

The newsletter of the Australian Plastic Modellers Association — Issue 2 2024

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 camera 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, contact Bill via his personal e-mail wjrenfrew@gmail.com or send correspondence to the Secretary, PO Box 464, Cremorne, NSW 2090.

APMA MEETINGS

APMA meets monthly (usually on the second Saturday) at Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club 334 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford, NSW.

For meeting details visit the APMA web site at: http://apma.org.au

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE AND NEXT MEETING INFO

An important reminder from the committee to all members - please remember that APMA now has a new meeting venue!

We are now based in Carlingford at the Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club, which is also rather coincidentally known as the "CARLO Bowling Club". The address of the new venue is:

Carlingford Sports & Recreation Club 334 Pennant Hills Rd, Carlingford, NSW.

If you are coming by car, just enter the club parking zone via Evans Street.

Meetings are expected to formally start around 1pm but get there early at 11 am if you like. Remember, please also bring as many models as you can!!!!

Finally, APMA members may wish to join the 'Carlo' club as it may be more convenient and it appears to be very modestly priced.

The Australian Plastic Modellers Association is supported by the following:





REVIEWS

USN KNOX CLASS FRIGATE

FF-1073 Robert E. Peary

AFV Club/Sea Team (initially issued as SE7002 then as SE70002) in 1/700

Review by Lindsay Charman



This is a belated commentary on the kit released by AFV Club about fifteen years ago now. The kit has come in several forms over the past fifteen or so years, with a few different decal options. One (SE7002) has a small box with around 76 pieces moulded in typical light grey coloured and reasonably soft polystyrene. SE 70002 was similar but had different decals to SE7002. Another kit (SE70003) has the same basic kit with extra parts eg a full hull and a large sheet of photo-etch. The simple kit retails for around \$30, which seems reasonable; the detailed kit is going for around \$159, a bit expensive for me.

The kit goes together quite well if approached methodically and carefully. It depicts the US Navy Knox class frigate in its final US guise, after several refits saw a raised focsle to reduce the Knox's tendency to dive into big waves, two strakes forward to assist reduce drenching spray from smaller waves, a Vulcan Phalanx CIWS aft, and a full ECM fit out. The ships boats are a typical powered whaler and a speedier covered launch each hung on a set of davits amidships on either side of the vessel. Detail is reasonably good for a 1/700 ship kit, and while quite sufficient for its time, it is admittedly not really up to current standards.

Assembly is conventional, and initially consists of a series of sub-assemblies, including the forward superstructure, including the bridge, 5" turret, ASROC launcher, and the hangar for the little Seasprite helicopter. The hangar also nicely includes a representation of the telescoping sections if the helicopter is not shown on the landing on deck. The hull's assembly follows, as does the 'mack' - a combined mast and stack (or funnel) as it was described at the time. The kit 'mack' includes the lattice mast structure as a one-piece solid part with no attempt to show the hollow nature of a lattice structure. This part really looks inadequate and is the one item I think absolutely requires replacement by a finer structure from the spares box, or better still a photo-etched part.

The circular shaped top of the 'mack' also lacks a few sensors or ECM thingies around its circumference. These could be added using stretched sprue and scrap, if you are doing the simple kit. I would guess they might be part of the PE sheet in the 'detail up' kits.

As I recall there were after-market 1/700 Knox class PE parts available years ago, that included a replacement mast, made specifically for this kit by an after-market company, though I have not seen it for a long time - I

should have bought several of these at the time! After these subassemblies have been finished, the modeller can commence painting them all before combining them all together. Detail is restrained and appropriate, and mostly raised. The modeller can add extra (from thin card or stretched sprue) if desired with relative ease. Assembly is straightforward and something I found it not very taxing, as the smallest parts are not absolutely tiny and therefore able to be picked up by my clumsy fingers.

There were decals and parts for three USN options offered in SE7002. These were - USS *Brewton* FF-1086, USS *Robert E. Peary* FF-1073 and USS *Kirk* FF-1087. There were also decals for three of the Taiwanese Knoxes, *Chih* Yang* FFG-932, *Fen* Yang FFG-934 and *Ning* Yang FFG-938. All were ex-US vessels, the Taiwanese replicas feature some colourful badges on the hangar roll-a-door. In SE70002, there are different USN decal options - USN frigates USS *Aylwin* FF-1081, USS *Elmer Montgomery* FF-1082 and USS *Kirk* FF-1087 (again). The same three Taiwanese ships are also included in this edition.

There were 46 US operated Knox ships and they served for about 24 years and most were refitted so there is plenty of kit conversion potential. For example, USS *Harold Holt* as used in the 1974 Mayaguez Incident, or USS *Barbey* with a large sphere-shaped dome on top of the hangar.

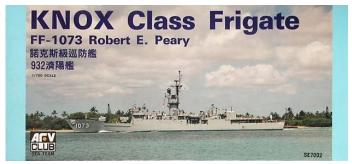
The Spanish Navy used modified Knoxes, the Baleares class. The helipad and hangar were replaced by a Mk 22 single arm SAM launcher, and they eventually acquired two quad harpoon launchers as well.

The Taiwanese Navy used Knoxes (as the Chi Yang class) and most of these were modified/updated with boxed Standard missile launchers mounted aft on the hangar roof, and they still carried the Seasprite helicopter for ASW work. Other navies that also using second-hand US Knox's were Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Thailand, and Mexico.

Consequently, I can quite recommend this kit, in its simple form, as it offers a whole range of sub-variants and national operators, with consequent different shades of grey and different markings. The AFV Club "detail-up" version of this kit is available in Australian shops but I have not seen in Australia the "detail-up" Taiwanese version described as the ROCN Chi Yang* class frigate (SE70005) which is similar in content and price to SE70003, but with ROCN specific weapons and details.

*Note that there seem to be two slightly different spellings of *Chi Yang* in common use - *Chi Yang* and *Chih Yang*.

Finally, below is the box art seen on the three other versions of the Knox class kit issued by AFV Club:

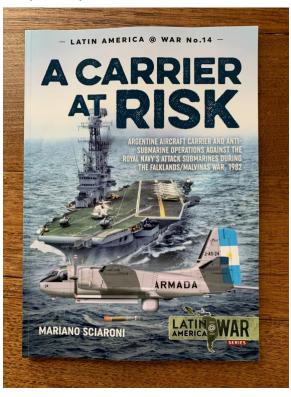




A CARRIER AT RISK

By Mariano Sciaroni Helion Company Latin America at War Series 2019 ISBN: 9781915070111

Review by Lindsay Charman



This is a very interesting 72 page soft back on Argentine carrier operations during the Falklands/Malvinas War in 1982. Most of the book revolves around the carrier ARA 25 de Mayo and her complement of Sea Kings, Trackers and Alouettes during the action, but there is also some mention of other ships and aircraft used in the naval side of the conflict. There are many photos of ships and aircraft and colour side views of the aviation side of things. I have only just skimmed trough the book so far, and it certainly deserves a better review but it's very interesting (and highly appropriate) to see a book on the subject from an Argentine point of view.

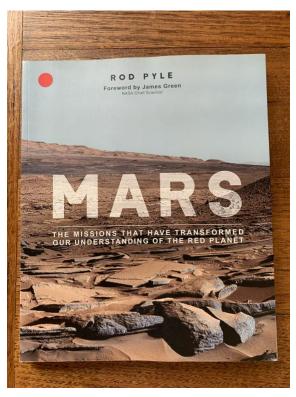
The Argentine carrier was of course one of the two similar British built light fleet carrier classes started in WW2 but in Scale Views – Issue 2 2023

most cases not completed until post war — she was therefore related to HMAS *Melbourne*, *Sydney* and *Vengeance*. She had already seen brief service as HMS *Venerable* in the final stages of the RN's war in the west Pacific as well as a couple of years in RN service post-war. She had then been sold to the Dutch where she served and was heavily modified as the HNLMS *Karel Doorman*, seeing quite a lot of action. Finally, she was sold to Argentina where she saw intermittent service up until her decommissioning in 1997. I shall eventually complete this book and follow up with a final short review then. Recommended.

MARS

The missions that have transformed our understanding of the red planet

By Rod Pyle Carlton Books 2019 ISBN: 978-0233005843 Review by Lindsay Charman



For those modellers interested in real space, this book is great for background on the various US missions to Mars over the past 59 years, and looks at the goals of each mission, their vehicles, how they were made and flown and what they ultimately achieved. Each chapter is a story about individual missions, the role the vehicles played. Mars missions are naturally particularly risky because of the huge distance between there and Earth, and some missions have failed. Each of the stories is fascinating nonetheless.

There are plenty of photographs, maps, and some drawings sufficient to motivate keen scratchbuilders (sadly there are very few kits of the unmanned space missions and their vehicles) but you'll also need a little more detail from your own research to get necessary supplementary information. Perhaps this book (and a few other books now released) might motivate some of the mainstream kit manufacturers, or perhaps the likes of Horizon, or even garage industry resin kit makers to have a go and do some of the hardware. RECOMMENDED.

AUSTRALIAN CRUISER TANK SENTINEL AC-1

Commander Models Inc Kit #1-070 in 1/35 AFV Club T51 track Kit # AF35026 in 1/35 Review by Gunnah B. Abyldah



The extraordinary story of Australia's design, development and manufacturing of its own 'home grown' tank in WWII has been well told in Peter Beale's 2011 "Fallen Sentinel" and in Michael K. Cecil's 2023 'Sentinel The Tank That Almost Was' volumes. Both are reviewed elsewhere in this Newsletter and are worth a read if you are even vaguely interested in Aussie armour.

Leaving aside 3D prints (of which there are a few at small scales), Scalemates suggests that the AC series tanks have not been popular model subjects, noting just three (one each in 1/76 and 1/144 and this one in 1/35) that have been released to date. Commander Models sell a range of resin armour kits, conversions and accessories, almost exclusively in 1/35 while their Iron Shipwrights division does the same for nautical subjects in a variety of scales.

Their AC-1 kit is shipped in a stout top opening box full of foam pellets to minimize any possible damage. There are four pages of instructions; one giving general advice, one as a parts map and two of exploded diagrams showing how it goes together. There are no painting instructions (and not even a potted history) so some research is needed.

The part map identifies 34 parts but most are multiples so the actual part count is closer to 100 in resin with a further 29 in photo etch. My copy had a few spares; two road wheels and one complete bogie assembly, one idler wheel and bracket and one drive sprocket. And a further 170 or so multi-part track links from any of the AFV Club (35026), Modelkasten (MDKSK-55) or Bronco (AB3542) track sets suggested by Commander Models add to those numbers.

The resin parts have mostly been removed from their casting stubs and grouped together by type (suspension bits, turret bits, hull bits, PE bits, etc) in small resealable bags. The exceptions are the hull, front drive cover and the track guards which still have part of their stubs attached. They, along with almost all the smaller parts need a fair amount of clean up, mainly to remove wafers of resin 'flash' but also the occasional surplus lump and resin feed sprue that are left over from the casting process.

All four hull and turret parts in my example were warped to some degree, badly so on the engine cover and mildly so at the front of the hull tub. The turret and tub were easily fixed with clamps and a hair drier and to his credit Jon Warneke (who owns Commander Models) quickly sent a new hull top. He also clarified the intended assembly sequence that is not at all clear on the instruction diagrams.

His recommended sequence is: front drive to hull bottom then track guards to hull bottom (they have a flange that lips over the hull edges) then, lastly, add the hull top. Test fitting of the parts is recommended at each stage but the somewhat unconventional sequence works as intended and delivers correctly and strongly mounted guards.

Warps aside, the parts are well cast with excellent and appropriate surface textures and absolutely no sign of any bubbles or short shots. The only exception is the area under the turret bustle which has some overly heavy lumps that need to be toned down a touch with a knife and sandpaper or, better yet, with a grinding tool.

As in almost all kits the moulding/casting process is not ideal for reproducing some shapes such as anything long, thin and/or cylindrical; gun barrels are a classic example. In this instance the supplied part for the 2 pounder are better replaced with aluminium or brass tube, tapered in a moto tool and sleeved with more tube at its breech end. Similarly it is better to replace the slightly too coarse mesh screens with a more open weave pattern PE from one of the many PE sheets available from the aftermarket.

To my eye the studs with bolts on the hull underside are a little over done and in any event should just be bolt heads. Easy enough to correct with a little sanding. Those around the engine cover plates are also a little large in diameter and a touch too tall. The differences are small but if they bother you they are easily replaced with Wave Corporation hex bolts. Elsewhere the representation of fixings is very good; cleanly cast, neatly spaced and in scale.

Commander sensibly do not supply tracks as there are a lot of aftermarket track options available that will work well for this kit including (for those who like their pain in big lumps) a resin pad/white metal link set from Master Club and a belt type from Asuka Model for those who don't. The sets suggested by Commander are all in injected styrene and give a similar result, so there is little to choose between them; I prefer the AFV Club set as it is readily available and marginally less tedious to assemble than the Bronco equivalent. However, note that the AFV Club set has six sprues each with 28 links for a total of 168, and the Sentinel needs 86 per side for a total of 172 so you will be 4 short. I am using the AFV Club set and bought a second one so I have plenty of spares; if anyone needs more T51 links, just ask. Or buy the Bronco set which has 192 links...

While it has its challenges, with care and some thought the Commander Models Sentinel kit can be built up into a very decent replica of an AC1. That said, it is not one for anyone new to short run resin kits. However, anyone who has a little scratchbuilding, conversion or resin experience under their belt should have no difficulty making this one. And it is the only one around in this scale and is unlikely to ever be bettered and is therefore RECOMMENDED.

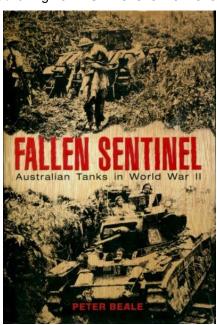
THREE SENTINEL BOOKS

Reviews by Gunnah B. Abyldah

Sometimes books are like busses: when you have just about given up hope of ever seeing one, three arrive all at once. So it is with these three volumes centered on the Cruiser tank designed and made in Australia during WWII that crossed my desk in 2023. What follows should be read more as a comparison than as a traditional review.

FALLEN SENTINEL AUSTRALIAN TANKS IN WORLD WAR II

By Peter Beale Big Sky Publishing 2011 ISBN 9781921941023



At 314 hardback A5+ pages Peter Beale's Sentinel book is a deeply researched and logically presented examination of the context before, during and after the Sentinel project was conceived, nurtured and cancelled. It emphasis is on the unique political, industrial, financial and social factors that influenced the decision to undertake what was, at the time, the monumental task of creating a 'home grown' tank, from scratch and to do it in the middle of a war.

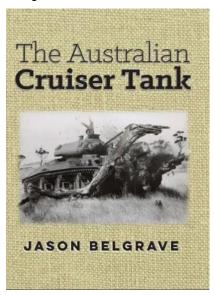
While the Australian Cruiser tank series are covered and illustrated, they are really just a small, albeit important, part of a much wider story. Beale's emphasis is on just such broader/historical matters rather than any in depth analysis of the technical aspects of the AC tanks themselves. This is reflected on the cover which uses 'Sentinel' in its title but features a photo...of a Matilda.

Beale's style, aided by a disciplined structure and judicious use of endnotes, makes reading this book relatively easy. He includes two very useful Appendices setting out the tanks imported during the period in question and a chronology for the Cruiser tank production project. They, and the bibliography that follows, are invaluable for anyone interested in further investigating the Sentinel saga.

While of only limited use to anyone contemplating making a model of a Sentinel, this volume should be considered essential background to what was an extraordinary chapter in Australia's military, social and industrial history. On that basis it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRUISER TANK

By Jason Belgrave Jabiru Publishing 2022 ISBN 9780648889472



At 190 soft bound A5+ pages Jason Belgrave's offering places more emphasis on the technical and manufacturing aspects of the project and less on the wider history. The background is covered in the first chapter which is then followed by chapters covering the design development and manufacturing aspects in some detail.

The book is reasonably well illustrated by black and white images, extracts from official documents and the AC series maintenance manuals, all captioned simply, if at times a little too simply. It includes contemporary images of the AC1 examples held by the Australian Armour and Artillery Museum in Cairns. However, it is curious that there are no similar detail photographs of the surviving AC 1 in the UK or the AC 111 held by the War Memorial in Canberra.

However, it is hampered by style, editing and layout issues that make it an unnecessarily difficult read. For example: rather than using endnotes the author references the participants by their full names (including any Christian names) along with their full titles plus of all their awards and decorations. The result makes for tedious reading.

The book's readability is not helped by its structure which does not group the related aspects logically together making for confusion and a lot of flipping back and forth. While it is possible to understand the nomenclature and names applied to the Australian Cruisers, you have to read carefully and cross check between the passages of text.

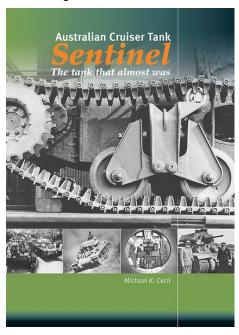
Sadly the book is also let down by its design; there is a lot of wasted space thanks to poor font and spacing selections and layout. Many of the otherwise useful images are poorly positioned and undersized when they could easily have been larger without adding any extra pages.

In comparison with Beale's book this one's coverage of the historical context is barely adequate. In contrast its technical emphasis is hampered by the author's awkward writing style and graphic choices that make this volume only marginally more useful than the old Profile series monograph. Its many limitations make it impossible to recommend it except with significant qualifications.

AUSTRALIAN CRUISER TANK SENTINEL

THE TANK THAT ALMOST WAS

By Michael K. Cecil Trackpad Publishing 2023 ISBN 978-1-9998867-2-1



At 243 hardback A4 size pages Michael Cecil's Sentinel volume places its emphasis firmly on the technical aspects of the tank i.e. it is at the opposite end of the historical story that is told so well in Peter Beale's offering. However, it is soon obvious that Cecil's has been equally well researched and is therefore well placed to exhaustingly examine every aspect of the design, development and manufacture of the Australian Cruiser tank variants. And it does just that...

The initial chapters that form Part 1 cover the background and first steps in the project in less detail than Beale but are adequate enough to allow the reader to understand the forces in play at the time. Cecil sensibly includes a long list of abbreviations and acronyms (an essential in any military publication!) and uses multiple endnotes, both of which make the text acceptably readable.

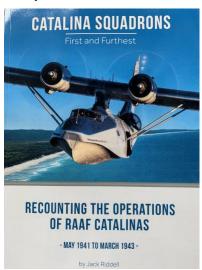
The book structure then follows the chronology of the project as it moves from the initial concept to design and manufacture. Each stage is examined in great detail and is profusely illustrated with hundreds of black and white period photos and extracts from the project records supported with colour images of surviving Sentinels. Their reproduction is very good with the images appropriately sized and printed on calendared (semigloss) paper.

The thoroughness of Cecil's research is extraordinary and is evidenced throughout the work. He even includes a diagram of the production line layout and line drawings and images of even the most obscure parts of the tanks. Part 2 dealing with the surviving examples follows, with Part 3 which describing the AC 1 to AC 4 variants and ends with eight Appendices including three camouflage diagrams.

This book is exceptional. It is without question the best technical history for the Australian Cruiser tank series and is a veritable gold mine for modellers and is therefore VERY HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

CATALINA SQUADRONS

By Jack Riddell Review by Lindsay Charman



I must confess I have not read this one yet, but it looks good. I bought it at Williamtown during the air display last year — it was a fund raiser for the "Catalina for the Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Association Inc", which seems like a good cause.

Rathmines Catalina Association

Originally established as a trust in 1998, the The Rathmines Catalina Memorial Park Association Incorporated, or Rathmines Catalina Association for short, hope to restore and display a real Catalina amphibian known as 'Our Girl' in the region eventually.

This PBY-5A was purchased from its then owner based in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2012. It was then shipped to Australia in a disassembled state and is gradually being reassembled by volunteers. It is hoped by the members of this association that eventually the Catalina will be put on display at the Fighter World Museum (also known as the RAAF Williamtown Aviation Heritage Centre). They plan to work with RAAF History and Heritage to achieve this.

As mentioned earlier, the association had a small but enthusiastic display at the Williamtown open day after the RAAF air display over Newcastle. They were promoting their plans and trying to raise funds.

As background, Rathmines was once the site of one of the biggest RAAF flying boat and seaplanes bases during WW2. Some artifacts, including part of the huge concrete launching and landing ramp, and some buildings from the wartime base plus other infrastructure still remain, along with a parkland and memorial, though it can be difficult to imagine what was once there.

The area is now a suburb in the general western side of Lake Macquarie, almost on the opposite shore to Swansea, and the Swansea Channel, where the seawater flows in and out with the changing tides.

The association would seem to have a difficult task ahead of them, but it would be great to see their plans come to fruition one day, with another Catalina on display, and near to where they operated in WW2.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL MINIATURE HOBBY SHOW 2024

For those who might be travelling to Malaysia in June this year, perhaps a side trip to attend this model competition might be of interest.

The MIMHS/MALCOM 2024 event is scheduled for June 8th and 9th, 2024. It will take place at The Wembley, St.Giles Hotel, Penang, on the 10th Floor Grand Ballroom.

The set-up day is expected to be on Friday, June 7th. For further detail as it becomes available, please see the Malaysia International Miniature Hobby Show (MIMHS) - Malaysia Competition (MALCOM) Facebook page.



2024 NSW SCALE MODEL SHOW

Not quite as far away, the IPMA team will be holding their annual public entries competitions/show again this year.

The dates are the 25th and 26th of May and it will be on at the Illawarra Sports Stadium, Fred Finch Park, Hooka Creek Rd, Berkeley, NSW. Please, do check the IPMA website for updates as the event draws near.



GENERAL NEWS

The following are a small representative selection of photos taken at the February meeting – many thanks to Simon! Please see the APMA webpage for a more complete selection.

From the top down, here is a Avro 624 by Ley Reynolds, a DH Rapide by Ian Wrenford, a 1/32 Stearman crop sprayer also by Ian, a Savoia SM.81B by Ley Reynolds, a blue Kenworth, a yellow Hawker Henley TTI by Ley Reynolds, a Panzerschiffe Lutzow by Ken Taylor, and finally a Fokker Friendship firebomber once again by Ian Wrenford.

Finally, a view of the meeting and display area, inside the bistro dining area. This arrangement was less than ideal, so hopefully the new venue should offer a better solution!





















PRESENTATION & THEME COMPETITION MARCH 9TH

Just a final reminder that Ley Reynolds will be doing a presentation and slide show on the "Spanish Civil War" tomorrow. In conjunction with this, but slightly differently, Ley is also hosting a competition on subjects from 'Spain'- so all things Spanish from any period (so, not just the Spanish Civil War).



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORS

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

by Dekno:

A 1/72 kit of the unusual twin known as the Short S.16 Scion. More info on this polyurethane resin model when we have some comments on the kit.

by ShipCraft:

British Light Cruisers – Town, Colony and later classes by Les Brown

British Aircraft Carriers – Hermes, Ark Royal and the Illustrious class by Robert Brown

by Helion:

Days of the Rising Sun - Armed Forces of Japan's Asian Allies 1931-45 Vol 1 by P.S. Jowett

by Middle East @ War:

Air Power and the Arab World 1909-1955 by Dr D.Nicolle & AVM G. Ali Gabr

and miscellaneous:

Mussolini, Mustard Gas & the Fascist Way of War – Ethiopia 1935-1936 by C. Stephenson

Allied Convoys to Northern Russia 1941-1945 by W. Smith

Blood on their Hands – Japanese Military Atrocities 1931-1945 by C. Lowry

Pacific Profiles Vol 13 – IJN Bombers, Transports, Flying Boats & Miscellaneous Types, South Pacific 1942-1944 by M. J. Claringbould

Pacific Profiles Vol 14 – Allied Bombers: B-25 Mitchell Series, Australia, New Guinea and the Solomons 1942-1945 by M. J. Claringbould Warship 2024 (annual)

by Ronny Bar Profiles:

Spitfire - the Merlin Variants

by In Detail & Scale:

P-47 Thunderbolt - Squadrons! by B. Kinzey with art by R. Roszak

by Osprey:

Soviet Cruisers 1917-45 – From the October Revolution to World War II, by A Hill

German Tanks in France 1940 by S. Zaloga

Warships in the War of the pacific 1879-83 by A. Konstam with illustrations by P. Wright

Current Aircraft 152: U-2 'DragonLady' Units 1955-90 by P. Davies

The War Underground 1914-18 - Tactics and Equipment by S. Jones, illustrated by A. Hook

The Pirate Menace - Uncovering the Golden Age of Piracy by A. Konstam

1217 - The Battles that saved England by C. Hanley US Battle Tanks 1917-1945 by S. Zaloga

The Hill - the brutal fight for Hill 107 in the Battle of Crete At the gates of Rome - The Battle of a Dying Empire by D. Hollaway

The Italian Battlefleet 1940-43 – La Squadra by E. Cernusci

Soviet Cruisers 1917-45 – From the October Revolution to World War II, by A Hill

Royal Navy Home Fleet 1939-41 by A Konstam

Middle East @ War - The June 1967 Arab-Israeli Six-day War Vol1 by T. Cooper

by Trackpad:

Self-Propelled 17-Pounder Archer - Rearwards into Action! by C. Camfield

by Wingleader:

Photo Archive Number 29 - Hawker Tempest Mk V in RAF Service by C. Thomas

by GA Publishing (these are planned): Jet provost Walk-around by G. Ashley SAAB Viggen Walk-around by G. Ashley

From MMP:

Challenger 1 – Britain's Orphan Tank, by R Kent PZL Combat Fighters – P.7, P.11, P.24, by A Juszczak