one totally new member. As I have said before, it is important that new people join the committee to bring a new perspective to the club. Otherwise, it is just the same old ideas being recycled. Ian Wrenford has stated that this is his last year as Treasurer and so we will need to fill that place. Talk to him at a meeting to get an idea of what the job entails. Think about it.

I wish to thank the contributors to this edition for their works. In particular, thanks to Lindsay for his reviews of the County class cruisers. I understand that there may be more to come. Please remember that contributions are always needed because it is your Newsletter. So I would like to thank Simon for his photographs and Dave Clarke for giving me the opportunity to see and review the kits he bought in the US.

So best wishes for the coming year and happy modelling.

The Australian Plastic Modellers Association is supported by the following:



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Kit and Product Reviews

2020 Committee

President – Paul Green
Vice President – Warren Evans
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Treasurer – Ian Wrenford
5th Committeeman – Malcolm Armour

QT Bunni Competition



2020 – Songs

This year's competition will feature subjects that are mentioned in the title or lyrics of popular songs. Any further clarification may be obtained from the Bunni at meetings.

Competition Results

2019 AGM

This year the Committee decided to try something different with the judging of the competition at the AGM. Rather than having a small number of members spending a lot of time judging individual competition categories, all present were tasked with judging all models entered for the award of "Model of the Year". To this end we were all given a small piece of paper with three boxes printed on it and were told to write on it the three models we liked best of those entered. The results are as follows:

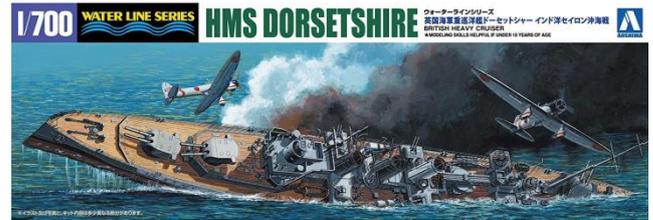
- First** – 1/600 Orient by Michael Bennett (11 votes)
- Second** – 1/48 Piaggio by Ian Wrenford (10)
- Third** – 1/24 Lotus Elan S3 by Chris Cole (8)
- Fourth** – 1/72 Beaufort by Simon Wolff (7)



Chris's Lotus(SW)

January 2020

Bronze – 1/72 Wirraway by Anne Paton



County class cruiser–HMS Dorsetshire (first release) Aoshima 1/700

Reviewed by Lindsay Charman

The rate of new 1/700 ship kit releases by Aoshima is very impressive and despite once having a reputation as the least impressive of the 'Big 4' 1/700 ship manufacturers from Japan, these days the level of detail in their kits is very high and kit design is quite clever.

Over the past few years, Aoshima has been providing subjects never before kitted in injection moulded plastic, and quite a few are WWII Allied vessels. This has been most gratifying as many are on my longstanding wish list and include a detailed series of HMS *Exeter* (the heavy cruiser), the original WWII USS *Wasp* carrier, and a whole family of County class cruisers. There does seem to be a bit of a 1/700 scale theme recently of releasing ships sunk by the Japanese Navy in WWII, and in some releases this even goes as far as including the vessel that sunk the main subject. However after visiting Japan recently and looking at several hobby shops, it seems this a tradition that has been going for some time in Japan, with the likes of Pit-Road and others releasing Japanese vessels sunk by Allied ships, with the vanquisher also included in the box!

The County class comprised a large number of vessels by British standards, with thirteen ships entering RN service, as well as two entering Australian naval service and two related half-sisters entering service with the Spanish Navy. All of them were modified to a greater or lesser extent over their service lives, which were sometimes quite long. This means there is much conversion potential, though as Aoshima seem determined to get the most out of their moulds, further releases of other 1/700 Counties are quite possible.

As far as I can recall or determine, the County class has been released in model form in plastic by Airfix in 1/600, as well as in resin by Kombrig (in various guises), in 1/700 resin by White Ensign and also in 1/700 by Japanese firm called Hi Mold. Skytrex also did a metal kit of the *London*. Another resin example was presented by Iron Shipwrights/Commanders in 1/350 scale and a big plastic kit by Trumpeter is

available in 1/350. It has also been released in 1/1200 by Airfix, Eaglewall and Pyro. Some of these are very nice models but the Aoshima kit is the one that should really result in models on the tables.

The first Aoshima release was of HMS *Dorsetshire*, in 2018. Another followed a few months later. The original ship was part of a two ship sub-class and had differently shaped and positioned bridge superstructure (among other details) to other sub-classes of the Counties. It was fitted with a catapult but no hangar, and was in several significant actions up until 1942, when it was sunk – by the Japanese. It featured in several notable actions, in particular the hunt for the *Bismarck* (where from a British perspective *Dorsetshire* might be said to have delivered the coup de *grâce*), anti-French operations off Dakar, notably shadowing the French battleship *Richelieu*, prior to the RN shelling of the French fleet, and a role escorting the damaged *Exeter* after the sinking of the *Graf Spee*. She was in numerous other action, providing raider search and patrol duties, shore bombardment in Somaliland and convoy escorts.

The box art features a pair of nicely moulded Vals (presumably from *Hiryu* or *Akagi*) swarming over a half sunk *Dorsetshire*. The kit consists of a cleverly moulded hull with very fine moulded in plate detail, a complex range of pieces for the superstructure, masts, funnels, catapult, 4" and 8" turrets as well as some small boats. You also get three sprues of 36 Japanese attack and fighter aircraft (Aichi D3A2 Vals and Mitsubishi Zeros), not quite enough to represent the entire attack force that sank the cruiser but impressive just the same. Finally, one small sprue includes three British aircraft types - a nice Walrus (with alternate folded and spread wings), an early Sunderland flying boat and a Mk XIII Wellington maritime version of the bomber. The kit is typically expensive, like many new 1/700 models these days, but you do seem to get a fair bit for your money.

The decks are largely moulded in a sand colour and the tops of the funnels are in black plastic but the rest of the kit is in a more typical light/medium grey. There are two heavy pieces of metal to fit in the hull to add weight and presumably stability and if these are used they do really make for a heavy model.

According to my references the kit is pretty accurate in outline and presentation such that the model is configured as it was at the time of *Dorsetshire*'s loss in 1942. This includes the 'as built' rearward set bridge compared to other Counties with its different shape and arrangement of superstructure decks, as well as the four dual 4" gun turrets fitted in 1937-38. The main superstructure areas feature separate side pieces that must be applied individually and these offer as much detail as possible. The 4" gun turrets and the quad pom-poms look good enough for me (though

fastidious modellers may want to replace them with etched metal aftermarket items).

However the model does seem to have (to my eyes at least) a fundamental accuracy issue – it seems too short and very slightly too narrow. Not being schooled in the ways of naval architecture, I find quoted ship length dimensions a rather complicated business – look up 'nautical terms' concerning dimensions and you'll see why. Various references quote various hull lengths for this class, but a fairly common dimension quoted is 'overall length' and some of the class they were 630 feet long for this measurement. Note some sources also say *Dorsetshire* in particular was 632' 9". Now overall length is, I believe, more or less the extreme forward tip of the ship's hull to the extreme rearward tip. The post-to-post length often quoted is around 590 feet for the Counties, and my understanding of that dimension is that it is a measure from a vertical part of the frame near the bow and another vertical part of the frame near the stern. There are other overall hull length terms too, which might also contribute to confusion. To me it seems possible Aoshima may have inadvertently used a post-to-post length for the hull 'overall length' when designing the kit, or something similar.

Now this may not matter to most modellers – the difference works out to be about 11mm, giving a kit overall length of about 260mm – it's significant but not disastrous. Compared to other ship models it isn't easily picked up as a fault so you can quite happily build the model and be content that it looks very much like the original in all respects. Other 1/700 kit designers have had similar mistakes in the past, the most notable to my mind being Dragon's HMS *Antelope*, which was actually the same size as the old Airfix 1/600 HMS *Amazon*. This was a very noticeable scale error and made the kit virtually unusable unless you wanted to add a new 1/600 model to your Airfix fleet.

On the plus side, looking at scale drawings of the County class, it also seems possible to me to stretch the *Dorsetshire* hull to bring it closer to the correct 1/700 length, which I am in the process of trying to do as I write. I have stretched the hull by about 11mm, cutting through the hull roughly at midpoint. I hope to recreate some of the lost detail when I fill and re-scribe the hull sides, and do much the same with the lovely deck plank detail, though I do not have the skill to make it anywhere near perfect. I left the beam alone as that was only about 1.8mm too narrow and it would have been too difficult to do cleanly. I have stretched the integrally moulded central long centre superstructure area too, and will hopefully disguise the joins with the raised deck part that the kit's nicely moulded 4.5" gun turrets are mounted on. I raised the hull height by about 40thou card thickness (by adding a layer) – this is about 1.5mm. Now, I also plan to space out the funnels just slightly (which might be

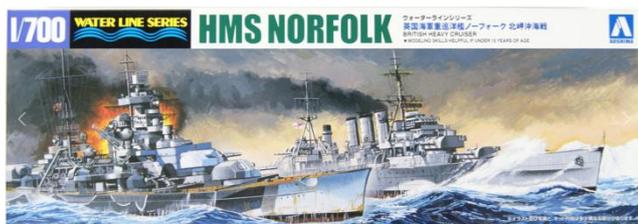
trickier), and perhaps even raise them by a millimetre or so to get as much in proportion as possible.

Be careful with the forecastle deck – two parts are supplied as options, one with deck detail and one plain 'metal'. I skilfully managed to select the wrong one but it's too late to remove now!

So, looked out from an overall perspective I still feel I can recommend the Aoshima HMS *Dorsetshire*, despite the rather expensive price of Japanese ship kits these days. Be aware that I have reviewed the first iteration by Aoshima of this ship. Another *Dorsetshire* kit was released shortly after this one, supposedly depicting her during the chase of *Bismarck*. I do not have this kit so cannot comment on differences, if any, or additional sprues. It does feature a different camouflage pattern. I would recommend looking at photos, and at the various commercial publications on the class, to get better info on the colours and patterns adopted over the ship's entire lifetime.



Parts from the *Dorsetshire*



County class cruiser– HMS *Norfolk* Aoshima 1/700

Reviewed by Lindsay Charman

As mentioned in my earlier review, the RN's County class cruisers from the 1920s on comprised a large number of vessels by British standards, with thirteen ships entering RN service, as well as two entering Australian naval service and two related half-sisters entering service with the Spanish Navy. The class comprised several sub-classes, each with variations - all of them were also modified to a greater or lesser extent over their service lives. Several had very short war-time careers and were lost to enemy action, others served for the whole war. All saw considerable

action. For the ship modeller, the County class offers quite a lot of kit conversion potential, and of course colour schemes possible.

Pleasingly, the Japanese kit manufacturer Aoshima have continued to release further replicas of these County class cruisers. Their first kit, HMS *Dorsetshire*, was released in two apparently different versions, and they quickly released a kit of HMS *Norfolk*, the sub-class sister ship of *Dorsetshire*. It would appear that Aoshima quickly discovered their major size/scale mistake with the *Dorsetshire* kit, or perhaps were advised by some members of the modelling community, and basically had another go! This new kit of a County class is quite different to the original kit and as far as I can tell it shares nothing at all with the *Dorsetshire* kit, except for a conceptual design similarity.

Commissioned in 1930, the real *Norfolk* is a well deserved subject for a mainstream plastic kit as the real ship had a distinguished service career, with action in the *Bismarck* action, the Battle of the Atlantic including confrontation with the *Scharnhorst*, honours for the Arctic on Russian convoy duty, North Cape, North Africa and Norway. She was finally scrapped in 1950.

The main problem with the first County class modelled by Aoshima, HMS *Dorsetshire*, seems to have been resolved. The *Norfolk* hull now appears spot on in terms of size for 1/700 scale – it's completely new. The deck is also new and enlarged when compared to the earlier *Dorsetshire*, while the superstructure is proportionally bigger and different in approach - pleasingly it fits the new hull too.

The box art appears to depict HMS *Norfolk* taking on the German battlecruiser *Scharnhorst* during the fateful 'Battle of the North Cape' in late 1943. She is engaging the battlecruiser at rather a silly close range – but artistic licence and all that...

The kit consists of a nicely moulded hull with very fine moulded in plate detail, much like the *Dorsetshire* kit but bigger, plus an even better detailed deck, and a complex range of pieces for the superstructure, masts, funnels, catapult, four 4" turrets and five 8" turrets (though you'll only need four) as well as some small boats. No aircraft are included this time, alas, for by 1943 *Norfolk* had exchanged its Walrus amphibian for more small boats, so that's OK.

The kit's decks are this time largely moulded in the medium grey shade of most of the rest of the kit and the tops of the funnels are in black plastic. Again, there are two heavy pieces of metal to fit in the hull to add weight and presumably stability, if you want this - otherwise just omit them as I usually do.

According to my references the kit looks accurate in outline and presentation, for the time of the encounter

with *Scharnhorst* in 1943. The guns tubs amidships and aft, and on 'B' turret and 'X' turret appear correct for the period. This also includes the 'as built' differently shaped bridge and wings compared to other Counties with its different shape and arrangement of superstructure decks, as well as the differently positioned dual 4" gun turrets fitted in 1937-38 – in four positions. The main superstructure areas feature separate side-pieces that must be applied individually and these offer as much detail as possible. The 4" gun turrets and the quad pom-poms look good enough for me (though fastidious modellers may want to replace them with 3D printed or etched metal aftermarket items).

Note again that you must be careful which fore-castle deck piece you use – there are two included (one with deck detail and one plain 'metal') and only one applies.

I can certainly recommend the Aoshima HMS *Norfolk*, again despite the rather expensive price of Japanese ship kits these days.



County Class Cruiser– HMS Kent

Aoshima 1/700

Reviewed by Lindsay Charman

Aoshima continue to release further replicas of these County class cruisers. I have previously done a pair of essentially 'in-box' short reviews on their 1/700 HMS *Dorsetshire* and HMS *Norfolk*. This new kit of a County class is quite different again to the kits of the first two, and thankfully (like Aoshima's *Norfolk*) has the correct hull length for a 1/700 model.

Extraordinarily, as with the *Norfolk* kit, almost nothing in this kit is common with the first two, except perhaps for the mouldings of the aircraft and the small boats.

Commissioned in 1928, HMS *Kent* was one of the earlier County class vessels, and was the lead ship for her own sub-class within the Counties. As she was fairly old by the standards of the times, as crews were getting hard to provide and as she had suffered her own fair share of wartime damage, she was paid off as early as January 1945, eventually used as a target and was scrapped in 1948.

However HMS *Kent* is another appropriate addition to Aoshima's growing range of County class models, not only because of her war record, but also because she was of the same sub-class as HMAS *Australia* and HMAS *Canberra*. This means for those who are keen,

models of the two Australian cruisers can be made relatively easily by converting this new kit.

Now, to recap from my earlier reviews of Aoshima's County class kits, the main problem with the first County class modelled by Aoshima, HMS *Dorsetshire*, was its undersized hull and fortunately this is not a problem this kit shares. The *Kent* hull is almost spot on in terms of size for 1/700 scale – and it's completely new, again. That is, it has nothing in common with the *Dorsetshire* or *Norfolk* kits.

The kit consists of a nicely moulded hull with quite different hull sides to the *Norfolk* kit to show the *Kent's* waterline bulge armour. The kit's decks are moulded in the medium grey shade of most of the rest of the kit and the tops of the funnels are in black plastic. A unique extended upper deck piece, around the kit's funnels, provides the mounting points for the representations of the four 4-inch twin-gun turrets.

Again, there are two heavy pieces of metal to fit in the hull to add weight and presumably stability, if you want this - otherwise just omit them as I usually do.

Amazingly, there are 16 complete two gun 8" turrets provided on the sprues in this kit! This is presumably because there are different combinations of turret fitted (two sorts), and because there are a whole lot of parts, except for the turrets, on some of the sprues. This is good for the spares box of course – or perhaps for when/if I manage to convert my old Matchbox *Exeter* hull into *York*...

You also get the 1/700 *Walrus*, *Sunderland* and *Wellington* again in 1/700 – very cute – plus three SM.79s. You actually only need the *Walrus*, unless you want to do a diorama of the Bardia attack, which *Kent* participated in during the action off Benghazi. During her Bardia action she was torpedoed by Italian SM.79 bombers. You will have to scratchbuild the aerial torpedoes for the Savoia Marchetti's...

I'd recommend the Aoshima HMS *Kent* to potential ship modellers, despite the rather high price of this range these days. This range of 1/700 Counties are an amazing venture by Aoshima, as there is little that each model has in common with its predecessors and yet they are all from the same class. The investment to design the kits must be very high so I think Aoshima should be congratulated on their efforts and supported by those few of us who build small scale model ships these days.

As mentioned, I will be trying to convert this kit at some point into one of the Australian Counties – I may need another *Kent*!

The box art depicts HMS *Kent* trying to avoid the torpedoes of a trio of SM.79s during the Bardia action in the 'Battle of Benghazi' in 1940.



Camouflage Mask set Defiant Mk 1 Pat. B

Top Notch - Masks for Models TNM72- M71

Reviewed by Simon Wolff

Masking camouflaged scale model aircraft has to be one of the most odious chores when building a scale model aircraft, especially one with a complex camouflage scheme. Of course there are various applications you can use, such as masking tape, Humbrol's Maskol, or Silly Putty, but still you need to create the sometimes complex patterns which can take quite a while to produce, however now there is (for some aircraft at least) pre made camouflage masks. A British company called Top Notch produces pre-shaped camouflage masks made from thin vinyl for a number of aircraft kits in 1:72, 1:48 (and I believe 1:32 scale)

I have not as yet used any of the examples provided by Top Notch, but was shown examples of 1:72 kits with these masks applied to them prior to painting. I think they are very similar to the masks used to mask canopies with; well it certainly seems to be the same principle. What you do once you have picked your mask set is to follow the instructions and use the shaped mask pieces, which have a sticky back to them, spray the relevant colour, allow the paint to dry of course, and then remove the mask pieces which it says are reusable.

The collection of camouflage shapes are attached to a backing sheet and the instructions say the mask needs care when removing from the backing sheet; as to the camouflage scheme application the instruction sheet gives each vinyl piece a separate number which is then shown on the colour illustration of the next page of the instruction sheet. The whole sequence looks quite easy to follow. Pick your scheme and follow the instructions to place the masks. Using this product you will probably get a hard edge however apparently you can replicate feathered or soft edges by using blue tack to lift the edges.

In the case of the example presented here, the aircraft mask set chosen is for the Boulton Paul Defiant in 1:72 scale (mask is also available in 1:48 scale). The

set comes with a two page instructions sheet, a page showing the number for each piece and on the second page colour scheme and positioning of the vinyl masks, they give you camouflage patterns for Type A and Type B day camouflage scheme. The vinyl pieces come on two sheets, ready to be used, the instructions appear easy to use, note the masks are for the upper camouflage pattern and the wheels (no mask is provided for the clear parts, serial numbers, code letters these of course will come with your kit). With the instructions they suggest downloading the 'free manual for step by step instructions and photos on how to use masks'. I downloaded this manual and it is quite informative.

You can find a list of their complete range on their web site, prices vary but the three examples I received are priced at £6.00 each, being that they will fit in to an envelope for posting, costs for us overseas modellers might not be too bad.

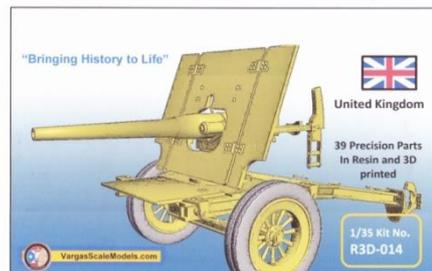
The masks look easy to use; the instructions appear straight forward and easy to follow. It's got to make masking aircraft models a lot easier!! Especially those WWII types!

Web site: topnotch-success.net

Thanks to Top Notch for the samples



Masks on the Backing sheet



British QF 3-pounder

1/35 Vargas Scale Models

Reviewed by Bill Renfrew

The Q.F. #-pounder was a French light gun designed by Hotchkiss and introduced into the French Navy in 1886. Its primary function was to combat attacks by torpedo boats and as such was extensively fitted to pre-Dreadnaught battleships, cruisers and light craft. The gun was widely adopted and manufactured. About 2950 were made in the UK by the Elswick

Ordnance company. They were usually mounted on a conical fixed mount on ships and coastal defence forts. By the time of the Great War, these guns were considered obsolete and a considerable number were in storage. Some were employed as light anti-aircraft guns although their limited range of about 4000 metres did restrict this use somewhat. The Royal Naval Air Service Armoured Car Division also sought to use them as light field guns. One was mounted on an improvised carriage in the UK but this proved to be too heavy to be towed by an armoured car or light truck. Several lighter mountings were developed by field workshops in France and it is one of these lighter carriages that is represented by this kit.

The kit consists of thirty-nine (39) parts 3-D printed at plastic bags. Cyanoacrylate (super) glue is recommended for use during assembly. Some cleanup work will be needed on some parts, especially the barrel, and care will need to be exercised to remove only those parts of the miniscule sprues attached to the smaller parts. You will need to carefully study the instructions to identify what needs to be removed. The quality of moulding/printing is really first class although many of the smaller parts do look a little delicate. This should not be a problem if you are careful.

The instruction sheet consists of two A-4 sheets printed on both sides in colour to give seven (7) pages with the back page carrying an advertisement for two of their other products. Pages 2 through six show the build sequence with different parts shown in different colours to enable differentiation. The instructions are clearly and well drawn with the name of stage on show. There is no identification of parts nor is there a parts map but options are offered for the deployment of the gun shield. One thing that is not clear is the location of the breech block. It is small rectangular part adjacent to the towing frame on the sprue. It should be fitted with the groove up.



QF 1-pounder "Pom-Pom" Mark I

Conversion Kit for RR Armoured Car
1/35 Vargas Scale Models

Reviewed by Bill Renfrew

The QF 1-pounder was designed by Hiram Maxim in the late 1880's as an enlarged version of the Maxim Machine Gun. At a calibre of 37mm and a sheer weight of about one pound, it was the smallest size allowed to fire an exploding projectile according to the St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868. The need for an

exploding projectile was to ensure that the firing party could actually see where the shells landed. The nomenclature "Pom – Pom" came about from the noise the gun made when fired. (For a more detailed history of the "Pom – Pom" gun, I refer members to Peter Webster's article in APMA 3 – 17).

After the Boer War, those guns held by the British Army were returned to store and when the Admiralty requested Anti – aircraft guns for their shore stations in 1914, they were supplied. Several were mounted on light trucks and some were fitted to armoured Pierce – Arrow chassis as mobile Anti – aircraft batteries. The staff at the RNAS depot at Barby Road London decided to fit one to a Rolls Royce Armoured Car as a support vehicle for the armoured car squadrons. It had a number of limitations in this role. Principal among them was the fact that the gun had to be fired from outside the armoured body. I know of three photographs of "Pom – Pom" armed Rolls Royces. One is that on the kit box, another shows the same car at a family day at Barby Road while the third shows a car in the desert. This may also be the same car but has been modified to add additional armour plate for the gunner and has dispensed with the shield.

The kit comprises nine (9) parts that have been 3-D printed in the same translucent resin as the 3 – pounder above and once again the standard is truly excellent. It may even be a bit better than the 3-pounder. The parts are the gun body and water-jacketed barrel; the body top plate; the mounting bracket; the elevating screw; the ammunition box and bracket; a piece of ammunition belt; the gun shield; a small tripod mount to go inside the car and a pole to connect it to the gun. I am a little dubious of these last two pieces since they appear a little flimsy for such a gun and I probably expected to see one of the small conical mountings that were commonly used to mount machine guns on ships from the 1870s onward. All the parts are very finely made with the cocking handle moulded/printed on the body but separated from it. The shield seems to be scale thickness that I doubt that even photo-etch could better.

The instruction sheet is a single almost A-4 sheet printed in colour, folded to make four pages. The first page gives an overview of the finished conversion, the centre two pages show the parts breakdown and construction while the back shows advertisements for two of their other products. There is no colouring or marking information given but I would assume that the gun was painted in Admiralty Grey. It is unlikely that it would have been left in its pre-War scheme of dark green or black body with the water jacket and other fittings of polished brass.

Both of these kits are by a new company called Vargas Scale Models and Dave Clarke bought them at the IPMS Nationals in the US. He asked me to

review them for him. I must say that I am really impressed by them, so much so that I have ordered them and two other of their kits the 9.45-inch Heavy Trench Mortar and the 6-inch Medium trench Mortar, both of which were used by the AIF during the Great War. Needless to say I recommend these kits to members.

General News

The latest news in from Ley at Platypus:

- New from Trackpad are books on the 21st Century HEMTT Family and Danish Leopards in Afghanistan.
- From Avonmore Books a work about Teddy Sheean
- From Harpia "Fise of the Red Dragon" about Chinese Airpower in the 20th Century
- From Militaria Verlag some interesting books on Austrian Orders and Decorations and German Machine Guns 1892-1918 as well as some German language books on the Austro Hungarian officer corps and German Freikperps
- From Valiant Wings – Airframe Detail No.8 – The Gotha Go 229-A
- From David Doyle a magnum opus about the M3 Lee and Grant Medium tank
- New kits from Mach2 – various versions of the VC-10 in 1/72 scale



Front desk at the AGM (SW)



Michael's talk on scratch-building ships (SW)

Photographs



Members at the AGM (SW)



Sea Vixen at the AGM (SW)



Taking the time to model (SW)



Just the sniff of a bargain is enough (SW)



Scene in January (SW)



A German Sea Plane(SW)



Jiri's models at the AGM (SW)



At the January Meeting (SW)



Carlo in January (SW)



3-Pounder at Fort Scratchly (WR)



Captured Boer 1-pounder c1900 (AWM)