



TACTICAL NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MILITARY MODELERS CLUB OF LOUISVILLE, MMCL

January 2015

Welcome to the Military Modelers Club of Louisville, aka MMCL. We are a club of scale modelers based in Louisville, Kentucky. If you are a scale modeler that is interested in having fun and enjoying the hobby we encourage you to join.



Message from our President

Greetings MMCL Members! Welcome 2015!

We have a great scale modeling year ahead! There are many new kit releases to work on during our weekly workshops. We have a number of IPMS chapter shows to attend, our own invitational show on May 9th, and an IPMS National, just up the road in Columbus, OH this summer! Many things to do and see!

Let's get the year started right! Please see Alex Restrepo or visit the MMCL website to complete 2015 Membership Registration. We want to have all members paid up and registered by end of MARCH 2015.

IPMS Membership – Your Leadership Team Encourages ALL MMCL Members to consider becoming IPMS Members.

http://www.ipmsusa2.org/store/ipms_membership.html

We would like our club to have a strong IPMS presence and participation at the **IPMS NATIONAL SHOW**. This will be held in Columbus, Ohio on July 22-25, 2015 - IPMS

Membership will yield a discount on participation/entrance fee. We want to have a strong participation rate in Columbus for this show! <http://ipmsusa2015.com/>

Please be sure to attend our first club meeting of 2015, scheduled for Thursday, January 15. We will have a discussion on monthly meeting programs as well as a confirmation of our May invitational show contest theme(s). We want to hear your ideas and involve you in coordinating modeling programs and speakers of interest for our meetings. Members are asked to volunteer as "point" leaders to coordinate each monthly program or speaker. There is a planned quarterly Friday Night Fights for March 20th. Put June 19th on your calendar as well for a FNF.





Message from our President (continued)

It's time to get a few "Smackdowns Contests" on the calendar. We have re-newed guidelines that have been forwarded to all members. Once we set a subject and terms for each smackdown, we will appoint ONE sponsor who will track progress, communicate status and have point accountability for contest execution.

MMCL Polo Shirts & Caps - Interest has been expressed in the club securing a high quality 100% polo shirt with the club logo (and possibly ball caps). It would be great to have these purchased prior to our May show, and the NATIONAL CONVENTION. This will be a discussion topic during our meeting. We'll need to review some quality options to ensure quality (Lands End has been suggested as a possible option).

So please plan to attend and we'll get started on a great year of scale modeling!

Thanks, President Stu(g)

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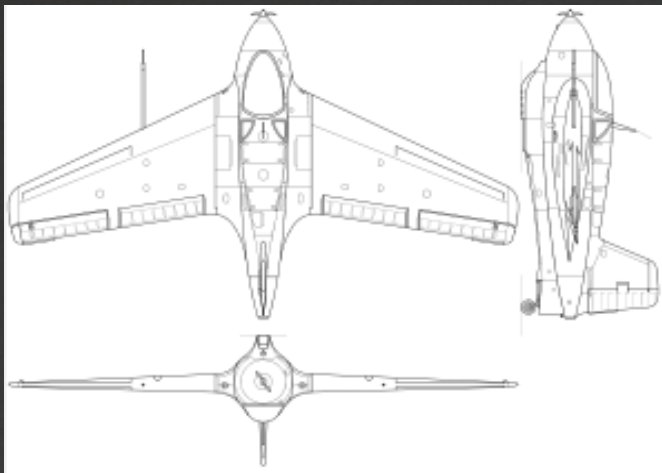
Kit Review: 1/32nd scale Meng Me-163B
"Komet"

By: Stewart Gordon

The Subject: The Me-163 has been described as a "wonder" weapon deployed in the final days of the Third Reich. The development was sort of evolutionary from gliders used in the 1930's.

Initial work began of developing an operational fighter in 1941 with combat operations beginning in early 1944. Following the initial combat trials of the Me 163B with EK 16, during the winter and spring of 1944 Major Wolfgang Späte, a Luftwaffe ace with 99 kills to





his credit, formed the first dedicated Me 163 fighter wing, (Jagdgeschwader 400 (JG 400)), in Brandis near Leipzig. A second group was stationed at Stargard near More units were planned for Berlin, the Ruhr and other areas of the German homeland.

The first actions involving the Me 163 occurred 28 July 1944, from I./JG 400's base at Brandis, when two USAAF B-17 Flying Fortress were attacked without confirmed kills. Combat operations continued from May 1944 to spring 1945. During this time, there were nine confirmed kills with 14 Me 163s lost. Feldwebel Siegfried Schubert was the most successful pilot, with three bombers to his credit

The Kit: Meng has released an exceptional 1/32nd scale kit of the Me-163B Komet. Until now the only kit available was the venerable Hasegawa kit that dated back to the seventies. While that kit is still a fine kit this new offering by Meng raises the standard by including more details including a complete engine and other details not found in the Hasegawa kit.

The kit is packaged in a very sturdy, attractive box in the manner that we have seen in other kits from Meng. It is customary for kit reviewers to include the number of parts a kit contains. I honestly do not know anyone that cares about such information, but I admit I did look to see if it was easily found on the kit box. Sadly, I did not find it so if that matters to you I can say it looks to be "a lot".

The kit is rather tricky with the typical instruction sheet that shows the "general" area that a part is to be placed. I admit to some mistakes that created some anxious moments but turned out ok. The kit is a perfect size for displaying without taking up too much room. Overall, I recommend the kit to experienced modelers.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 15th - MMCL Monthly meeting Thursday January 15th 7:00 pm at KYANA Clubhouse, 3821 Hunsinger Lane, Louisville, KY 40220-3220

Jan 16th - Region 4 WrightTreat 2015 - Annual Scale Modeling Retreat Dayton, OH
Hope Hotel and Conference Center
10823 Chidlaw Rd (Wright-Patterson AFB)
IPMS/Wright Field Scale Modelers
David Wrinkle 937.426.4847

Feb 6th - 7th Chattanooga, Tennessee
Region 3 Chattanooga ModelCon 2015
Chattanooga Trade and Convention Center
1150 Carter Street Chattanooga Scale Modelers
Mike Moore 423-596-5130

Feb 21st - Columbus, OH
Region 4 BLIZZCON - 2015
Aladdin Shrine
3850 Stelzer Road
IPMS Columbus Eddie Rickenbacker
Graham Holmes 614-379-BLIZ (2549)

March 14th - Indianapolis, Indiana
Region 4 I.P.M.S. ROSCOE TURNER CHAPTER model contest and swap meet
RAYMOND PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
8575 EAST RAYMOND STREET
ROSCOE TURNER CHAPTER
CHARLES HAINES 317-507-8898

April 10th - 11th - Dayton, Ohio
Wright-Patterson AFB
Region 4
WrightCon - The IPMS/USA Region IV 2015 Convention Hope Hotel and Conference Center
State Route 444 at B Road Wright Field Scale Modelers
Dave Koukol 937.602.4033

Tactical Notes

Show Report - Dawn Patrol Rendezvous 2014

The ninth Dawn Patrol Rendezvous was held on 28-29 September at the National Museum of the United States Air Force near Dayton, Ohio. This (mostly) biennial event features a fly-in of replica WWI aeroplanes and is jointly sponsored by the museum and by the Great War Aeroplanes Association. It was held for the first time in 1996 with three flying aircraft in attendance and has grown larger every year, with at least eighteen aircraft flying at this year's event.

In addition to the manned flying replicas, the show has always included a large number of stunningly detailed radio-controlled model aircraft, and this year was no exception.

Beginning at dawn, they were flown at intervals during the day, and were often virtually indistinguishable from the "real" aeroplanes.

Re-enactors were on hand portraying WWI American, German, and British soldiers, airmen and ground crew, plus several women that were in period dress as nurses and officer's wives.

This year, the doughboys demonstrated a poison gas practice drill. There was even one re-enactor on horseback, representing a soldier from a WWI Welsh cavalry unit. There were also a number of immaculately restored vintage automobiles present, with some of them used to transport the pilots to their aircraft.

As with past shows, there were a number of tents situated up and down the show line, with people displaying, demonstrating, and selling memorabilia, period engines and small arms, posters, and yes, even plastic models. By Sunday morning, the plastic models and Osprey books were selling at 50% off. Don't you wish now that you'd attended?

This was the fourth time that I've attended the event and each time there has always been at least one thing to see that was both unique and memorable. In 1998, there was a Bristol F.2B that had flown to Dayton from its base in Memphis, Tennessee, a distance of some 500 miles. (This aircraft now resides in the Peter Jackson collection of WWI aircraft in New Zealand.)

In 2003, a pilot performed a large, slow loop in his Fokker Dr. I triplane, a strictly forbidden bit of aerobatics that both amazed the crowd and caused considerable consternation among the organizers and other officials, and which may have played a role in the decision to move the show from the museum's front lawn to its current location on the "back forty". And in 2007, there was a Sopwith Triplane with an authentic LeRhône rotary engine.

This year, there were at least that two aircraft that I thought deserved special mention. One was the recently completed Curtiss JN-4 Jenny, which had flown up from Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the second was a LeRhône-powered Dr.I that was marked as Lothar von Richthofen's brightly colored "tripe". Between flights, both were among the several aircraft that were towed from the flight line and into crowd, allowing close-up photography and Q&A sessions with the owners/pilots.

By my count, there were six very good looking Nieuport 17s, including two in Belgian markings, one in Italian AF colors, and one dressed as a German Siemens Shuckert D.I, which was a direct copy of the Nieuport. There were three very nice Sopwith Pups, an Eindecker and two other Tripes, all with modern engines, as well as several other homebuilts that mostly-sorta' resembled Fokker D.VIIs, SE-5s and a SPAD. In addition to the flying aircraft, there were several more unfinished aircraft on static display, including a Nieuport 28 and a Pup wearing Russian insignia.

Tom Kozura from Michigan was there with a restored 130 hp. Clerget 9B rotary engine, which he ran several times both days. Tom had been at the 2009 show, where he ran his restored 50 hp. Gnome Omega rotary engine. He related that after a clip of that performance appeared on YouTube, he was besieged by offers to purchase the Gnome. He later traded it to a French museum for the

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He later traded it to a French museum for the Clerget, with the Gnome to be fitted to the museum's reproduction Bleriot XI, while the Clerget is destined for use in the Sopwith F.1 Camel that Tom's building. Photos on Tom's website show that the level of detail extends to reproducing the original aircraft's wicker seat.

New to this year's event was a display of plastic models of WWI aircraft. This was organized by IPMS Region 4 coordinator Dave Koukol, and included a total of 153 models that were the handiwork of a least ten different modelers. MMCL members "Doc" and David O'Connor brought a nice collection of their 1/32nd scale models, Corky

Mohedano lent a bunch of his 1/72nd models, and I chipped in about a dozen of my own 1/48th scale stuff.

I also borrowed for the display a number of 1/48th scale models from Jerry Sudduth of Frankfort, Kentucky and some from the Aviation Museum of Kentucky that had been built by the late Jack Steadman of Ashland, KY. More or less by coincidence, at least six of the models that were on display were painted in the same markings as seen on the full-sized flying aircraft present.

The weather was practically perfect, with only the occasional mild gust of wind. The tent was equipped with eight large pieces of clear plastic to serve as walls for all four sides, but we were able to leave them off most of the time. On a couple of occasions, we needed to install a panel or three when the wind picked up a bit.

We had a large number of visitors to our tent and they were amazingly well mannered and only rarely had to be gently discouraged from touching the models, and I don't think a single model was damaged. We fielded a number of questions about the history of the real aircraft that were represented by the models, and about plastic modeling in general. We handed out a lot of informational flyers about both the national IPMS organization and

local chapters and we gave away two boxes full of Fine Scale Modeler magazine. Several spectators asked to see models of specific types of aircraft, so this was also a well-informed crowd. We have already been invited back for the next show.

- Written by Dennis Sparks

Financial Report

Money we got some....if you care to know how much attend a meeting and find out, or just ask Alex.

MMCL Model Contest

Yes, we are hosting a model contest again this year. If I ever figure out the freaking format David has used to create the flyer I will include it in the next issue of Tactical Notes. Until then...

IT IS MAY 5th 2015 at our very own clubhouse at KYANA Antique Car Collector's Club, 3821 Hunsinger Ln, Louisville, KY
 Region 4 Military Modelers Club of Louisville's Annual Invitational
 KYANA Antique Car Collector's Club
 3 Map
 Military Modelers Club of Louisville
 Dr. Terry C. Hill 502-895-3831