

Scale Views

The newsletter of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association – Issue 4 2023

ABOUT SCALE VIEWS

Editor: Lindsay Charman

Scale Views appears as a supplement to **APMA**, the Association's quarterly magazine. Contributions for inclusion in the magazine and newsletter are welcome from any and all members.

Submissions do not have to be publication ready; the Editorial team are happy to assist with organising and formatting text and drawings based on your drafts.

To submit material for inclusion in *Scale Views* contact the staff at apma.newsletter@gmail.com, see us at a meeting, or send correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 464, Cremorne, NSW 2090.

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 Editorial team.

APMA MEETINGS

APMA meets monthly (usually on the second Saturday of each month) at Gladesville Sporties Club, 181A Ryde Road, Gladesville, NSW.

For exact meeting details visit the web site and see our current calendar at:
<http://apma.org.au>

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The final APMA meeting of the year is on this week, Saturday 9th December.

The meeting will start at the usual time of midday and is expected to run till roughly 4.30 pm. Please note that while Sporties is the venue as usual, we

will not be meeting in our usual room (for this meeting only). The December meeting is also our Annual General Meeting (AGM), primarily for the election of officers, and of course the end-of-year competitions.

Please consider standing for the 2024 Committee as most (if not all) the current committee team is planning on standing down. As mentioned in previous years, the Association can only continue to function properly if we have a full committee sharing the work for a year.

Naturally, previous committee members will be happy to assist new committee members get settled into their roles.

SPONSORS' NEWS

Rob of Star Hobbies has very kindly sponsored the People's Choice at the December end-of-year competitions with a \$50 gift voucher as a prize!

Please see further on in this issue for additional news from Platypus Publications.

NEXT MEETING INFO

The next meeting after our December AGM will be the on the 13th January 2024, with the meeting starting as usual at midday this year.

PRESIDENT'S THANK YOU

As the outgoing president, Simon offers a special thanks to all those members who helped make the club meetings a success this year and to all those who helped promote the club to the public at external displays around events in NSW (and elsewhere). Well done to you all!

The Australian Plastic Modellers Association is supported by the following:



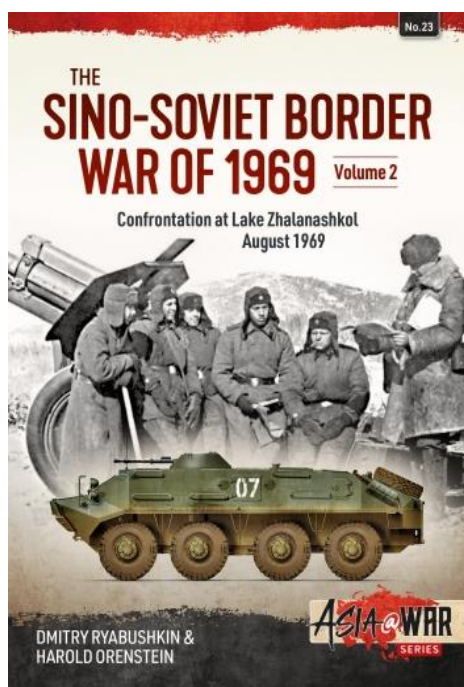
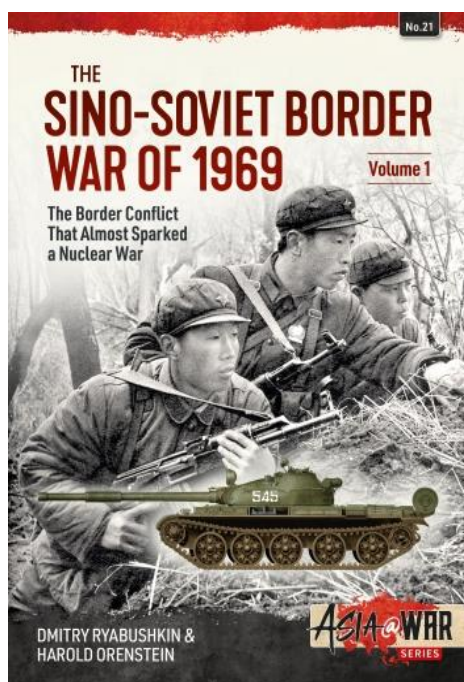
**Platypus
Publications**

platypuspubs@y7mail.com



www.starhobbies.com.au

BOOK REVIEWS



The Sino-Soviet Border War of 1969 Volumes 1 and 2

By Dmitry Ryabushkin and Harold Orenstein,
Helion and Company Limited, 2021
Reviewed by Petr Kure

The Cold War period is generally viewed through the lens of East versus West and the infighting within the sides receives scant attention. These books seek to address this by informing the reader about the various battles fought between the Soviet Union

and the People's Republic of China in 1969. If this interests the potential reader then it is likely that they will be excited by both titles and it would be judicious to review these together.

There is certainly an element of absurdity in this conflict. Within a few decades the relationship between fraternal allies deteriorated into open warfare. The provocations at the border were dutifully recorded for propaganda purposes and there exists the comical footage of Soviet soldiers ejecting Chinese fishermen into a river. At this point the sodden men proceed to splash the border guards.

The site of the first clashes, at Zhenbao / Damansky Island, holds nil value as it was merely used to dry fishing nets. It is ludicrous that fighting took place here in the bone-chilling minus 30 degree winter. This was not merely a border skirmish either. Both sides used artillery, armour and even rotary wing aviation played a role. Above all this loomed the spectre of atomic Armageddon.

Volume 1 covers the history of the region, the lead up to hostilities and the first engagement at Zhenbao in detail. Be aware that while the cover features a profile of a T-62 tank, these only featured in the subsequent combat at the river islet and are covered in Volume 2. Also, the authors put forward the viewpoint that the Chinese executed and even mutilated Soviet wounded and two pages containing photographs of gory corpses are present. This may be distressing to some readers.

Continuing onwards from the initial clash, the second volume recounts the next action at Zhenbao and the other locations where conflict took place along the border. Numerous maps are made available to inform the reader. Details concerning the ridiculous and courageous lengths, including the use of divers in the icy waters, that the Chinese forces went to in order to recover a knocked out, technologically advanced T-62 tank are included. The resolution, aftermath and changes in Sino-Soviet relations naturally conclude the second book.

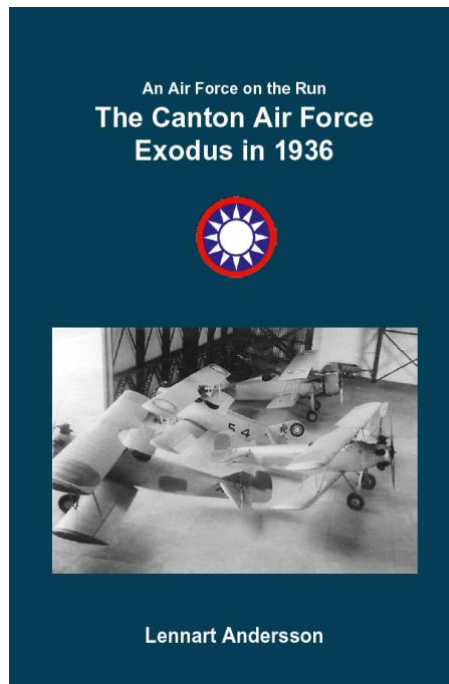
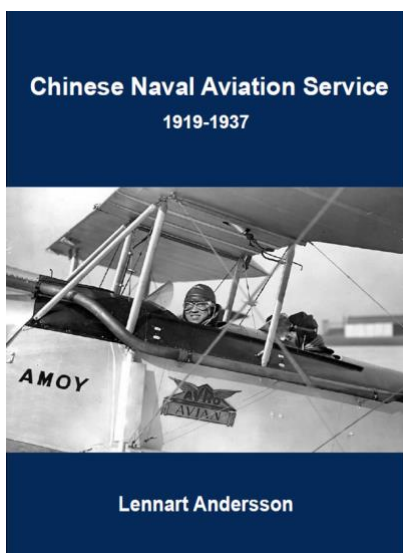
The principal author, Dmitry Ryabushkin, goes to considerable lengths to showcase differing viewpoints on the war. However, by his own admission, he acknowledges a conscious decision to present a definitive account of events. The anticipated perceived bias is refuted by deferring to the extensive research underpinning the text. Maybe due to Ryabushkin's background in physics and

mathematics, the expected passive tone is dispensed with and results in an often animated writing style which is very engrossing. The publisher has since released *When Brothers Fight - Chinese Eyewitness Accounts of the Sino-Soviet Border Battles, 1969* by Benjamin Lai and Zhang Yiming. This may offer a compelling counterweight.

Across both titles there are 122 photos, 19 maps, 7 colour profiles and 12 colour illustrations of figures. Weapons featured in the photographs are not always captioned which is an unfortunate omission but these instances are few. Perhaps rather than including two profiles of the more recognisable BTR-60PBs, one could have been the open-topped preceding BTR-60P – especially as a photo shows one having flag art on its side. Nevertheless, these books are a valuable reference.

Green monochromatic camouflage is unlikely to titillate the modeller but at least it expedites painting and allows for the effects of weathering to be more perceivable. The colour illustrations, as well as the photos that they are based on, will be a blessing for realistically depicting figures and dioramas. Due to its limited scope and duration, the Sino-Soviet War gives the modeller the highly enticing prospect of completing a collection depicting all of the equipment employed in a conflict without requiring Herculean efforts.

The changing power dynamics in the world and especially the evolving relationship between the participant nations in the Sino-Soviet War lends contemporary value to these titles. Potential future discord is hinted at with reference to the adoption of non-Russian names for places such as Vladivostok. The Sino-Soviet Border War of 1969 Volume 1 and 2 is accessible and engaging. It is recommended to anyone seeking to broaden their knowledge of Cold War history.



Chinese Aviation History E-books

By Lennart Andersson
Z-förlaget, 2023
Reviewed by Petr Kure

Characterised by its many different factions and shifting allegiances, Chinese history during the interwar years approaches the complexity of the civil war in Lebanon. More literature on the subject is greatly appreciated. Especially when it is in English and can be obtained for free by merely writing an email.

At first glance it may appear to be an unusual pairing – a Swedish Author and interwar China. However, this is not his first foray into this topic. Having published the excellent and exhaustive “A History of Chinese Aviation. Encyclopedia of Aircraft and Aviation in China until 1949”, these smaller e-book titles are meant to be supplementary and further enhance earlier sections of the encyclopedia.

The range of available titles in the series can be viewed here: <https://z-bok.se/China.html> Other books by the author are listed on this webpage: <https://z-bok.se/gpage.html> Currently, these are:

- Yunnan Air Force in China
- Chinese Naval Aviation Service 1919-1937
- The Sichuan Air Force in China 1929-1937
- Southwest Aviation Corporation China 1933-1938
- The Canton Air Force Exodus in 1936
- The Birth of the Kwangsi (Guangxi) Air Force In China

- Aviation in the Fukien (Fujian) Rebellion in China 1933
- The Eagles of Canton. Aviation in South China. The Early Period.

Send an email to the address that appears on the left side of the web page when viewing a specific e-book to obtain it. All books are in .pdf format. Please note that the last three e-books cost approximately \$11 with "The Eagles of Canton" being higher at \$14. Shandong and Shanxi will receive attention in future releases.

Each e-book has a narrow focus which makes them easily digestible. One should not be daunted by the number of pages as these are A5 in size. The strength of this series lies in its concise nature that provides a satisfactory overview of the topic. Searching online can yield a variety of differing designations and associated photographs.

"Chinese Naval Aviation Service 1919-1937" details the history and tribulations of this newly formed department up until it was integrated into Chiang Kai-shek's air force in the fight against Japan. All types utilised are described with accompanying photos and profiles. Numerous indigenous designs are present here that were not covered previously. Considerable resourcefulness was needed to salvage and reuse engines from crashed designs. Some aircraft had anchors painted on their roundels, akin to French naval aviation, which is quite striking and unusual. Information pertaining to combat service and operations from warships is included. Interestingly, one attack involved utilising improvised glass bottle smoke bombs. An aircraft on a promotional flight even became stranded in Australia.

The second reviewed title, "The Canton Air Force Exodus in 1936", recounts an unparalleled event in aviation history where an entire air force switched sides. Background regarding the rebellious warlords of Guangdong and Guangxi (along with their associated air forces – the Canton Air Force referring to Guangdong's) is supplied but the majority of the short text covers the flight of airmen and their mounts to the Nanjing government of Chiang Kai-shek. As usual per Chinese aviation of this period, a plethora of types feature.

Interwar aircraft are often overlooked. Similarly, Chinese aircraft are overshadowed by the numerous types that fought against Japan. Therefore, Chinese interwar airplanes are particularly neglected. There is a myriad of aircraft to choose from and this gives the modeller an opportunity to depict truly rare subjects.

Modelling a Chinese aircraft is made difficult by the shortage of kits depicting 1930s aviation and this is exacerbated when variations of roundels or Chinese characters are required. Custom decal printing or a supreme mastery of painting may be necessary. However, there are a few kits of Chinese Air Force types (including those from Canton) available. 1/72 scale has: Focke-Wulf Fw 44J Stieglitz from Kora Models, Fairey Fox Mk.IV from Omega Models, Curtiss Hawk II from RS Models and Nakajima NC Type 91 from AZ Model. These are all quite scarce and subsequently expensive.

The masochist scratch builder will be drawn to the indigenous designs. There is even a flying boat! The technical data, colour profiles and reference photographs will be valuable but 3-view drawings are not present. These can be sourced from 中國軍機圖誌 (Chinese Military Aircraft 1912-1949) [ISBN-10: 9620758064 / ISBN-13: 9789620758065] from 朱飛虎. This almost 600 page tome covers all types and is in Chinese.

Each title in Lennart Andersson's series further develops the reader's understanding of the complicated and forgotten realm of incipient Chinese aviation. They come recommended and make for a fascinating weekend read. This is all the sweeter when the e-books are complimentary.

KIT AND PRODUCT REVIEWS

1/350 Bathurst Class Corvette (from a 3D print file)
Short introductory description by Lindsay Charman

This is a waterline model ship design by "Wargaming 3D", who sell files from their website. They can be printed at home by those modellers who own a compatible 3D printer. This file I have "prints" from is for the little RAN WW2 corvette and it happens to be offered for free. It's a lovely model. It can be printed either with all superstructure, boats and weaponry moulded integrally, or with weapons left off and able to be printed separately. The latter will certainly make painting a little easier! I have had one example printed in 1/700 as well, and the fidelity of detail is excellent, though painting will be even harder in the smaller scale. More news as the model progresses and special thanks to Renato, Alistair and Craig.



The 1/350 printed model, with forward mast removed, without weapons & with a styrene waterline piece already added by me for strength.

V.B.Š.a & V.B.Š.c Kuňkadlo

Eduard Model 2130 in 1/72 scale and
ViZi Models VZ48008 in 1/48 scale

Reviewed by David Muir



The Kuňkadlo was/is a light aircraft homebuilt by brothers Vladimir & Bohuslav Šimunek (hence the VBS designation) while they were students at Prague University in the early 1920s. When construction began in 1924 it was powered by a two cylinder Clerget Renault and had shoulder mounted wings with cranked leading edges and a small 'D' shaped rudder. ViZi refer to this as 'V.B.Š.-a'.

From 1925 the design was further developed, the fuselage remaining essentially as built but receiving a straight edged rectangular wing and a new rudder. The fuselage remained

unchanged, but by 1926 the wing was parasol mounted with an even larger rudder. ViZi call this one 'V.B.Š.-c'.

Initially it wore a simple scheme of brown fuselage and silver wings with red trim. This too evolved, with the fuselage, most of the wings and the tailplanes being refinished in blue and decorated with VBS logos and registrations. Withdrawn from use in 1930 it was restored in 1967 and now hangs in the Prague Technical Museum.

THE MODEL(S)

Eduard did Kuňkadlo as one of their 'Limited Edition' kits in 1/72 some years ago and these can still occasionally be found, albeit at a price, in the usual auction sites. Injection moulded to a very high standard it has 24 plastic and 40 exquisite PE parts. However, it provides decals for only the restored version which differs from its late 1930s colours.

This thing is tiny and hence the smaller stuff is minute and very delicate so care will be needed when separating the struts, for example, from the sprues. None the less the detail is gorgeous: the 10 piece engine is a gem complete with pushrods, intakes and exhausts, all in less than 10mm width. An excellent kit deserving of some care and respect.

Given its scarcity we are lucky to have relatively new 3D printed kits for the aircraft from ViZi in both 1/72 and 1/48 scales that cover both the early and late versions. Several things are immediately apparent when opening the stout box: its contents smoothly surfaced and finely detailed. As with the Eduard kit it has a cockpit floor, seat and bulkhead provided to furnish the cockpit but there is scope in this one to add more detail with a joystick and rudder pedals.

Like all 3D prints there is a forest of support structures to be removed but all are sensibly placed for easy removal and cleanup. The exception is the struts which would be a challenge to prepare. Fortunately, they are all round (not airfoil) section and are easily and much better replaced with styrene rod or Albion Alloys tube.

Although I don't have one, I suspect that ViZi's 1/72 late version (i.e. the direct equivalent to Eduard's offering) will lack some of that kits delicacy and finesse and that strut replacement will be essential. And very challenging... Even at the larger scale this remains a simple and straight forward kit. The 'a' version covers the first two shoulder wing variants, with no PE and just 15 parts. Wire bracing is not provided but is reasonably simple on this version but more extensive on the parasol winged versions. However, neither is difficult to do, being simple straight runs between well marked points.

What sets the ViZi offerings apart is a 23 page booklet (+ a cover) giving a well-illustrated and comprehensive history of the type. It includes line and coloured drawings of each stage of its evolution until it was withdrawn from use. The drawback is that it is printed entirely in Czechoslovakian. So Google Translate is your friend or better yet, buy Jiri a beer or three at the next club meeting. It is available with the kits or separately and irrespective of your preferred manufacturer or scale the booklet alone is worth the price. Both manufacturer's offerings are well engineered and presented and therefore both are highly recommended. On balance the finesse of the Eduard offering makes it the go for late versions in 1/72. ViZi is the go for early versions in 1/72 and the only option for all versions in 1/48.

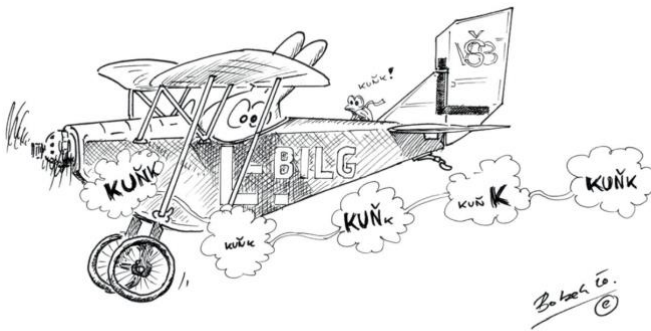
BREAKING NEWS: THE KUŇKADLO IS BACK!

Eduard have just launched sales of a limited quantity of Kuňkadlo kits in 1/72nd scale. They are available at:

<https://www.eduard.com/eduard/vbs-kunkadlo-1-72.html>

The E-Day 2023 edition kit (in plastic bag) is available for purchase under catalogue number 7145. The photo etched set (Catalogue number 2130-LEPT) is available as a separate item at:

<https://www.eduard.com/eduard/kunkadlo-pe-set-1-72-1-72.html>



REPORT: WILLIAMTOWN NEWCASTLE AIR DISPLAY NOV 2023

Report by Lindsay Charman

Along with my son, I was very lucky to be able to watch the air display run by the RAAF over the coastal waterfront and inner estuary areas of Newcastle on Saturday 18th of November, plus the open day held at RAAF Base Williamtown on Sunday 19th.



EA-18G Growler of 6 Sqn

The 2 hour morning air display was excellent, full of fast or large frontline and support aircraft, with a sprinkling of heritage aircraft from what is now known as 100Sqn. Flare dropping featured heavily! The display was repeated in the afternoon. Our position was on the mouth of the Hunter River at Stockton, so we were probably not in the ideal spot for viewing much of the aerial routines but we were in a great spot for most of the low level noisy departures of each aircraft type.



F-35A Lightning II of 77 Sqn

Departure from the parking area paddock was a bit major problem at Stockton after the first air display from our area (so we unintentionally ended up seeing much of the second display), but otherwise the show was excellent, and if the RAAF do this again I can thoroughly recommend going there and setting up for a good show, wherever you choose to sit.

The Sunday open day was also excellent, with examples of every RAAF type participating in the display on the Saturday. There were no examples of the C-17 or Hercules, but perhaps these types were doing “proper” RAAF duties! Other elements of the RAAF were on display, notably Air Defence Guard units and Air Traffic Control units. There were also a range of VR/simulator units available for the public to try.



E-7A Wedgetail of 2 Sqn

There were air and ground crew all over the public access areas, who we found eager to answer RAAF related questions from members of the public, and the open day was supplemented by a display of NSW Police staff and vehicles and other organisations who were publicising their roles or trying to do some recruiting.



100 Sqn 'heritage' Mustang

As a bonus, the “Fighter World” museum was open to all ticket holding visitors, which was quite excellent value. Some museum aircraft were in the hangar and some were wheeled out and on display, complementing the more recent operational types and the heritage aircraft on display.



P-8 Poseidon of 11 Sqn

COMPETITION RESULTS

Numbers-wise, the November meeting was another pleasing month, with 51 models in three categories of display/competition.

The results were as follows:

Aircraft of the Schneider Trophy (as sponsored by Michael Bennett)

1st Place – G. Carter with a FROG Supermarine S6B

And the winner of the Michael Bennet Trophy:
G. Carter with a Karaya Blackburn Pellet

Theme Displays People's Choice winners:

'White' I. Wrenford with an Airfix 1:48 CSIRO Avro Anson

'Japan' J.Kure with a 1:72 KI 48 Lily

Finally, the Special Raffle winner was Simon Wolfe who took home an Airfix 1:72 Wellington II.

There were no October competitions as the Swap n Sell was held in that month.



THE SCHNEIDER CUP TROPHY COMPETITION

Many thanks to Michael Bennet for sponsoring the competition theme of "Aircraft of the Schneider Trophy" this year. Here is a selection of photos from the day, thanks to Simon, showing the unique display of some lovely (and fast) floatplanes.



Ley Reynolds' armoured train in the 'Japan' category



Michael presents a prize to Graham Carter

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORS

Platypus Publications have sent through the following lists of books recently released (or imminent).

Duke Hawkins:

A-10 A/C Thunderbolt II
Saab 35 Draken

Legends of Warfare:

Stuart Tank, Vol.2 by D. Doyle
K5 Railgun by D. Doyle
M1 Abrams by C. DeJohn
Sturmgeschutz, Vol 1 by D. Doyle
Sherman Tank, Vol.1 by D. Doyle
M2/M3 Bradley by C. DeJohn
M551 Sheridan by D. Doyle

Europe @ War:

No 34, Ripped Apart, Vol.1 Cyprus Crisis 1963-64
(Cooper, Watson & Vassilopoulos)

MMP:

Miles M.25 Martinet T.T. Mk I by J Forsgren
Polish Fighting Colours 1939-1947 Vol 1
Polish Armoured Trains 1921-1959 Vol 2

Helion:

War of Intervention in Angola Vol5, (Fontanellaz,
Cooper & Matos)

Polish Wings – Stratus:

Polish Wings 39 Cauldron Renault Cyclone (Beleurz
& Strzelzyk)

Airframe & Miniature:

No 22 F4F Wildcat inc. FM1 & FM2 (R. Franks)

and miscellaneous:

Italian Soft Skinned Vehicle Vol 2 (Riccio, Pieri &
Guglielmi)
Flying Colours (Bookazine 2) by R. Caruana

Messerschmitt BF 109 by L Ritger
The Workhorse of Helmand (a Chinook Crew
member's Account) by M Fry
First Polish Armoured Division 1938-47 by
McGilvray & Jarzembowski

MEETING PRESENTATIONS

There have been no presentations in recent months due to an otherwise crowded end-of-year APMA calendar, but fresh presenters with new topics related to modelling in general are always welcome.

Please contact a committee meeting, or failing that, the newsletter Editor if you would like to have a go, or if, perhaps you might have material that might be offered by way of a presentation to the interested membership.