



No. 4

2024

Operation Market Garden

This September, 17- 25, was the 80th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden, the airborne operation attempt to capture the bridges over the Rhine. It was not successful. My intention is not to go into the story of this operation but to give members some ideas and references to allow them to consider painting a figure or creating a diorama. Perhaps to celebrate the 80th anniversary?

These days the first "port of call" for information is the internet and Wikipedia gives quite a detailed account of the operation. The next reference source is books and there are many on this topic. The renowned historical author, Antony Beevor has written the book "Arnhem: The Battle for the Bridges, 1944" which has very good reviews. The author Cornelius Ryan wrote the book "A Bridge Too Far" back in the 1970's and this is regarded as one of the best books on the operation. In the 1970's the author would have been able to talk to people who were actually there. It is available in paperback. Some of the first editions may still be available from second hand bookshops. The film directed by Richard Attenborough has the same title. For pictorial information Osprey have the paperback book titled "Arnhem 1944" and 3 other titles "Operation Market-Garden 1944". The first covers the American airborne missions, the second the British airborne missions and the third the British XXX Corps missions. There are many, many more books available. There is one book by Mr Black Scale Model Handbook Volume 6 (available from Historex Agents) which gives a detailed account of painting the excellent 1/10th scale Young Miniatures bust of a British paratrooper.

Turning to figures, there is the Young miniatures bust as mentioned above, titled British paratrooper Operation Market Garden. Mitches Military Models do a 120mm full figure of a British paratrooper firing round a wall. (*On the right are two photos of this figure, beautifully painted by Brian Smith*). This same figure is included in an Arnhem Vignette they offer. The vignette includes another paratrooper with a Bren gun. They also have a 1/9 scale bust of Lt. Col John Frost of the parachute regiment. Frost actually reached the bridge at Arnhem and led a force which attempted to hold the bridge. The fierce battle lasted 4 days. At smaller scales, 54mm, 1/35 etc there are many suppliers. SK miniatures do a 54mm figure. Master Box (MB) do two sets of British Paratroopers, each with 4 figures in. Tamiya do two boxed sets: One with two paras and bicycles, the other with 4 figures and two small motorcycles. All these could be used to develop a diorama. Hopefully this will inspire some of the members to have a go at a model to celebrate the anniversary.



Photos of Mitches Models large scale bust of a para. at Arnhem, beautifully painted by Brian Smith.

Museum Visit, Turin

By Jim Dew



Turino Italy, a gem at the foot of the Italian Alps.

The Italian barber who cuts my hair, is a native of Turino, and during my conversations while in the barber's chair, convinced me to visit Turino. I knew from my previous visits to Italy, that the weather and food would not disappoint. Turino is a manufacturing city (Fiat and Ferrari) , so what to expect. I knew that the first parliament of the unified Italy was in Turino, so I was sure of a Risorgimento museum. I decided to visit this April, the temperatures were a warm 17/19 degrees during the day, cooler at night. Turino is approximately 65klm from the foot hills of the Italian Alps, and is a little 17th century Baroque gem. Imagine Bristol with Bath in its centre. Built over the centuries on the Roman grid system, roads running east west, north south. The river Po runs through it, with the Po valley stretching north to the mountains. You can see them from the city centre looking north. So if you visit Turino, what to do. I recommend a free guided tour of the city. They start at the city railway station, outside the local tourist office. The main tourist

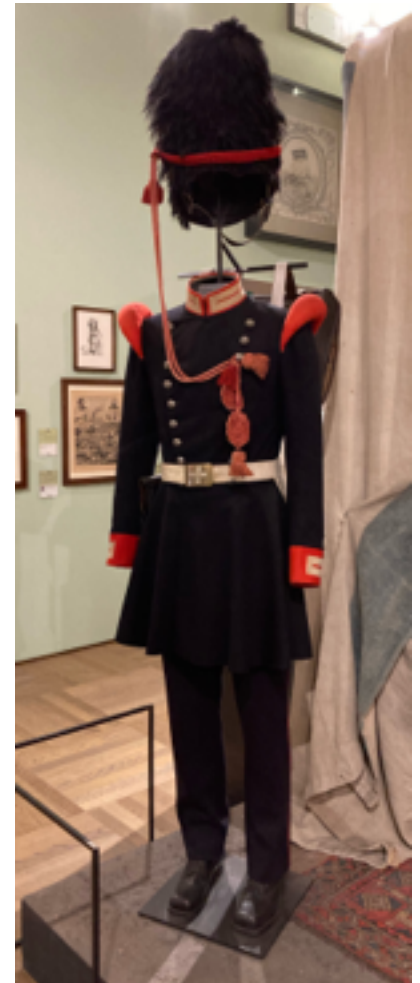
office is next to the royal palace. They are great fun, and very informative. At the same time you can enquire about museum costs , public transport etc. Top of my list was the Risorgimento museum, the Royal Palace and Cathedral, and the Egyptian Museum. For motor-heads, there is one of the world's finest motor museums in Turino, plus the sights of the locations of the film the Italian Job.

For military enthusiasts it is a must to visit the Risorgimento and Royal Palace museums. First came the Risorgimento museum. The museum is housed in a palace where the first united Italian Parliament sat. Like most European museums they close on Mondays, and there are entry fees. Combined museum tickets can be purchased at tourist offices. The Risorgimento museum has various areas with different subjects. In each area there is an introduction video in Italian with English subtitles. They are highly informative, and will worth viewing. There are also aids for people with hearing and sight impediments. Objects are also supplied with excellent information cards. Along with all the military subjects, you can also view the first Italian Parliamentary Chamber.

Now a note of importance. The Italian school system, bus hundreds of pupils to Turino each day from all over Italy. So my tip is get in early, when the museums open, or lunchtime when the school children will be eating packed lunches. Or when the Italian schools are closed for holidays.

The Egyptian museum is second only to the one in Cairo, and well worth a few hours of one's time.

Moving on to more recent history. The Royal Palace. This was the residence of the Dukes of Savoy. They were immensely wealthy, and at the end of the 17 and the beginning of the 18th century rebuilt medieval Turino into the old city you see today. The people of this area of Piedmont are very reserved. Along with their Dukes. All the palaces and mansions are regulation height and decoration. Not too showy. But step inside, and you are in the land of opulence. This of course includes the Royal buildings. A visit to the Royal Palace is a visit to wonderland on steroids. Bling does not cover it. Chamber after



Continued overleaf

chamber of fantastic decoration.

Of interest to us interested in all things military, there is the Royal Armoury. Knights in armour, guns, swords, and a couple of Napoleon's army Eagles captured from the French. Everything displayed in fantastic surroundings.

Turino is also famous for its chocolate of which there is a huge variety.

So with history, Italian food and ice cream. Turino is well worth a long weekend.



FREDERICK PING

By Chris Bartlett

My central collecting passion is, in the main, for old "TOY" soldiers. I have loads of W.Britains, CBG Mignot, Gustave Vertunni, Timpo, Johillco to name but a few. So over many years, through the help(in part) from the dealer Arian Little of Mercator Trading, I acquired a few PING figures.

Frederick Ping, one of the founder members of the BMSS in the 1930's initially made figures just for himself, all centered around the "Middle Ages" -his favourite period of interest. He was good friends with Richard Courtney and they shared a mutual love for this period of modelling. He was also friends with Bill Carman and Shamus Wade. From all of this he was commissioned to make "one off" sets of figures for the likes of Peter Cushing (also a member of the BMSS) for his working model theatre.

But what made him unique was how he constructed his models. Firstly he created a basic body torso, from which he made a mould. Then using the body casting he then used solder to build up the body and soldered sheets of thin lead, along with strips of copper to produce the figure required.

Then he meticulously painted each figure. He didn't highlight ,shade or line his figures but blended his colours in very subtle ways. He was very knowledgeable about heraldry but his favourite delight was Court ladies (which I have not yet been able to acquire any of yet!)

His commissioned clients did not provide him with any reference material but rather left it to him, in the knowledge that he knew his craft.

I have been lucky to have acquired two figures which I know to be by his hand:- Edward, Duke of Somerset and Michael Collins of Sinn Fein fame. The other figure of a Sussex gunner, I believe MIGHT be a Ping figure. His figures "usually" came on a wooden plinth and were

signed on the back(see photos)

After he passed away his moulds went to Peter Greenhill(who has recently passed away)

All references in this article were gained from John G.Garratt's books:-

Model Soldiers-A collectors guide

Model Soldiers for the connoisseur

The World Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers



THE COMPLETE WORKSHOP, REVISITED

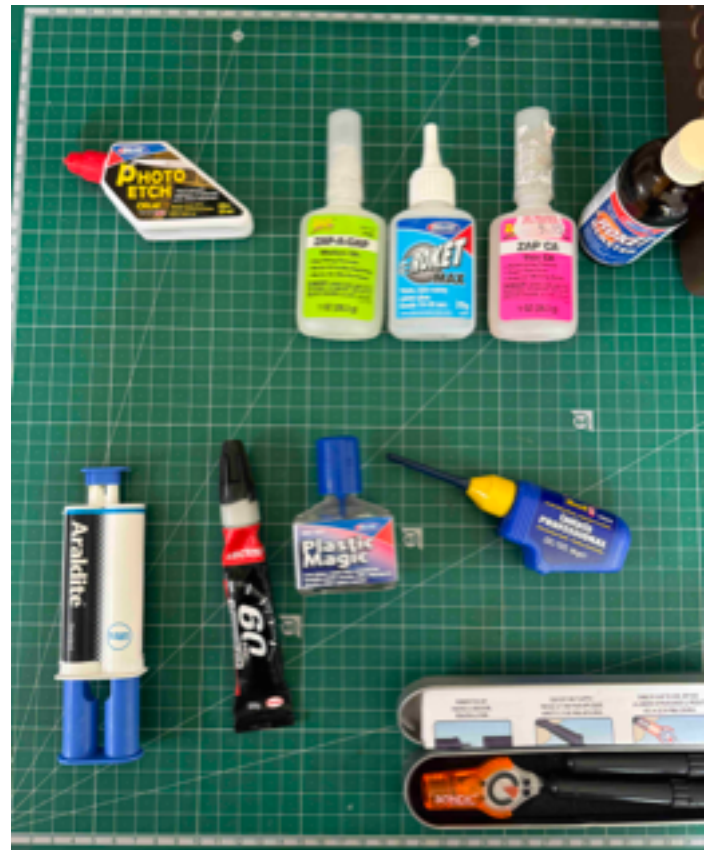
Adhesives

By The Editor

I am sure many members, like me, remember the articles written by Stan Catchpol in the Military Modelling magazine. They were actually written by Bryan Fosten. He used the pseudonym, I think, for fun and to keep everyone guessing who Stan Catchpol was. In fact it was a pseudonym used by Bryan's grandfather who had a weekly column in a newspaper! The articles were so popular that they were made into a book, which I still have. Although time has moved on and modelling materials have changed I still find them useful for reference. I thought it might be worth looking at the first article in the book on Adhesives and consider how things have changed.

Since Stan Catchpol's article super glue has become the glue of choice for many modellers (except for polystyrene where specific glues are much better). Certainly with many figures being made of resin now super glue is a good option. Interestingly in Stan's original article he states "recommended only for experienced modellers" primarily because of its capability of bonding flesh. Which is still a risk as I know from experience! The variety of superglues available is large but basically there are three types: thick, medium and thin. (There are these types in Photo 1 to the left, the green bottle being medium, blue thick and pink thin). You can also buy glues with different setting times. Generally the glues I use set within about 10 seconds. Keeping the nozzle of the glue bottle clean and clear of drying glue is important. Tapping the bottom of the bottle on a table after use helps. (As you can see I have not been very successful keeping the thin super glue bottle clean!) Be very careful with the thin superglue it flows very easily, can go everywhere and sets very quickly. I have glued a small part to a model with the thin superglue and then been surprised to find my fingers also stuck together! So how do you apply them. Firstly sparingly! But just as important is the surfaces should be clean and dry. Also the surfaces to be glued should be free of paint. (The bond between the paint and the surface underneath is weaker than the glue bond, consequently it is quite easy, for example, for a sword to fall off and pull away the paint underneath.) That means either the parts are glued before painting or some paint has to be scraped

carefully away on the two surfaces to be bonded after painting. For the thick and medium super glues I generally use the tip of a cocktail stick to apply the glue to one surface. You can purchase nozzle applicators with a thin tube which fit to the top of the glue bottles. These provide a thin drop or bead of glue. I do sometimes use them but the thin tube does become blocked quite easily and has to be thrown away. Flicking the tube can sometimes clear the blockage when the glue is still liquid. I have used this method with the thin super glue as there is more control. (In photo 2 you can see some types of commercial applicators and a cocktail stick.) I don't use the thin super glue very often, it can be useful in attaching small parts as it flows very easily between the parts. The part is first held in position by a bit of blue tac or tape and then some thin super glue applied between the parts. (Although not for figure modelling I have used it attaching photo etched parts, for instance, ship railings and



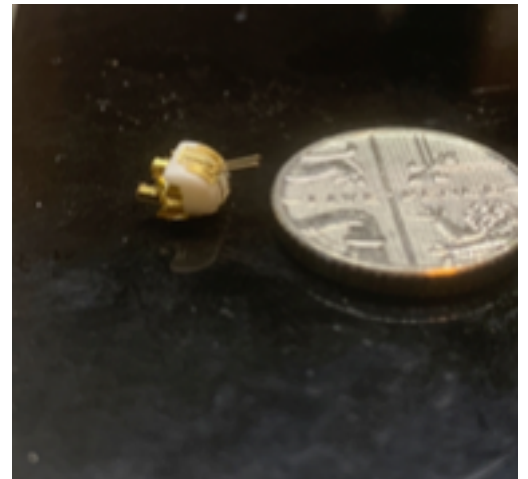
rigging either on a ship or biplane, however I have had varied success). For precise application of super glue I have created my own applicator from a needle (Photo 3). I have cut the tip of the eye off (with a sharp hacksaw). The opening which is left on the needle can then hold a small amount of glue which can then be applied accurately to the surface. Any excess super glue on the needle can be burnt off with a match. Super glue accelerator can be useful (bottle in the top right corner of Photo 1). The liquid is applied by brush (the bottle top normally has a brush in it) to one surface and the super glue to the other surface. When the parts are located together the bond is almost instant. That has the benefit of not having to holding the parts until the glue has set. The disadvantage is that the parts may not be in exactly the position required. A word of warning; the liquid accelerator is highly volatile and the vapours are not good for your health, so don't breathe in the vapours or leave the bottle open. Slow setting super glues can also be useful, the black tube in the photo with 60 on it is a slow setting glue (in 60 seconds obviously). This gives time to position the part as required, for instance an arm on a torso. (In the top left hand corner Photo 1 is a "photo etch glue". I have not used this yet but I hope it overcomes some of the difficulties of attaching small photo etched parts.)

In the centre of Photo 1 are two glues for polystyrene, which are well known to aircraft, AFV and plane modellers. These have been around for many years and are the go to product for polystyrene kits. The blue bottle is the normal thickness glue. This is the Revell version and is excellent and comes with a long metal tube applicator. The Plastic Magic bottle is the thin liquid version, which is very useful for applying small items or applying a very thin stream along seam lines. This comes with a brush applicator in the bottle top. Polystyrene glue works in a slightly different way, it softens the plastic in the bond area and the two parts are "welded" together. Consequently you have to be careful how much glue you apply as it could distort the parts or even "melt" them completely.

Two part epoxy glues such as Araldite in Photo 1 are the ideal glue for producing a strong bond particularly if the items are heavy. They are a good solution for heavy metal parts. It is the glue I use for attaching figures to the base. As the name indicates it comes in two separate tubes, one containing the resin the other the hardener. Equal parts are mixed together and then the mixed glue applied to one clean surface that is to be bonded. The glue does take time to set, although today you can purchase quick setting options, so the two parts have to be held in position with tape, rubber bands or clamps. It is not the ideal glue for small parts because of its consistency which makes it more difficult to apply accurately. The last glue in Photo 1 is interesting. A year or so ago I made a 1/700 scale model of a destroyer which had many tiny photo etched parts (Photo 3 is a photo of a main gun which was made up of about 10 parts). Gluing these accurately drove me to distraction, particularly the ship railings. I wanted a glue that I controlled when it set. This glue sets by shining a UV light onto the glue. So it is clearly only practicable to use when the glue is visible and the UV light can be shone on it. This item was supplied by Bondic. The "glue" is in a applicator and the UV light, battery operated, in the orange part. I found it very useful, for gluing some small parts.

Another glue I find useful is PVA glue which can glue almost anything. At an Scale Model Challenge show a few years ago I was talking to a trader, while purchasing one of his figures, and he recommended using both super glue and PVA glue to attach, for example, an arm to a torso. Super glue is applied to the centre area to be bonded and then PVA glue is applied to the surrounding area with a brush. The two parts are then joined. The PVA glue will fill any visible narrow gaps on the joint and any excess PVA glue can be wiped off with a damp brush. Once the PVA glue is dry which takes sometime you have a very solid joint.

Finally, it is sensible to pin larger parts. I pin my models to the base and arms and legs to the torso. The first is important as figures can be easily knocked on their base. For the pins I use paperclips. The pins being cut to suitable lengths from the paperclip. The pins don't have to be too long. I drill slightly oversized holes in the two parts to be glued which allows for some adjustment of the parts positions. To ensure the holes are drilled in the right place in both parts I put a blob of black paint on one part where the hole is to be drilled. I then trial fit the parts and when they are separated some of the paint will have (hopefully) transferred to the other part indicating where the hole should be drilled on that part. Using paperclips as pins is useful as if there is any slight misalignment, the pins are soft enough to be bent slightly. Knowing where a figure is to be placed on a base is one of the first steps in creating the base texture as the locating holes for the figure will be drilled into the base. So I pin the feet on the figure (which also allows it to be held in a stand while painting) and then mark the pin locations on the base. The holes are then drilled, slightly oversized. To prevent the holes being filled with whatever texture is being added to the base I insert cocktail sticks in the holes. (you can put a bit of petroleum jelly on the cocktail sticks to allow them to be pulled out easily).



Support model soldier shows! Support model soldier traders!

BMSS Diary 2024

October 19-20	Scale Model Challenge , NH Eindhoven, Conference Centre Koningshof, Locht 117, 5504 RM Veldhoven, The Netherlands
November 1	Zoom Meeting - Pre-Auction , 5pm-7pm. All members will automatically be sent a link via email to access the meeting.
November 9-10	IPMS Scale Modelworld , 10am-4pm, The International Centre, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4JH United Kingdom
November 15	BMSS Auction , 5pm, St. Saviour's Church Hall, St. George's Square, Pimlico London SW1 3QW. BMSS members only.
December 1	Bugle Call , 10am-4.30pm, BMSS Bristol Branch Show, Nailsea School, "The Link", Mizzymeard Road, Nailsea, North Somerset, BS48 2HN
December 7	London Toy Soldier Show , 10am-4pm, Haverstock School, 24 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 2BQ
December 8	London Plastic Modelling Show , 10am-4pm, Haverstock Hill, 24 Haverstock Hill, London NW3 2BQ

"Bulletin" Schedule 2024-2025

Issue	Copy Date	Publication
Bulletin No.4	7th October	18th November
Bulletin Extra No.1	6th January	Early February
Bulletin No.1	3rd February	17th March
Buletin Extra No.2	7th April	Early May
Bulletin No.2	6th May	16th June
Bulletin Extra No.3	23rd June	End of July
Bulletin No.3	21st July	2nd September
Bulletin Extra No.4	15th September	Mid October

BMSS Logo clothing



How to Order: We have set up an arrangement with JANCRAFT for clothing with an embroidered BMSS logo badge, a similar design to the existing letterhead and pin badge shown on the left.

Individual members can contact JANCRAFT for clothing orders – preferably by email so that our contact, Julian, can reply with a cost and payment details. You can also contact him by phone. Members should give the item code* and delivery address with your email contact where possible and a mobile/telephone number.

*All the details of the types of clothing, sizes and colours are shown on JANCRAFT's on-line catalogue. Find it at www.jancraft.com This also includes the code number for each item in the catalogue. Then you need to specify the colour of your choice and the size.

JANCRAFT address is: [3 High Park Avenue, Wollaston, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 3NJ](https://www.jancraft.com)

Email address: mail@jancraft.com **Telephone:** 01384 396226.

STOP PRESS!

BMSS Christmas cards 2024

Christmas cards for this year are now available from the society. The card features an iconic illustration by Bryan Fosten (see picture). The cards come in packs of 12 with envelopes and cost £5, including postage. Orders please to Ralph Weaver at 37 Yeading Avenue, Harrow, HA2 9RL, cheques etc payable to *British Model Soldier Society*, cash also acceptable or you can pay direct to the Treasurer similarly to subscriptions.

