

# BOMBSIGHT

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the IPMS Hamilton Modellers Club

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## WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE OF BOMBSIGHT!

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By Duncan Young  
IPMS Hamilton - Treasurer



Welcome to the first issue of Bombsight - a new quarterly newsletter from the IPMS Hamilton Modellers Club!

Where did the inspiration for the name Bombsight come from? Well, it's a homage to the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum where our club calls home and the instrumental piece of technology that was so crucial to mission success for the heavy bombers, such as the Avro Lancaster, that flew countless sorties during WW2.

The goal of this newsletter is to provide a forum to keep both new and long-standing club members informed about club activities, updates on HeritageCon, and other scale modelling topics of interest.

This first issue covers a broad spectrum of topics from recent club activities to a history of our club to Part 1/2 of a pictorial timeline of the North African Campaign of WW2.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of Bombsight!

# CLUB NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- **Are you an IPMS Canada Member?:** IPMS Canada, the National branch of the International Plastic Modeling Society (IPMS), recently updated the Charter for IPMS chapters,. One of the criteria for being an IPMS chapter is having at least five (5) national chapter members as part of the local membership. Without too much trouble, IPMS Hamilton was able to meet the minimum national member requirement for 2020. If you are a IPMS Canada member, we would like to add you to the club roster - the more the merrier - please reach out to [ipmshamiltonsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:ipmshamiltonsecretary@gmail.com) and you'll be added to the club member list! Check out IPMS Canada check out [www.ipmscanada.com](http://www.ipmscanada.com) for more information.
- **IPMS Nationals Sponsorship:** HeritageCon wouldn't be the same without the generous support of all of our sponsors. The same goes for all of the other local and regional IPMS and club shows. To show our support for the IPMS community and the scale model hobby at large, the Club Executive recently approved the sponsorship of a category at the IPMS Nationals to be hosted in Las Vegas, NV, August 18-21, 2021 (<https://www.natslv2021.com/>). In the spirit of the club and CWHM, we are now the proud sponsor of category 105-A 1/72 Small Aircraft (Wingspan not to exceed 8.5"). Here's hoping for a quick vaccine roll-out, cheap flights, and open borders so that maybe we can be there in person to present the award!

Do you have a club related news item or announcement? Send the relevant details (and photos if you have them) over to: [ipmshamiltonnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ipmshamiltonnewsletter@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS

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IPMS Hamilton meets on the last Wednesday of each month (except December), generally from 7:30 to 9:00pm(ish).

While we can't meet in person, Club members new and old alike are invited to participate in virtual club meetings held using Zoom. It's a great evening of model building and discussion, catching up on what your fellow club members have been working on, and who knows - you might learn something new!

Upcoming meeting dates:

- April 28
- May 26

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP OUT?

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Do you have an idea for newsletter topic? Why not write it down, collect a few photographs, and send it over!

Would you like to help out with editing, formatting, and publishing?

Have a suggestion on how to improve the newsletter?

Reach out to:  
[ipmshamiltonnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ipmshamiltonnewsletter@gmail.com).

# PODCASTS GALORE!

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Working at your bench with nothing new to listen to? Why not check out one of the many established and up and coming scale modeling podcasts!

- **On the Bench** - is photo etch really your friend? Check out Dave, Ian, and Julien from the land down under.
- **The Scale Model Podcast** - hosted by our good friend Sturt Clark from just down the road in London, ON
- **Plastic Model Mojo** - bourbon recommendations, models, and good conversation, what more can you ask for?
- **Plastic Posse Podcast** - let them rope you into engaging conversations with guests from across the modeling community.
- **Just Making Conversation** - join Malcom and James from the UK as they discuss a variety of modeling topics.
- **Model Geeks** - Their first episode dropped in January and they are already up to episode six. Give them a listen!



**CAN YOU TELL FRIEND FROM FOE?**



**TRY MASKING THIS SPLINTER CAMO PATTERN!**

# HERITAGECON UPDATE

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HeritageCon 2020 (No. 14), like so many other events around the world, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. It was really shaping up to be one of the most exciting shows yet with vendor tables fully sold out, more raffle prizes than ever, and many special guests planning to be in attendance.

While there will not be a HeritageCon 2021 either, the organizing committee are gearing up for a big return in 2022! We know that everyone have been building and finishing kits at a pace not seen before. And, there are reports that the hobby has seen an uptick in activity by new or returning modelers.

Like you, we can't wait for HeritageCon 2022! Watch this space for regular HeritageCon updates.

## CLUB GROUP BUILDS

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Don't know which kit in the stash to start next? Why not join the two club group builds on the go!

1. **Opposing Forces:** Build two kits that represent, you guessed it, opposing forces. Need some inspiration? - fire and ice, cold war foes, Empire vs. the Republic, etc. Ongoing since February 2020 this group build will continue until we can meet again in person.
2. **Cabin Fever:** Lock-downs have you getting a little unsettled? Looking forward to spring? A bit of cabin fever perhaps? This group build aims to see you tackle the most elaborate paint job that you can handle. Go crazy! Just kicking off, this group build has an approximate end date of fall 2021.

# IPMS HAMILTON:

## OUR CLUB

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By: Allan Murrell

IPMS Hamilton - Vice-President

IPMS Hamilton was founded by Tony Hayes in 1999 and is lucky enough to be based at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum next to Hamilton Airport. In 2003 our Club became an official chapter of IPMS Canada.

We organize and run HeritageCon, one of Canada's Largest IPMS Scale model contest's and show held in March every year. The first show was held in 2006 as a way to help provide funds for the Museum. Our last show before the Pandemic was in 2019 it was our biggest so far with approximately 2200 attendees and around 938 entries in the contest. We hope that our next show will be at the end of March 2022 and should be the best yet with the help of the members, the museum and all the other clubs and fellow modelers who continue to support our show.

One of the big attractions at the show is the fantastic raffle table which this has normally over \$2500 in prizes all donated by the industries best manufacturers, distributors and the local model stores who support our show ever year with better and better prizes including some that are not released until the month after our show.

Membership has increased year after year starting with just 3 members to the present where we stand at approximately 98 members with face to face meeting generally attended by at least 40 to 55 members at any given meeting. Now with the current restrictions we are doing a monthly Zoom meeting with attendees of approximately 20 to 25 each time.

The club membership skills range from the very basic to the award winning levels and we all support each other and help build confidence in everyone. They build every type of model Aircraft, Armor, Automotive, Space, Sci Fi, Ships etc. Many of our members attend and in some cases enter as many of the local shows as we can. Also some of our members are also members of other clubs, as we all believe that supporting other clubs help all grow. Some of our members are well known in the local area and are regular winners at local contests

The club meetings are held at the museum on the last Wednesday of every month and start at around 7pm until 9.0pm. We have build nights, presentations from members and guests, raffles, buy and sell nights, pizza nights and demonstrations of modelling techniques. Of course a great aspect of our meetings is being in the museum with all those great aircraft and history surrounding the members.

Our meetings are an informal gather of like-minded modelers out to help each other, learn new ideas and improve their skills. Also and above all else is having fun which is the whole basis of our great hobby!

Another activity we do is run a couple of members road trips to the local stores to show our support and need for local stores. We also use our club funds to assist the museum: last year alone we gave money to the engine fund for the Lancaster, paid half the cost for the new large portable projector screen and gave other funds to help the museum.

# NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

## PART 1: 1940-1941

By: Duncan Young

From June 1940 when the first British troops crossed into Italian controlled Libya until May 1943 when Axis forces finally surrendered in Tunisia, the North African Campaign is one of the many pivotal periods of World War 2. This period of the war saw pitched nighttime armor battles, sieges that lasted in the hundreds of days, special operations groups prowling the desert, and the rise of some of the War's greatest historical figures that are familiar names even today.

The North African Campaign also provides us, as scale modelers, a vast array of subjects to turn our attention too, not to mention the number of camouflage schemes that could be considered or weathering techniques that could be applied to replicate the harsh operating conditions of the desert.

The timeline below covers some (not all) of the key events and other aspects that make up the first phase of the North African Campaign from its beginning in June 1940 up until roughly the end of 1941 when the Siege of Tobruk was lifted by the British Eighth Army. The topics highlighted were chosen with an eye towards possible modeling subjects and, hopefully, might inspire you to pull out that Panzer III Ausf J from the stash or go out and pick up one of Tamiya's recent boxings of the the Valentine or Matilda British Infantry tanks.

All of the photos have been sourced from the Imperial War Museum's online photo archive (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/photographs>) an excellent resource of wartime information.

Look for Part 2: 1942 to 1943 of the campaign timeline in the next installment of Bombsight to be released at the end of June 2021.

June 14, 1940

British troops cross into Libya from Egypt and see early success against the Italian forces. Italian forces would counter attack forcing British and Commonwealth forces back into Egypt. And so it began...



**Long Range Desert Group (LRDG) On Patrol Somewhere in Libya**

**December 1940 - February 1941**

Operation Compass was the first major operation by British and Commonwealth troops in North Africa. Its objectives were to recapture areas of Egypt held by Italy and advance into Libya.



**Semovente 75/34 Italian Self-Propelled Gun**



**•The Desert Fox -  
General Erwin Rommel**

**February - May 1941**

After much success in France in 1940, General Rommel assumed command of the DAK in early February 1941 and quickly went on the offensive in what was dubbed Operation Sonnenblume ('Sunflower'). Rommel's early successes in Libya and Egypt would earn him fame both at home and among his enemies who dubbed him the 'Desert Fox'.



**A Ju 87B of 5/StG 2 After Making a Forced Landing in the Libyan Desert**

**April 6, 1941**

Generals O'Connor and Neame are captured by a German patrol while traveling to their advanced headquarters. An example of how fluid the battle lines for both sides were during the desert campaign. Both Generals would remain in captivity in Italy until 1943.



**Bristol Blenheim Bomber**

**February 1941**

The initial elements of the Deutsches Afrika Korps (DAK) or Afrika Korps land in Libya in February. The DAK's objective was to prop up their faltering Italian ally who had given up considerable ground to the British in the months earlier and were on the verge of defeat.



**Manning the Tobruk Perimeter**

**April - November 1941**

The Siege of Tobruk lasted for 241 days between April and November, 1941. The garrison, consisting of primarily Australian troops, held the port against successive attacks by Rommel's forces, denying them access to a deep water port.



**Panzer III:  
Workhorse of the Afrika Korps**

**April - May 1941**

The 15th Panzer Division began to land in Libya in April 1941. As the backbone of the DAK, the 15th Panzer Division would go on to see action in all subsequent major German actions in North Africa up until the surrender of Axis forces in Tunisia in 1943.



**HMS Sheffield: Running Convoy Duty to Malta**



**Destroyed German Flak 88 Anti-Aircraft Gun**

**July 1941**

Originally known as the Special Air Service Brigade or 'L' Detachment, the forerunner to the Special Air Service (SAS), was constituted in July 1941. Its first major operation would coincide with Operation Crusader in November 1941 and would see more the loss of more than 1/3 of the force. There would be success against Axis forces in 1942 and the SAS would go on to see action in other theaters during WW2.



**"Phantom" of the 42 Royal Tank Reg.,  
1 Army Tank Brig.**

**September 1941**

The Western Desert Force would be renamed the British Eighth Army in September 1941. Planning for the next offensive would continue in earnest after previous failures over the summer.



**Operation Crusader: Lifting the Siege of  
Tobruk November 1941**

**June 1941**

Operation Battleaxe was launched on June 15, 1941, with the intent of lifting the siege at Tobruk and recapturing eastern Libya. After some initial success, British forces narrowly escape encirclement by German forces on the counter-attack.



**Returning SAS Patrol Group  
w/ Major David Stirling  
(founder of the SAS)**



**German Panzer III Crew  
Surrendering to British Infantry**

**November - December, 1941**

Operation Crusader would be launched on November 18 to renew the efforts to relieve the garrison at Tobruk and retake eastern Libya. The British would be successful in their attack and would open a path to Tobruk on November 27, 1941. Operation Crusader, however, would not be a decisive victory as much of the DAK would remain intact ready to fight another day. The Desert Fox would be soon to return in 1942.

**To be continued...**



What's a Moosearoo?

## MOOSEAROO CUP 2021

The Moosearoo Cup, in its second year, is the highly touted, but all together friendly, model contest between the On the Bench (OTB) and Scale Model Podcast (SMP) crews.

IPMS Hamilton is once again proud to be the presenting sponsor of this international content with our very own Iain Fraser judging the completed entries (albeit virtually this year).

The model subjects that were dispatched to each builder are a pair of autogyros from Mini-Art Models. Julian from OTB will be building the FL 282 V-16 Kolibri (or "hummingbird") - a single seat German synchrocopter. Stuart of the SMP will be building the Avro Cierva C.30A - a mid-1930's British autogyro.

Entries are due for judging on April 3. Look for full coverage in our next issue



FL 282 V-16 Kolibri "Humming Bird"



Avro Cierva C.30A



# GET IN TOUCH

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President - Robert Germann  
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[www.ipmshamilton.ca](http://www.ipmshamilton.ca)

[www.heritagecon.com](http://www.heritagecon.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/117776364962937/>

## COMING UP IN THE NEXT ISSUE

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Here's what we are planning for Issue 2:

- The latest club news and updates
- Full coverage of Mooseraoo Cup 2021
- North African Campaign - Part 2

Look for the next issue to drop at the end of June.



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## ON THE SPRUE: NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

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Looking for some inspiration for a North African Campaign modeling project? Why not check your stash or head to your local hobby shop (online or in person) in search one of the following:

### Aircraft:

- Trumpeter, 1/32, Ju 87R Stuka (Kit No. 03216)
- Airfix, 1/48, Hawker Hurricane Mk.I Tropical (Kit No. A05129)
- ICM, 1/48, He 111H-6 North Africa (Kit No. 48265)
- Airfix, 1/72, Bristol Blenheim Mk.IV (Kit No. A04061)

### Armor (Scale: 1/35):

- Rye Field Model, Pz.Kpfw.III Ausf J (Kit No. 5072)
- Tamiya, Valentine Mk.II/IV (Kit No. 35352)
- Italeri, Semovente M42 da 75/18 (Kit No. 6569)
- Border Models, PzKpfw. IV Ausf. F1 (Kit No. BT-003)
- Academy, M3 Stuart "Honey" (Kit No. 13270)

### Ships:

- Hobby Boss, 1:350, Italian Heavy Cruiser Pola (Kit No. 86502)
- Trumpeter, 1:350, Italian Heavy Cruiser Fiume (Kit No. 05348)