



**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**  
**Of the NJIPMS**

**September, 2021**

**Vol.XXX, Iss ix**

**Big Bill had more surgical work recently, so was not able to give us an IRON WORKS this month. We wish him the best.**

**The Contact's View**

**By Mike Pavlo, VP**



MosquitoCon was just a few weeks ago, and this year's show was, without any doubt, a huge success in every respect. Anyone who was there saw the crowds in the vendor room, the contest room, the registration line, the walk-in line and everywhere in between. You know already that we set a record for the most models on the tables and maybe even in overall attendance. We had anticipated a large turnout because of the shutdowns and cancellations of 2020, and that prediction certainly came true.

On behalf of the entire E-Board, I'd like to thank everyone who helped make the show so successful. Every area was busy and ran smoothly because of these efforts – Registration, Security, Set-up, Walk-Ins, Raffle, Judging and all the other

miscellaneous tasks that crop up – these were all taken care of professionally and without drama. You guys are the best!!

Once again, thanks to all for making MosquitoCon so great, and I'm already looking forward to MCon 30. And I know that all of our loyal supporters are as well.

I know that we're all looking forward to our end of summer party for this month too. Big Bill always comes through with amazing food for us to enjoy. It's gonna' be a blast!

Best Wishes,

Mike P.



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**And now it's time for another TERRE-A-GRAM!**

### **Matchbox Wellesley build**

With the exception of my Olimp 1/72nd build of the Curtiss JNS/ G-1 target glider all my builds for the past year or so have been those "golden oldies" from mid 1950's through the early 1960's. I decided to get back to the more modern stuff and selected the Matchbox 1/72nd Vickers Wellesley, kit PK-123, for my next build. Then it hit me, this kit was issued in 1979, I bought it from Linc's hobby shop when he was in West Orange. It seemed like only yesterday but that was forty-two years ago! So much for a modern kit and the realization that I'm getting real old!



First a little history lesson about the Wellesley, don't worry there won't be a quiz after reading. The Vickers Wellesley was a relatively little-known aircraft during WWII. It was in fact the only RAF aircraft to operate for eighteen months against Italian forces in East Africa, making unescorted raids deep into enemy territory. The Wellesley was also famous for making a nonstop 7,158-mile flight in 1938, a record which held until November 1945 when a B-29 broke it. The Wellesley was designed by Barnes Wallis using his geodetic construction method which was later used in the Wellington bomber.

The Wellesley was the first RAF aircraft that could carry over one and a half times its own weight and introduced bomb carriers on its wings. Ok, lesson over.

The kit comprised of about seventy-four parts on four sprues of black and green plastic. If you remember Matchbox tried to mold their kits in the primary colors of the actual aircraft. This kit could be built as a Mark I version or a special one used by the Long-Range Desert Group. I chose to build the standard Mk.I as used in East Africa.





Normally Matchbox kits were well engineered with well-fitting parts but this was not the case with the Wellesley. The wings were very difficult to attach to the fuselage with large gaps, particularly on the underside of the join. Large amounts of filler was needed to correct the problem. However, the wings as well as the horizontal stabilizer had very subtle geodetic construction outlines molded in. Also poorly fitting was the small triangular windows in the mid fuselage area. I have noticed that all Matchbox kits used some of the hardest plastics I've ever experienced. That stuff was hard to sand!





The was no detail for the cockpit or rear gunner's position, and since this was to be a closed canopy build I only added basic things like seats, instrument panel and a control yoke, all from my spares box. I did do a little modification to the underwing bomb carriers by opening the doors and adding internal detail as well as four "Cooper" bombs. The doors were made from Evergreen .020 styrene sheet. The Cooper bombs were white metal ones from AeroClub (boy do I miss those guys!)

I used Tamiya XF-26 Deep Green, XF-64 Red Brown and XF-69 NATO Black (scale black) for the primary colors. As there was "hard" demarcation lines between the colors all areas were masked accordingly.

The engine and associated cowling was nicely molded but the air filter and exhaust gave me some problems but this was easily corrected. The landing gear was very fragile and care had to be taken when fitting the large low-pressure wheels, which by the way do cant outwards. Due to the thinness of the landing gear struts I first coated them with Super Glue which makes them a little more rigid and sturdy and then followed up with a coat of Tamiya XF-16 Flat Aluminum.

After assembly the Wellesley was given a coat of Micro Gloss and the decals were applied. These forty-two-year-old decals worked perfectly and only a little Micro Set/Sol was needed. I've noted that Matchbox kit decals, as long as they are stored properly, work, no matter how old they are.



After the decals were allowed to dry the entire aircraft was given a coat of Krylon Satin. As these aircraft were heavily weathered, I first used Rub-N-Buff silver to accent the worn areas followed by a mixture of brown and tan pastels brushed over the entire aircraft. The engine, cowling as well as the landing gear were brushed with a black pastel alcohol wash. As a final touch stretched sprue (what else?) was used for the antenna and the build was done.

This was a very enjoyable four-week build. The model won't win any competitions but I'm happy with the results. Oh, by the way I cut out the slot in the belly for the stand and mounted the model accordingly. I think it looks cool! In fact, I think I'll consider using stands for future builds.



Hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I did in building the Wellesley. I won't be coming up to the September meeting but hope make all the others. Besides I have to pay my dues and don't want to make Big Bill's "S" list! See you all soon! Now get down to your bench and do something!

Mike Terre

**Thanks Mike. When I've seen pics of this aircraft, I always felt bad for the guy in the rear cockpit. He most likely did not have access to the front cockpit, so if the pilot was badly wounded or killed, the poor guy in the back was a goner as well. I could be wrong about that. In the Douglas BD-4 and up to the A-20 Havocs, the turret gunner had very rudimentary controls to try and fly the plane should he find himself alone!!**

**Reflecting the times, Fred Horky gives us a look at an earlier evacuation from Afghanistan.**

### **“The Big Bug-Out from Kabul”**

.....the 1929 version

Current events will sound a bit more familiar to readers who know their military aviation history ...or Afghan politics.

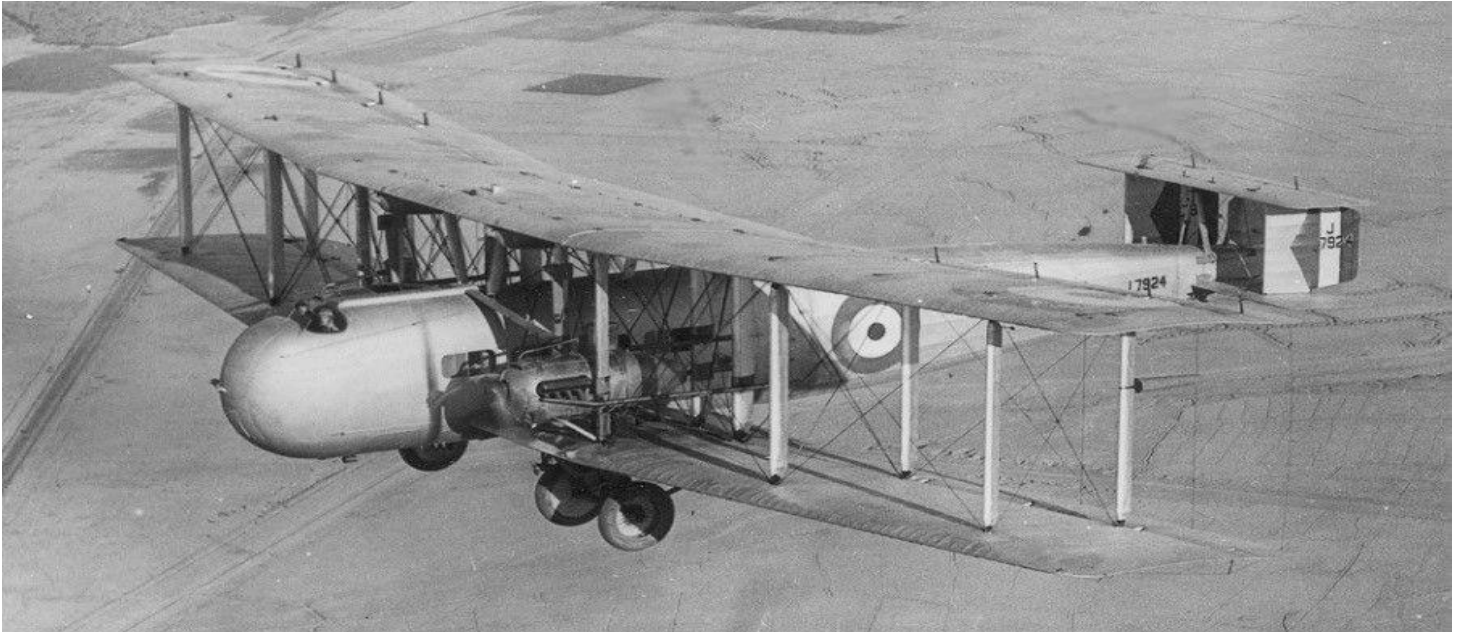
Our British friends have been involved one way or another with Afghanistan for hundreds of years. In earlier times, this interest centered more on protecting other parts of their empire, like India; than in Afghanistan itself. Basically, their relationship to Afghanistan revolved around English fears that the Russians would threaten then-very-British India via Afghanistan; while the Russians feared the English would use Afghanistan to threaten Russian interests.

Meanwhile, the Afghan people didn't and don't like ANY foreign power meddling in their affairs; but beyond that they were traditionally split by tribal warlords who didn't like each other very much either; with near constant bickering and fighting among themselves when not fighting a foreign devil.





But in the between-wars period of the 1920's, the British had gained considerable influence in Afghanistan. The country finally had an internationally recognized Afghan king and government; and the British and other countries were developing diplomatic and commercial presence in the capital of Kabul.



But in Afghan style, the discontent created by a tribal leader named Habibullah Kalakani over what he considered “infidel” influence, had gone from unrest to a full-blown civil war threatening the capital, the English-supported Afghan king, and the international diplomatic community. To add more color to the mix, Soviet Russia was also fighting tribesmen in northern Afghanistan. The result was the world’s very first significant aerial evacuation or airlift.

**VICKERS VIRGINIA — VICTORIA — VALENTIA**

**CONTRAIL MODEL AIRCRAFT**

**★ FIVE KITS ★**

VIRGINIA MARK VII  
VIRGINIA X  
VICTORIA Bomber/Transport  
VALENTIA Transport  
VALENTIA Gun Ship  
PLUS — CONVERSION PARTS FOR  
VALENTIA Sky-Shooter.

A 'CONTRAIL' KIT, MADE IN ENGLAND  
BY SUTCLIFFE PRODUCTIONS WESTCOMBE  
SHEPTON MALLET

**1/72 SCALE**  
VACUUM FORMED KIT  
WITH —

- ★ INJECTION MOULDED PROPS. U/C GEAR ENGINES, WHEELS, ETC.
- ★ DRAWINGS — PHOTOGRAPHS — INSTRUCTIONS
- ★ TWO HUGE SHEETS OF DECALS.
- ★ NEW! AEROFOIL SECTION EXTRUSION MOULDED STRUTS



**Afghanistan has been called, “The Graveyard of Empires”; a moniker which history has shown is fully and completely earned. Whatever your politics, at least no more American soldiers will lose their life (for now) in that wasted, desert scrub-filled no man’s land.**

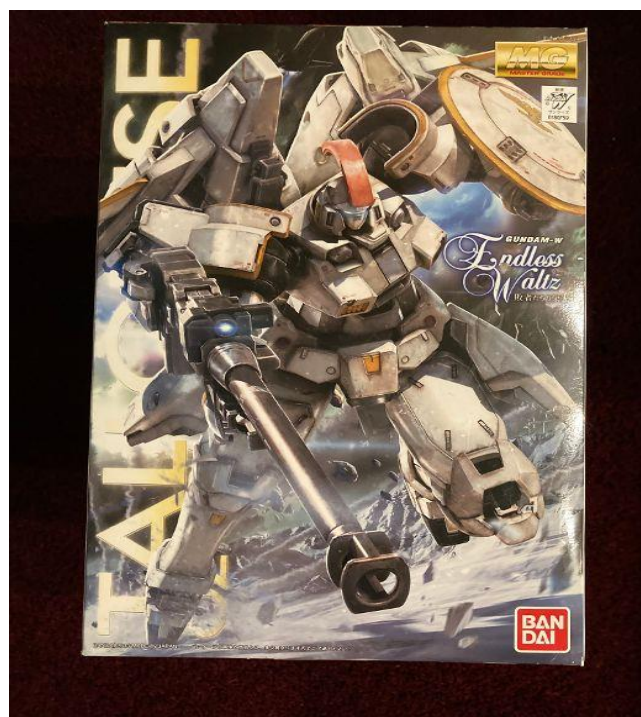
**As promised, John Bucholz gives us some insight into what the heck GUNDUMS are!**

Mosquitocon thoughts-

To paraphrase a famous quote from Jaws, "I think we're gonna need a bigger Gundam section!"

As most of you who attended the show know, the Gundam display area was packed to the max. We expanded the area three or four times and only the fact that some other categories did not have a lot of entries allowed us to fit all the models on the table. The build quality of all the kits was of a very high standard and I am certain it was not easy for the judges to pick the top three.

For those of you who are not very familiar with this category I will give you the super condensed explanation of what a Gundam is. Most of these figures trace their origins to Japanese cartoons of the 60's,70's,and later. The idea of brave warriors inside giant robotic suits fighting evil monsters is really just a very modern take on the ancient Samuri of Japan. While all Gundam are "Suits", not all "suits" are Gundams. Gundams are usually very colorful figures with new super weapons based on ancient weapons. While many Gundam kits have multiple rocket, laser, bazooka type weapons, most will also have spears, clubs, and swords in the tradition of the Samurai warrior. Most Gundam kits have the look of the Samurai armor, shields, and helmets updated for the 25th century. Suits on the other hand look more like a traditional robot (i.e. Lost in Space) or fighting machine (i.e. The War of the Worlds).



Do not let the simple lines of the model fool you. Most Gundam kits are fully poseable. If this were a regular kit you might have five or six pieces to make up a leg. Because the Gundam leg must move in all directions the kit might have 25 or 30 pieces to make up a leg. Even a small kit has a very large instruction sheet and I suggest you follow the steps in order(it will save a lot of issues later in the build). In other words, do not underestimate the skill needed to build on of these figures.

The fact that this category had so many kits just shows the popularity of the Gundam in the world of model building. Another fact that is evident-younger modelers like to build Gundams! Getting some new blood into the club seems like a great idea. I know that we all have our special niche when building models, but I would suggest to you- just try a small Gundam build. You will learn a lot about filling seams, sanding, and painting I can assure you.

**Thanks John! I've never been into too much sci-fi and fantasy, because I have a very low tolerance for stretching the limits of my reality. But the popularity of these kits, and the genre, cannot be denied.**







**Our MAD SCIENTIST Dr. Simon brings us his  
PRETTY POISON**

Did you ever get so frustrated by a kit that you just threw it out before finishing it? This happened to me with the Valom 1/72 Polikarpov TIS when I took a crack at it in the fall of 2017. If I gave up then, it wasn't for lack of time : I was home-bound, immobilized and on IV's nine hours a day after an orthopedic operation that went wrong.

Fast forward to 2021 , and we all have some extra modeling time because COVID is still with us . For some reason, I got the urge to give that god-forsaken kit another try, and in a few days , it was at hand . It comes in an attractive box with a nice illustration of this beautiful plane . Opening the box I found a set of apparently well-molded plastic parts, along with some resin, some photo/etch , and vacu-formed transparencies with a spare . This is completed by a nice looking instruction sheet and a minimalist decal sheet .



On the plus side , the fuselage and wings look great and fit together well. But it's all downhill from there on , with literally NOTHING fitting . Although individual parts looked good, getting them to do what they were supposed to do was a real grind ( literally ) . Let me point out that I've never build a shake'n bake kit in my life , and that I take to " body and fender " work like

an ant eater takes to an anthill ! This kit almost broke my will, but I carried on until I had it all together .

The vacu-formed canopy is poorly delineated , but I sort of got it to fit using lots of epoxy glue to blend it in. The parts supplied for the under-fuselage transparencies were unusable , so I carved some out of a piece of clear polystyrene. The pilot seat and its armored back were beautifully molded in resin, but had to be re-shaped to fit in ; ditto for the instrument panel !

The observer/gunner's seat looks nice, but it is the size of a kids' wading pool...The landing gear legs are appropriately stalky , but hard to install and very breakage-prone .You get the idea – this was hard !

I eventually had it all together . The fact that the engine nacelles toe in and that the twin tail fins toe out didn't really bother me by now : it basically looked like a TIS in its final, 1944 form . The instructions suggested a reddish-brown and green topside and light blue underside finish . Although often illustrated, this scheme never existed and the only brown widely used by the Soviets in WW2 was a grayish 'sand' color .

The late War camouflage for Soviet fighters was a two-tone gray , and that matches with the few photographs of the TIS that exist . After priming the airframe with Mr Surfacer 1000 grade , I painted my model with my usual Model Master enamels , and added the kit-supplied antenna mast, a pitot tube from brass wire and the nose and wing root cannon with metal tube . Markings are limited to tail-fin and underwing stars . The kit-supplied items were ditched since they lack a red outline , but I have a good supply of red stars in my decal folder ! The final step , and good riddance, was my usual coat of Testor's semi gloss lacquer .

A quick word about the Polikarpov TIS, it was initially ordered as a heavy escort fighter for a projected long range bomber force that never materialized . Although the Petlyakov TB-7/ Pe-8 was a competent airframe , it was only built and utilized in limited numbers , and mostly on night operations . One did make it to Washington DC , to bring Molotov , the Soviet Foreign Minister for discussions with Roosevelt. The plane blew one of its very large mainwheel tyres. While the Goodyear company was custom- producing a replacement tire , Molotov did some tourism and went to Chicago . Upon finding this out , Stalin joked that he'd gone “ where all the gangsters go! “ .





By the time the Polikarpov TIS was a mature design , it didn't really fill any need , as the extremely succesful and likewise attractive Petlyakov Pe-2 was already in service in large numbers . Damage from a high speed landing and the death from cancer or its creator N.N. Polikarpov in 1944 sealed its fate.

I'm glad to have this one done , but in spite of good first impressions , this one turned out to be a real

**ball-buster !**

**MartinQuinn sent in a list of new releases Hobby Boss**

**Plastics introductions - 2021**

**New HobbyBoss items - shipping in July**

**MRC No    Scale Description Case MSRP**

**829311:72 Russian BM-21 Grad Multiple Rocket Launcher 36 \$26.99**

**829331:72 Sam-2 Missile with Launcher Cabin - 100% New Tooling        36 \$39.99**

**845511:35 German Sd.Kfz.171 Panther Ausf.G - Early Version        10 \$69.99**

**855201:35 LKW 7t Dump Truck        12 \$111.99**

**New Italeri items - shipping in July**

**MRC No    Italeri No    Scale Description Case MSRP**

**551452        1452S1:72 F-51D "Korean War"        24 \$25.99**

556585	6585S1:35 T-34/85 "Korean War"	12 \$62.99	
553630	3630S1:24 Toyota BJ-44 "Land Cruiser" Soft Top/Hard Top	12 \$53.99	
556197	6197S1:72 Waterloo "La Haye Sainte"	5 \$124.99	

**New Italeri items - shipping in July**

MRC No	Italeri No	Scale Description	Case MSRP
551456	1456S1:72 F-8E Crusader	24 \$34.99	
552814	2814S1:48 Aermacchi MB 326	16 \$46.99	
553623	3623S1:24 Volvo 760 GLE	12 \$54.99	
553926	3926S1:24 Iveco Turbostar 190.48 Special 8	\$92.99	
556587	6587S1:35 M-24 "Chaffee" Korean War	12 \$52.99	

**New Italeri items - shipping in August**

MRC No	Italeri No	Scale Description	Case MSRP
551450	1450S1:72 C-27J / G.222 "Spartan"	8 \$99.99	
552819	2819S1:48 Henschel HS-123	16 \$48.99	
556578	6578S1:35 Pz.Kpfw. IV Ausf. H	12 \$63.99	
557083	7083S1:72 Churchill Mk. III	24 \$26.99	
553631	3631S1:24 Jaguar XJ 220	12 \$53.99	Page 1 of 4

**New Academy item - shipping in August**

Item No	Scale Description	Case MSRP
135351:35	German Panzer II Ausf. F "North Africa" * 100% new tooling *	20 \$44.00
15792N/A	God Phoenix (Gatchaman Series 1) with LED Module Set	12 \$99.00

**New Academy item - shipping in September**

Item No	Scale Description	Case MSRP
121331:32	F-4E "Vietnam War" USAF	4 \$159.00
126231:144	E-2C VAW-113 "Black Eagles" USN	60 \$19.00

**New HobbyBoss items - shipping in August**

MRC No	Scale Description	Case MSRP
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817721:48 CH-47A Chinook - 100% new tooling 12 \$127.99

845341:35 German Pz.BeobWg V Ausf.A 12 \$96.99

858121:48 F/A-18E Super Hornet - 100% new tooling 6 \$109.99

829291:72 48N6E of 5P85S TEL S-300PMU SA-10 GRUMBLE - 100% new tooling 18 \$74.99

844171:35 Kursk "Bailout from the pocket" 72 \$14.99

844181:35 German 20mm Flak 38 early with waffen ss crews 72 \$14.99

845571:35 Leopard C2 MEXAS with TWMP 6 \$98.99

New Italeri items - shipping in August

MRC No	Italeri No	Scale	Description	Case	MSRP
555626	5626S1:35		M.A.S. 568 4a Series with Crew	4	\$189.98
551457	1457S1:72		Eurofighter Typhoon EF-2000 "in RAF Service"	24	\$34.99
552820	2820S1:48		OH-13 Sioux (Korean War)	4	\$40.99

New Italeri items - shipping in September

MRC No	Italeri No	Scale	Description	Case	MSRP
551451	1451S1:72		B-52G Early with Hound Dog Missiles	4	\$129.99
556586	6586S1:35		Sherman M4A3E8 "Korean War"	12	\$69.99

I know this looks odd, but the COPY would not copy the table! Sorry.

I also apologise for not having pictures of the models from the August meeting. I had my phone mis-calibrated, and everything is blurry.

Finally, I had knee surgery on September 2, and am using a walker, and on more meds than I was on in the 60's! Though I love to eat....I'll have to miss the meeting.

Enjoy!

Bill Schroeter