



ABOVE RIGHT: Queen Bee remote controlled target on catapult. Converted from Tiger Moths the airborne targets sometimes survived for several sorties – depending on the skills of the trainee gunners! Airfix Tiger Moth kit on a scratchbuilt catapult. BELOW LEFT: Bofors 40mm guns from Milicast with a detail set from Dan Taylor Modelworks. BELOW RIGHT: The guns along the beach. Emplaced static 3.7" HAA guns, mobile 3.7" and 40mm Bofors in the distance. Static guns are scratchbuilt and the other guns are from Milicast with a variety of crew figures.



The MAFVA column

News and views from the Miniature Armoured Fighting Vehicle Association



Tom Cole describes how the Cambridge branch built a diorama of Weybourne Camp for the Muckleburgh Collection.

One of the joys of being a member of MAFVA is that most members will have access to a local MAFVA Branch. I am particularly lucky as the local MAFVA Cambridge Branch is a well supported and active group that, due mainly to the efforts of Branch Secretary Simon Ward and his team, has regular trips to places related to the hobby. As a group Cambridge MAFVA regularly attend model shows up and down the UK and recently

the group has taken to the international stage by attending model shows throughout Europe.

One of the most rewarding visits in 2013 was to the Muckleburgh Collection in North Norfolk. (The biggest collection of military vehicles in private hands in the UK, www.muckleburgh.co.uk). An e-mail before the visit, asking if we could go around the museum workshop as part of our day, produced an unexpected bonus as the owner, Sir Michael Savory, very kindly showed us around his collection in person. The Muckleburgh Collection can be found on what was the Royal Artillery Practice Range known as Weybourne Camp. The camp has a long history dating back to Roman times and during WW2 was used for live fire training for 3.7" and Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft guns.

Michael Savory explained that at the close of the season the museum was to undergo a major refurbishment and one area selected for major work was the entrance hall. The concept of the room that was to show the history of the Weybourne area and when we visited in 2013 a large glass display case was the centrepiece of the room. This contained a variety of models built straight out of the box that did

BELOW: The entrance to Weybourne Camp.





Muckleburgh Collection owner Sir Michael Savory adds the final touches under supervision of MAFVA's Simon Ward.



RIGHT: A Junkers Ju-88 crash-landed on the beach just down from Weybourne Camp. The aircraft was brought down by RAF fighters, but flying over Weybourne at any time must have been hazardous for Axis and Allied pilots alike!



not really fit in with the history concept. Sir Michael explained he was very keen to replace this display with something more appropriate. It was quickly decided that the Cambridge MAFVA would take on the project to produce a small scale diorama (1:76 scale) based on the equipment and buildings that would have been at Weybourne Camp in WW2.

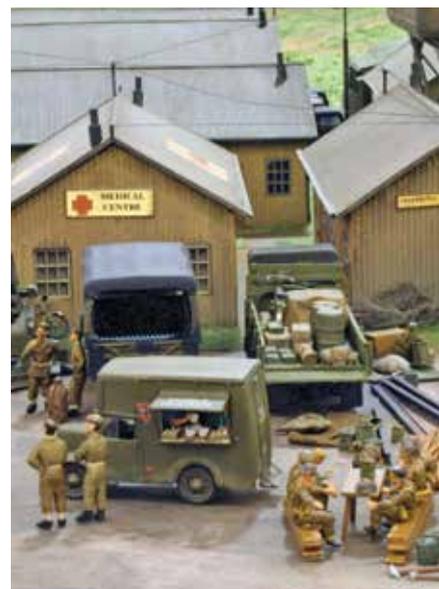
Plans were drawn up and the Collection kindly allowed us to take away some of their archive material that would prove so essential for the planning. Suitable models were sought out and, because of the good relationship that MAFVA has with many of the small scale model manufacturers and retailers, we were able to negotiate good discounts from Milicast, Dan Taylor Modelworks, Sergeants Mess and Hannants as well as the kind donation of kits from Peter Bailey of Bull Models. This meant we quickly built up a good stock of suitable models. These models and figures were distributed amongst the branch members, with painting guides to ensure the vehicles and figures had a reasonable uniform appearance.

The space available is just under 2 x 2-metres and so the planning team had to condense the diorama seeking to capture the spirit of Weybourne Camp as it was in 1944 rather than be a 100% accurately spaced model. Bell tents and Nissen huts were purchased and wooden huts scratchbuilt based on drawings and photos. Figures from a variety of sources were purchased including some ATS figures, Predictors and Range Finders which were specially sculptured for MAFVA by Dan Taylor Modelworks (www.dantaylormodelworks.com). Vehicles came mainly from Airfix and the splendid artillery pieces from Milicast (www.milicast.com). To add extra interest (and because we really just had to have some AFVs somewhere on the diorama!) we added a convoy of Scammell tank transporters carrying Cromwells passing along the road by the camp. These are all from Airfix suitably detailed and weathered.

In addition to the vehicles and figures Weybourne Camp used aircraft launched on the camp to act as targets. The Queen Bee was a remotely controlled, converted and unmanned Tiger Moth biplane that was used as an airborne target for the guns. Two models of the Queen Bee were built by MAFVA aviation expert Gary Wenko and his research took him to RAF Henlow where an example of a Queen Bee converted back into a Tiger Moth is housed and often flown. As well as the Queen Bees, and a beautifully scratchbuilt launch catapult, Gary also built a Junkers 88 bomber to depict one that crashed onto the beach near Weybourne during WW2. (Whilst not chronologically accurate – the Ju-88 crashed there in 1942 we considered this would add interest to the beach area)

All of the vehicles, buildings and figures were built in the autumn of 2014 and in November Simon Ward and the author went over to Norfolk to install the baseboards that Simon had built in his garage. This was the first of three visits and the diorama was completed on 8th February 2015 in time for the re-opening of the Muckleburgh Collection (15th to 22nd February 2015 [Half Term] and then daily from 28th March to 1st November 2015. More details at www.muckleburgh.co.uk/opening-hours.htm

This was a great little project for Cambridge MAFVA that could really only have been achieved by a group effort. Military modelling is often a solitary pastime and getting together for the Weybourne Camp diorama certainly demonstrates the great value of coming together with the whole being much greater than the sum of the individual parts. Joining MAFVA opens up plenty of opportunities to meet other model makers and join them on their trips and excursions and you may even get involved in a project like our Muckleburgh Collection diorama. Contact MAFVA at www.mafva.net for more details on how to join.



Busy scene in the REME yard. Permanent staff were responsible for keeping the guns and vehicles in working condition. A group here enjoy a cuppa from the NAAFI Wagon (from Bull Models). Does anyone else make 'sticky buns' in 1:76 scale?



View from the road showing part of the convoy of Scammell Tanks Transporters "Somewhere in England". Kits from Airfix.

Help for Bastogne Museum

Last year Cambridge MAFVA visited the Bastogne Barracks Museum. The museum is dedicated to the memory of those that died in the Battle of the Bulge. It is the site where Brigadier General Anthony C. McAuliffe answered "Nuts!" to the German demand that the US Forces surrender. Sadly there is a move to close the museum but if you would like to say "Nuts" to this closure of the barracks of Bastogne then please support us by signing the on-line petition at <http://fr.wot-news.com/2015/01/19/help-the-bastogne-barracks-museum>