

GLOBAL TOUCAN TREATISE

253 pages

EMB-312 Tucano



EMB-312 Tucano

By: JPZ Moralez

ISBN: 978-0-9973092-3-2

Price: £34.99 Format: 280 x 210mm

Web: www.casematepublishing.co.uk

This thumping new softback from Harpia is an instant success, because as far as we know, it's the only English-language examination ever published. It doesn't gain winning form for that fact alone though; it's a superb, extensive study of this

much-loved aircraft, in both Latin American layout and RAF form. The type's inception and early days are described in full, along with its entry into service with the Brazilian Air Force, and then there's dedicated focus on the licence-built, Garrett-engined Short Brothers airframes for the RAF (some of which were sold to Kenya and Kuwait). Every user nation's purchases and operations are described, including combat actions where applicable, along with Tucanos flown by private operators. The book also offers a selection of truly inspirational colour profiles and plan views, which will have fans of the type reaching for Airfix, Hobby Boss and others' kits in their stash, and aftermarket decals. And then there are Orders of Battle for the different air arms, with unit heraldry, and full production lists. Modellers will find this publication valuable in the extreme for any Tucano build project, and personal accounts breathe extra life into what is an already fascinating, but previously ignored subject. Highly recommended. **CC**

FORGOTTEN SERVICE

43 pages

SOVIET DESTROYERS OF WORLD WAR II



Soviet Destroyers of World War II

By: Alexander Hill

ISBN: 978-1-4728-2256-7

Price: £10.99 Format: 250 x 189mm

Web: www.ospreypublishing.com

The Soviet Union receives comparatively little attention, when World War Two naval warfare is considered. While it received Allied vessels under the lend-lease programme, it had an active ship development programme of its own, and in 1939 possessed a similar mix of

obsolete and modern vessels as other protagonists, just in smaller numbers. Alexander Hill's hugely informative narrative (which covers Soviet designs alone) begins immediately after the Communist Revolution, with the navy out of favour with leaders; this persisted into the early 1930s...only with the rise of Nazi Germany was this reversed. To the unlearned, there were myriad sub-types, with various associated project numbers, but the author discusses these within the overall umbrella of the six main destroyer classes: Novik, Uragan, Leningrad, Type 7/7U, Oпитnii and Tashkent. Each is explained in depth (including the modifications that created sub-classes), along with an overview of their wartime service. Notably, sub-standard materials and construction hampered operations...when combined with poor training, this resulted in heavy losses initially. This appears orientated more towards historians than modellers, although the colour profiles and artwork provide much detail. **SF**

GERMANS IN THE SANDBOX

100 pages

Panzerwrecks 22 Desert

By: Lee Archer

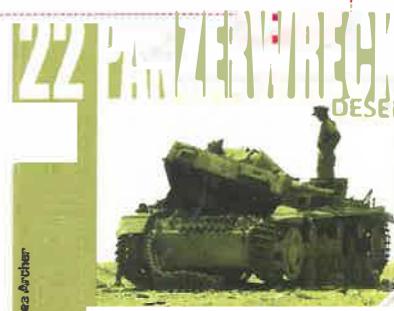
ISBN: 978-1-908032-18-8

Price: €17.99

Format: 210 x 280mm

Web: www.panzerwrecks.com

The Panzerwrecks reference juggernaut shows no sign of stopping and the quality of this series never falters. It's latest volume, the first outside of the 1944-45 timeframe, throws a spotlight on armoured assets of the Afrika Korps via stunning black and white photos of many vehicles, and in some cases, these are supported by computer-generated colour artwork. Examples of this dual approach include studies of an Sd.Kfz.251/10 in British markings (this begs to be reproduced in scale form), a Panzerjager 38 with PaK 36, and a British Stuart/Honey 'Beutepanzer'. Series author/researcher Lee Archer has a knack for finding clear and useful imagery, and all photos provide modellers with much to consider



in detail terms. One subject, an Sd.Kfz.231 8-rad loaded on a Mack 18-ton tank transporter would make a very fine diorama...but this is just one suggestion from oodles of scenes in this superb softback. A captured British Crusader and Valentine are extra food for thought if one seeks a different build project, but American half-tracks are also shown 'under new management'. Heavier vehicles, such as the Panzer III and IV, get their share of the limelight too, and the clarity of some views affords no end of detail for modellers. A really superb edition. **CC**

FROM START TO FINISH

152 pages

Aircraft Modelling Essentials

By: M Gabas, J Fuente, P Roger, A

Hernández, J López de Anca

ISBN: 978-84-95464-95-8

Price: €28 Format: 289 x 217

Web: www.euromodelismo.com

'Catch-all' modelling guides have proliferated recently, but it's refreshing to find an example that appeals directly to beginners, yet also contains more than enough to entice more skilful builders. Acción Press' Aircraft Modelling Essentials does just that, approaching the hobby from first principles, and starts with pre-painted snap-together offerings, highlighting basic skills (such as neat removal of parts from the runners) that are vital with today's CAD-designed offerings. As focus shifts to kits requiring glue and paint, the authors examine the various tools and methods involved, and mix more advanced techniques with basic tenets; examples include the use of cyanoacrylate glue to address gaps in seams, and thinning filler with acetone. These are exemplified via an impressive 1/72 EE Lightning build, before the realms of the more



highly skilled modeller are entered, introducing washes, scratch-building, elementary weathering methods and aftermarket accessories. Finally, everything culminates in a stunning Hasegawa 1/48 AH-64D Longbow Apache build, adding skills such as pre-/post-shading and creating dusty patinas via pigments. With its easy-to-follow stages, clear photographs and illustrations, and an emphasis on selecting the best products for a task (rather than specific brand loyalties), this is a book for any aircraft modeller, young or old. **SF**