



The Monterey Bay Muddler



The International Plastic Modelers Society, Central Coast-Monterey Bay Chapter held its monthly meeting in the Monterey Public Library's Solarium on Sunday, April 2, 2017. Present were our intrepid leaders: President Lester Tockerman, Vice-President Larry Marcum, Secretary Lee Marcum, Treasurer (and usurper) David Conneau. Members At Large were: Ron Cline, Ramon Lomeli, Oliver Lomeli, Eric Hasselfeldt, Evan Conneau (who brought his friend, Julian) and a very special surprise, David Clarke. If you'll recall, David was assigned to the DLIFLC a few years back and was a member of our group for about a year and a half before assignment to Texas. Well, he's back to begin a Russian program and we couldn't be happier. David is a creative modeler and great guy. Welcome back! We missed your face.

Item(s) for Discussion: The 50th Anniversary of our IPMS/USA Chapter approaches and we have yet to come up with a location to exhibit. Searches have been made throughout Salinas, at the Monterey Airport, and around Monterey without success. Thank you, members for your efforts. We will continue to search.

Some random thoughts: Perhaps we could narrow our focus. For instance, sailing ships, fishing boats and all things nautical could be displayed in a wharf restaurant or on Cannery Row or at the Hopkins Marine Station. War ships at the Naval Post Graduate School. Cars could be displayed at Auto Centers or at Mazda Raceway. Sci-Fi would more likely get a positive reception at a Game Stop or in an arcade or (maybe) the Planetarium (?), CSUMB or in the lobby of an I-Max. Military subjects could have a potential opportunity at the new Veterans Administration building in Marina due to open in August 2017. Finally, there is always the Monterey County Fair and we will check with the IPMS/USA home office to see if they're cooking up anything in the way of commemorative banners or the like. But we have a lot of bright individuals amongst us and we'll come up with something befitting our rank and position.

In other business; the powers that be at the IPMS/USA are haranguing us for membership updates and we therefore took a roll of the members. The members who needed renewing have made arrangements with the chapter and were told to watch their mailboxes. The membership renewal issue needs to be discussed to provide a smoother yearly process (to keep us legit) and less hassle on the members.

Treasurer's Report: As of April 10, 2017 our treasury balance stands at \$209.88. There being no further business or discussion we proceeded to...

SHOW AND TELL!!!

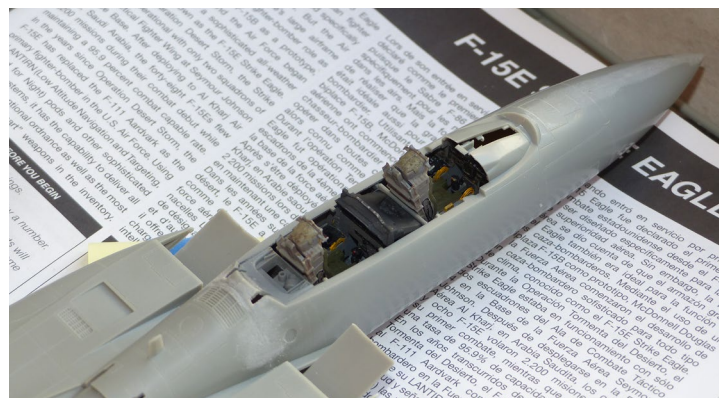
RAMON LOMELI started off with his completed Tamiya 1/48th General Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon (See: March 2017 Muddler) in full complement. This single-seat fighter-bomber is the current frontline air superiority weapon of the NATO powers. Designed to be smaller and cheaper than the F-15 Eagle, its 24,000lb. thrust General Electric afterburning turbofan gives this Mach 1.95 (1300mph) fighter a 1300 mile range at 60,000 ft.



Also included in his presentation were a couple of WIP's:

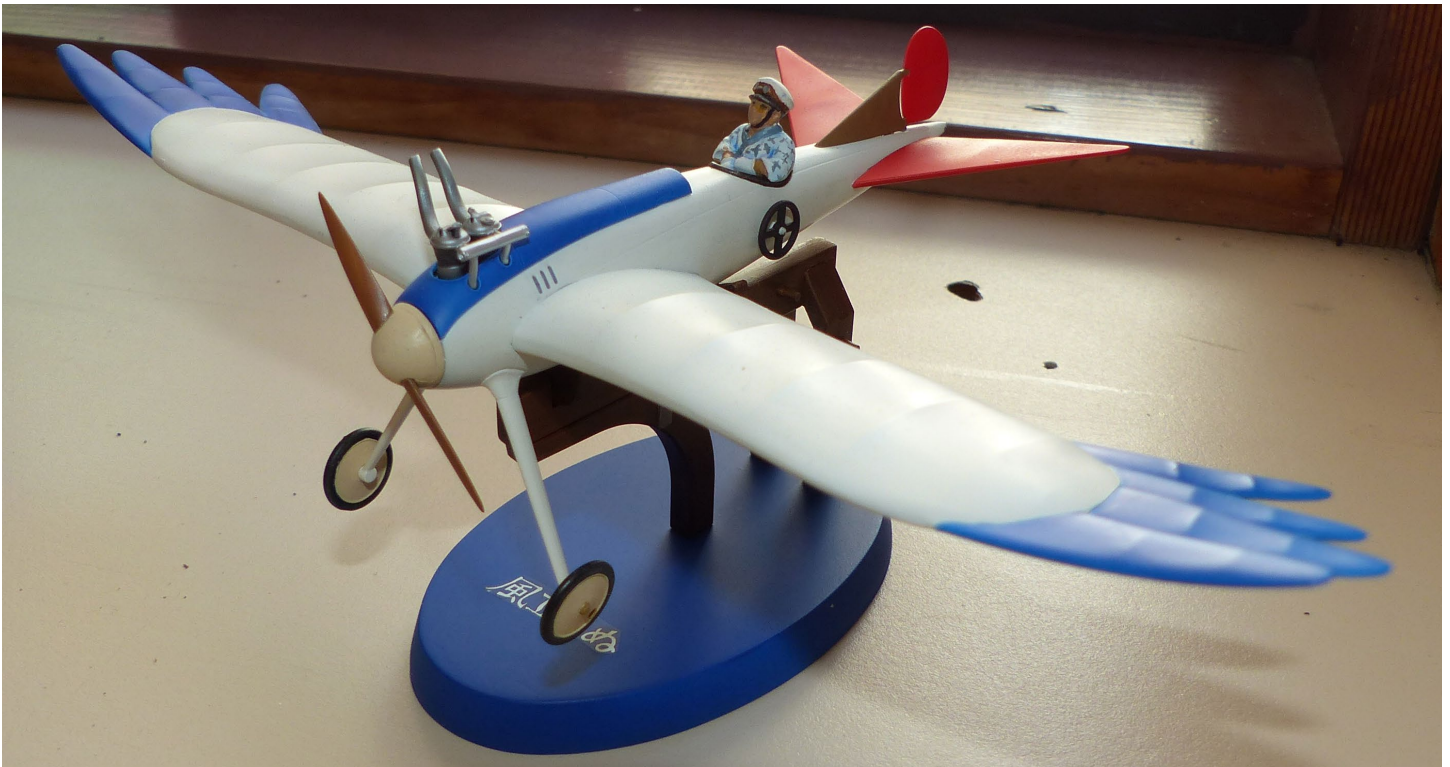


A 1/48th scale Mikoyan-Gurevich MIG-31B/BS Foxhound by AMK. According to an article in Flight Journal (April 2016) the MIG-31 is "at the forefront of the VKS's (Russian Aerospace Force) tactical component (of) about 130 MIG-31 Foxhounds ...equipping a total of nine 12-aircraft frontline squadrons... they are likely to remain in service until at least 2020, or even longer, because...the VKS is assigning increased priority to the type. Indeed, the entire fleet is presently planned to receive a large-scale avionics upgrade, combined with an overhaul of airframes and engines."



A 1/48th scale Revell McDonnell-Douglas F-15E Strike Eagle. Most observers in the Western World regard the F-15 as the natural successor to its ancestor, the F-4 Phantom, as the best fighter in the world. By the 1990's the outstanding F-15 Eagle, planned as a uncompromised air-superiority fighter, handled much of the tactical attack demand of the USAF and ANG.

...AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...



A 2013 1/48th scale Fine Molds Jiro's FG6 Bird-Like Airplane, from Hayao Miyazaki's Anime feature film, *The Wind Rises*, a fictionalized bio-pic of Jiro Horikoshi (1903-1982), designer of the Mitsubishi A5M (Claude) and the immortal A6M Zero-Sen. *The Wind Rises* was the highest-grossing film in Japan in 2013, and received widespread critical acclaim. It was the final film directed by Miyazaki before his retirement in September 2013. Ramon's model is a delightful fantasy aircraft (somewhat reminiscent of the Yellow Submarine, or James and the Giant Peach or Dobermans flying Sparrowhawks in *Up*) and a nice departure from the hard-core military hardware we see so often.



OLIVER LOMELI brought in a diorama built around a Monogram 1/35th scale M-48A3 Patton medium tank taking up position in the 'Nam. (Stay along the tree line, keep a low silhouette). The M-48A3 Patton was America's main battle tank in Vietnam and was the final version of the series that was produced from 1952 to 1959. The Vietnam era 'A3' was a modernized version that appeared in February 1963 with a supercharged 750hp diesel engine and an enhanced fire control system. The M-48's 90mm M44 cannon had a range of over 4,500 meters. .30 cal and .50cal machine guns in or mounted on the commander's cupola completed its offensive armament. The M-48A3 Patton served in the roles of infantry support and firebase defense. Replaced by the newer M-60, the M-48, nonetheless, remained in service well into the 1990's. Oliver's Monogram kit has an almost similar history as this venerable kit first appeared in 1958 and remains in production from Revell (Germany). We look forward to Oliver's final touches on an iconic armored vehicle that soldiered through Korea, through Vietnam, through the Cold War, countless sci-fi monster flicks and as a Panzer stand-in, and still stirs a lot of memories for a lot of grunts.



DAVID CONNEAU returns with an oldie from the vault. In associating a model with the month, April is the month in which we remember one of the most daring and courageous episodes of World War II. On April 18, 1942, 16 North American B-25B's, led by Maj. Jimmy Doolittle, lifted off the U.S.S. Hornet and flew into history as the Doolittle Raiders from 'Shangri-La'. To a disheartened America, it was bolt of sunlight in an otherwise gloomy overcast. Ted Lawson (Crew #7) immortalized the raid with his book, *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* which MGM later made into one of the all-time best wartime aviation films, starring Van Johnson as Lawson and Spencer Tracy as Doolittle. Although damage was minimal, it caused the Japanese Imperial High Command to lose face. And due to this humiliation, they set about the ill-fated plan for the final destruction of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Midway.

David displays a 1968 Revell 1/48th scale North American B-25B Mitchell Bomber (40-2249) Hari Carrier assigned to Crew #11, led by Captain Charles Ross Greening. After reading *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* in high school, David was impressed by the photograph of the chalk drawn winged nude on the nose of the plane and vowed that if he built an example, it would carry that marking. Capt. Greening is credited with the "Mark Twain" bomb sight. Do those tail guns look hokey? That's because they're broom sticks painted black to look like guns...another of Greening's ideas.





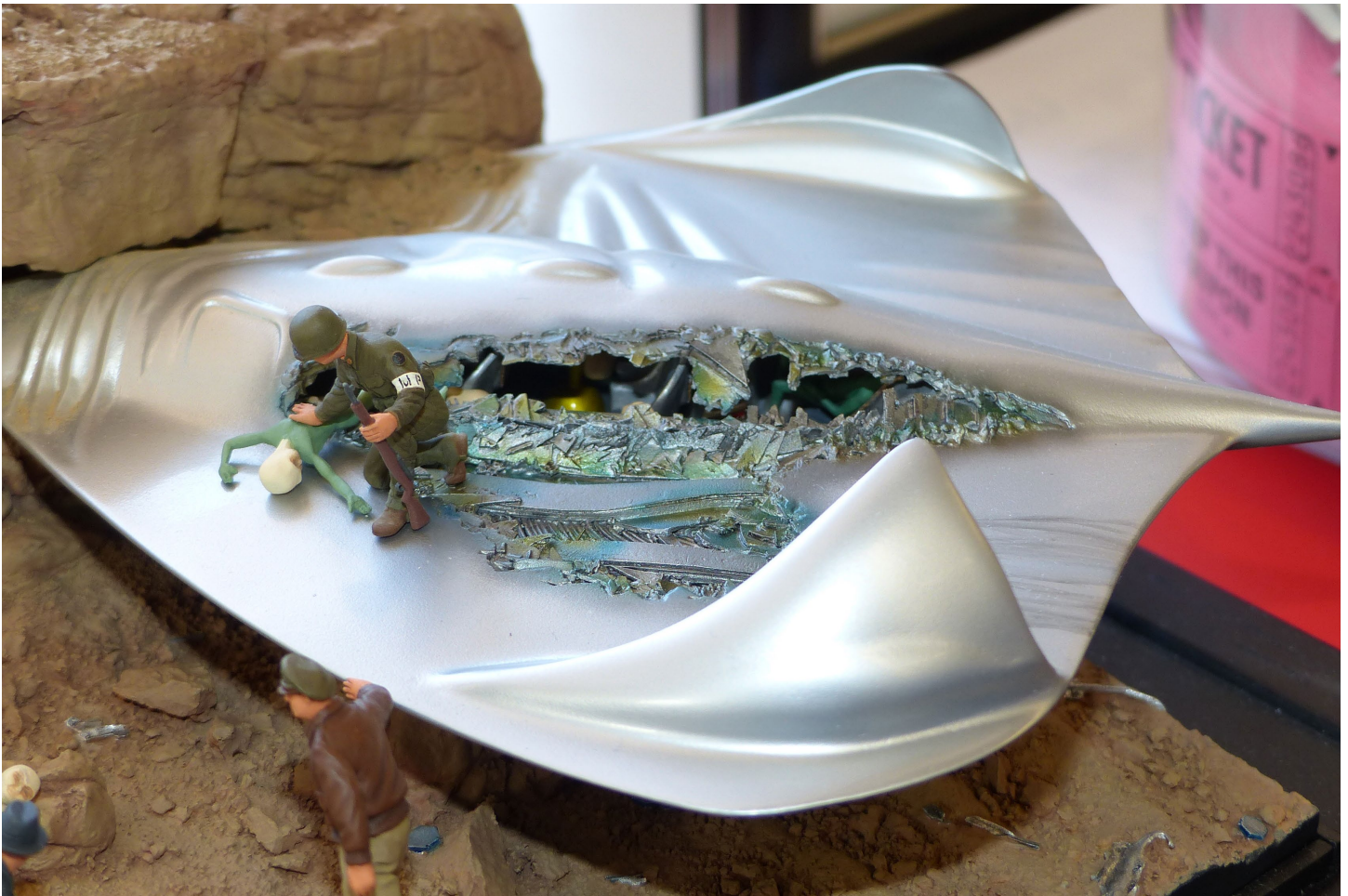
DAVID CLARKE had a most interesting collection of 1/72nd pieces. One was of a Willys Jeep belonging to the 82nd Airborne Division's 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment. To anyone who has read Cornelius Ryan's book *The Longest Day* or have seen the film of the same name are familiar with actor Red Buttons hanging from the church steeple. The 505th was the unit that liberated Sainte-Mere-Eglise. David picked up this little gem in a gift shop while visiting Normandy and what makes this model special is that it is sitting on a base that contains sand from Omaha Beach!



Also in the group was a very delicate model of a Memorial to the Fallen of the Great World War (WWI) complete with floral wreaths laid along the base.

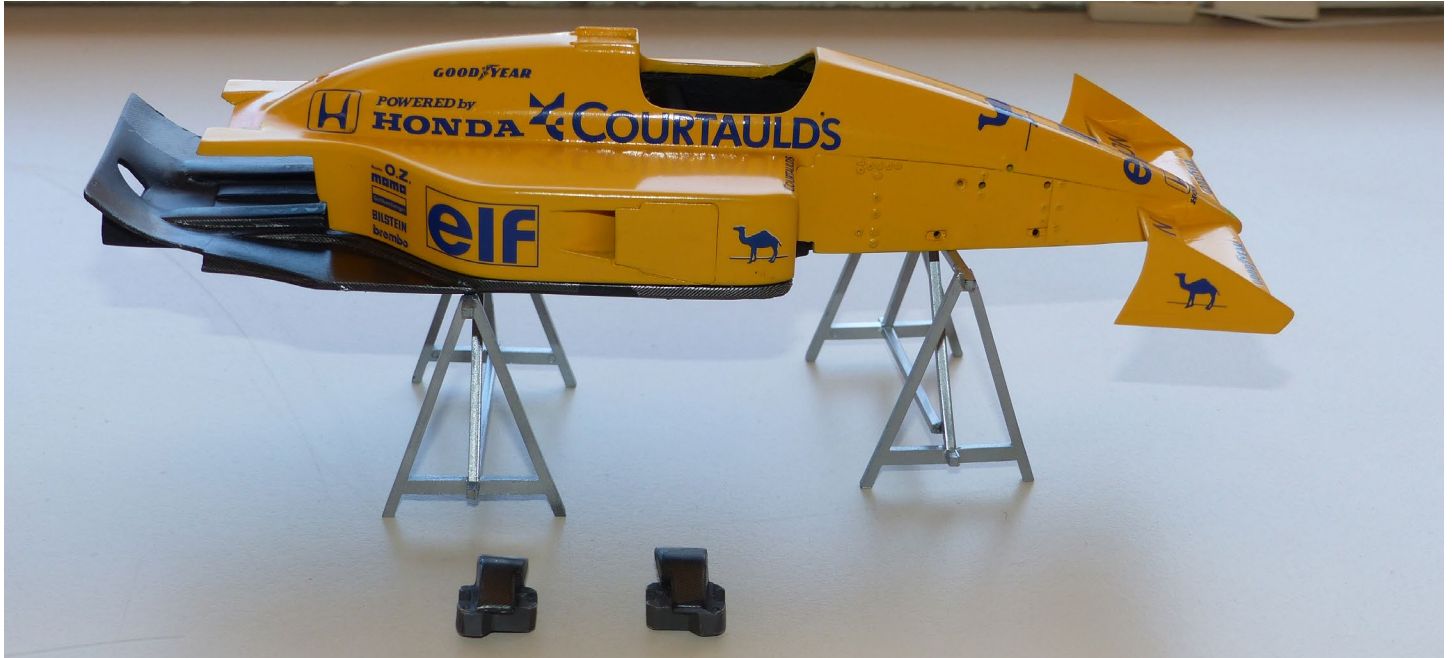


Two WIP's; one a vignette of a German tank disguised as a US M-10 Wolverine Tank Destroyer and a Sherman tank somewhere in France; the other a 1/72nd scale Emhar kit of a 1918 British Whippet Mk A medium tank. A whippet is a slender and very fast greyhound-like hunting dog used to chase down and hold the quarry at bay until the hunters arrive. (A former acquaintance had one, called it Whippet Goode.) British strategy was to employ the heavy Mark V tanks to blast through enemy lines while the 'speedy' Whippets would race in and exploit the situation. However, the Whippets were plagued by mechanical problems which is absolutely astonishing-----to anyone who has never owned a British car. (When was the last time you saw a MG? Know why the Brits drink warm beer? They keep it in Lucas refrigerators. Lucas: the Prince of Darkness. Jaguar is French for 'take me to the shop', etc.) Anywho, based on past experience, David will deliver a beautiful example of the early stages of mechanized armored warfare.



ERIC HASSELFELDT took us to a remote location of Area 51 where a security patrol has come upon an UFO that has crashed into a rocky crag. Inspecting the wreckage the patrol discovers alien beings! (Run fer yo life! It's de ent of da woild!!!) Eric's 1/48th scale Jaguar kit of a UFO is a sci-fi gem straight out of the "The Day the Earth Stood Still" genre. The chrome finish of the space craft is flawless while the little green aliens appear suitably slimy (like intergalactic newts). They're out there, Scully!

TOM LEUTZINGER brought us the exciting world of Gran Prix racing with three beautiful examples of his artistry. Tom's penchant for accuracy is an inspiration to all of us. Anyone who has ever spent time under a car or turning wrenches appreciates Tom's work at once. The paint jobs are truly flawless as you can peer endlessly into the finish. These cars are the milestones of automotive engineering, from seat belts to heads-up displays.



The first entrant was a yellow Lotus 100T in 1/20th scale. The Lotus 100T was a Formula One car designed by Gerard Ducarouge and Martin Ogilvie for Team Lotus and drove through the 1988 Formula One season. The car was powered by a 640bhp, 1.5L turbocharged Honda V-6. The car was driven by the reigning World Champion Nelson Piquet and Japanese driver Satoru Nakajima.



Next entrant was a 1/43rd scale Lotus 48, a Formula Two race car powered by a 1600cc Cosworth FVA engine designed by Colin Chapman for Team Lotus during the 1967 -1968 season taking several wins. Jim Clarke was driving a Lotus 48 when he crashed and was fatally injured in the 1968 Deutschland Trophae.



Final entrant was black McLaren MP4/1, a Formula One race car used during the 1981, 1982, and 1983 seasons. It was the first Formula One car to use a carbon fibre composite monocoque body which has now become standard practice.

LESTER TOCKERMAN rounded out our reverie with an extensive array of his latest busts. Lester had elected to present them in two sections: pre-WWI and WWI. In chronological order we have:



Alexander the Great, 320 B.c.e.



Roman Apatius (Executive Officer), 1st Century c.e.



Eastern Viking, 9th Century c.e. Not all Vikings sailed west to rape, pillage, and plunder. Eastern Vikings assailed Polish, Russian, Baltic, and Slavic countries in search of the aforementioned booty as well as land to resettle and farm.



Landsknecht (Landsknechte) , 1595c.e. Landsknecht (singular) or Landsknechte (plural, both characters above) were German mercenary foot soldiers originating back in about 1450 c.e.. Their primary weapon was an 18 foot pike. However, those in the forward position whose duty was to advance the formation employed an awesome, over 5 foot long, two-handed battle sword called a Zweihander which Lester's bust on the left illustrates.



Polish Hussar Nobleman, 1600c.e. The Polish Hussars were an integral cavalry type in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth during the 16th to 18th centuries. They began as light cavalry mercenaries but by the late 16th century they evolved into the heavily armored shock cavalry that for another century were considered the elite of the Polish Cavalry. Lester's bust represents a Polish Nobleman, as the majority of hussars were recruited from the Polish nobility known as Szlachta. Regardless of their wealth, all nobles held the same social status along the lines of "a noble owning a farm stands equal to the noble army commander."



American Mountain Man, c 1785. (See: Jeremiah Johnson)



Pirate, 1700 c.e.



Lotharingian Warrior, 900 c.e.



Southwest Indian Home Guard, Union Army, 1862. The Indian Home Guards consisted of three Union Regiments composed mainly of Seminoles, Creeks, and Cherokees. The Union Army needed men to retake Indian Territory (south of Kansas) from the Confederates, who controlled a majority of the Indian Territory. The Indian Home Guards were not well received. The Fort Scott Bulletin stated of the Indian recruits, "...their principal use is to devour Uncle Sam's hardbread and beef, and spend his money. They would be as valuable as a flock of sheep in time of action. They ought to be abandoned immediately." Col. Robert W. Fumas, a newspaper editor from Brownsville, Nebraska, served as the first commander of the Indian Home Guard (April-September 1862). Although he worked hard to train and properly equip his command, in his resignation letter, he stated he had "...always doubted the propriety and policy of arming and placing in the field Indians." Initially, the Union formed two regiments, the First and Second Home Guards, conditionally these soldiers only saw battle in Indian Territory. Command of the individual companies was held by the Indians.

In the summer of 1862, the Indian Home Guards invaded Indian territory and were joined by captured Cherokees that were formally allied with the Confederacy, the number of recruits were sufficient to compose a Third Home Guard Regiment. From 1862 to 1863, the three Indian Home Guard Regiments were organized to form the Indian Brigade, refine their art of battle and return to fight in Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Indian territory: October 1862-the battle for old Fort Wayne, December 1862-seizure of Fort Davis, April 1863-capture of Fort Gibson, July 1863- action at Cabin Creek, where the Indian Home Guards saved an Union supply train from being captured by the forces of Stand Watie, the most persistent of the Confederate Indian Commanders, July 1863- the Battle of Honey Springs sometimes referred to as "the

Gettysburg of Indian Territory" the Union Army secured a foothold in Indian territory. The Indian Home Guards made it possible for the Indians to begin returning to their homelands and they contributed to the Union supremacy.

From the Great War (WWI):



British Pvt. of the Royal Signal Corps releasing a homing pigeon. Throughout the First World War over a 100,000 pigeons were used and 95% of the time they got through.



French Sgt, at the battle of Verdun, 1915 c.e.



French Foreign Legionnaire with full pack



Anzac Pvt., Gallipoli Campaign, March 1915



British Cpl., East African Mounted Rifles, Mount Longido, British East Africa, 1915. The East African Mounted Rifles (EAMR) was made up of volunteers raised up in British East Africa as a defense against attack from German East Africa.

Lester's award-winning craftsmanship is again evident with these latest offerings. When you see a resin subject OOB, it's about as exciting as a bar of soap. Lester's use of various mediums to achieve realism and depth in his colors and skin tones brings these subjects to life. But what really clinches it is that Lester has that rare ability to leave the impression that these are recognizable individuals actually looking at you down through the ages. Whether schroady(to the max) teeth or seeing your reflection in a highly polished breastplate, Lester's work rises to the level of portraiture.

Having concluded, the membership adjourned the meeting and broke up into informal groups.

Parting Thoughts

April is a pivotal month. The snows are gone, the thaw has past, the ground is firm and the days are warm and getting longer. Launch the Spring Offensive! So it has been since the dawn of time. Lester's figures, however evolved their weaponry, battle gear or mobility, all share a commonality of man committed to a purpose, to survive, hope to be victorious, and by doing so, make a better life.

In April 1862, the Indian Home Guards were formed. While President Lincoln spoke of "...a new nation conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal..." he went on to say, "... We are now engaged in a great civil war testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure."

And yet, providing military training and firearms to Native Americans was a tough sell to those that thought 'the only good Indian was a dead Indian'.

April 6, 2017 is the 100th Anniversary of America's entry into the Great World War-the war to end all wars. Looking over Lester's WWI busts we see how the war was not confined to the trenches of the Western Front but encompassed the globe, and David's Mk A Whippet illustrates the industrial scale of slaughter, the Memorial the ultimate cost.

America went to war to make the world safe for democracy. And yet, training and arming black soldiers was for many just asking for trouble.

History tells us the Indian Home Guards and the All-Black Doughboys fought courageously as true Americans and brought honor to themselves and our country.

As a nation we are sometimes at our best when things are at their worst. Against all odds we rise to the challenge.

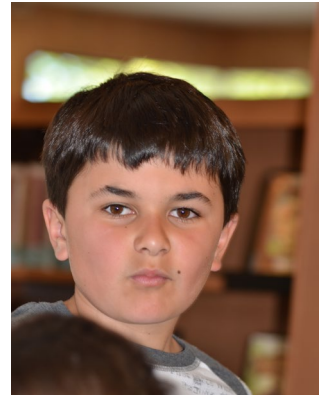
April 18, 2017 is the 75th Anniversary of the Doolittle Raid. Never underestimate the ingenuity, daring and the 'spit in your eye' defiance of Americans. Dave Clarke's D-Day group shows our devotion to Freedom from Fear, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, and Freedom from Want and the lengths we will go to preserve those values.

By Vietnam, we came to examine not only the nature of war but to question its need and its use as well as its efficacy. It was, as so many times throughout history, initiated by the rich and powerful and fought by the working poor. We found that people are not won over at the point of a gun but by ideals. And yet, how could we posit ourselves as protectors of freedom when so many at home amongst us had little or none?

America is a beacon to the world. There are times when that beacon has dimmed. The world can be a hostile place; our adversaries are trained and well equipped. There are powers eager to snuff out the light once and for all. But Americans have always gathered to stoke the flames and brighten the glow. We stand prepared and ready for "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance".

We may be invaded from beyond the galaxy. April 22, 2017 is Earth Day and we need to deal not without but within. As the Bard admonished, "We have seen the enemy and he is us." We are capable of designing and building magnificent machines. Can we make a better world?

Muddlers Mucking About



Jazz Hands!



Next Chapter meeting will be Sunday, May 7, 2017. (Same Bat Time- same Bat Channel).

Until next time!

-David

- President:** Lester Tockerman
- Vice President:** Larry Marcum
- Treasurer:** David Conneau
- Secretary:** Lee Marcum
- Layout Artist:** Ramon Lomeli