

WHAT'S WHAT?

W.W. II wargamers are always curious about what other gamers use and where they obtained their vehicles, guns, figures and scenery. This article aims to answer those questions for the models featured in the *Blitzkrieg Battlegames* photos. All of them are 1/76th or 1/72nd scale (20mm).

Before we start I should point out that I'm pretty old and some of the models I've used were bought many years ago, so, if still available, the moulds may now be held by different manufacturers. I've included a list of the original makers and their current status at the end.

So, page by page:

The cover:

Front to back, that's an *MMS* (metal) PzIV D with a *Wargames Foundry* crewman, then a *Figures, Armour and Artillery* AA Pz III E (resin hull, metal turret and *Wargames Foundry* commander) and finally, a ready-made but repainted *Easy Model* Char B1 bis. The ruins are populated by *Zvezda* W.W.II German Infantry Platoon and *Art of Tactic* infantry figures and the ruins themselves are old *Raventhorpe Miniatures* buildings on a foot square base. Posters were found on the internet, reduced and printed.

Inside front cover:

The 25mm AT gun is the excellent *Shell Hole Scenics* model with crew and motorcycle infantry originally from *Empress Miniatures* but now marketed by *TQD*. The Laffly V15T tow is an *ACE* kit, the Pz IVs are *MMS* and the ruin is a converted and much added to *Peco* (two to a box) Station House kit.

ORP LE GRAND

Page 5:

It's the same ruin as above, housing the same motorcyclist figures supported by a very old *RAF* H-39 tank. They are about to be assailed by *Zvezda* motorcyclists and *MMS* Pz IIs and an *FAA* Pz III.

Page 7:

Top:

German motorcyclist and tanks are as described above, plus a *Fujimi* 1/76th scale Pz I, an *S-Model* 1/72nd scale Pz I and an *MMS* Pz IV. Crew are *Wargames Foundry*. The fields were my old front door mat (very thin and rubber-backed) cut into irregular shapes then coated with dilute PVA and combed with a hair trimmer comb attachment to create furrows, before drying and painting.

Right:

S-Model H-39s (with some added model ship chain) face a converted *Matchbox* (now *Revell*) Pz II and *Fujimi* and *Minimi* Pz Is. Behind the H-39s is a converted *EWM* Laffly S20TL and behind the

panzers some very old *Raventhorpe* infantry (as designed by Colin!). Both houses are the highly versatile *Valiant Miniatures*' Rapid Ruin kits with minor modifications. This village also contains a converted *Airfix* resin church and cafe/corner shop.

Bottom:

Two *Mad Bob Miniatures* resin Laffly S20TLs prepare to whisk away motorised dragoons converted from *Caesar* and *Pegasus* French, with (larger) heads from *HaT* W.W.I French cavalry. All seated crew figures from *Simon's Soldiers*. The buildings are converted *Airfix* resin ruins.

MERDORP

Page 11:

Top:

The German armour is a mixture of the makes and models already mentioned: *MMS*, *FAA*, *Fujimi*, *S-Model* and *Minimi*, but also includes an old *Esci* (now *Italeri*) command Pz 1. All three Somua S-35s in the foreground are very old *Heller* kits purchased at the Signal Hobby Shop in Detroit in the 1980s! The water tower is loosely based on the still standing structure near Jandrain and is based on a curry powder container plated with brick-embossed plastic card (waste not want not!). To the right is an *FAA* (or *SHQ?*) 47mm AT gun with a *Fantassin* crew.

Middle:

Led by a converted *Matchbox* Pz II, the dual coloured Pz Is are old *Esci* kits and Pz II 212 is from *MMS*. The guns are the *HaT* plastic French W.W.I 75mms, slightly modified for W.W.II and with wheels added from the *HaT* W.W.II French Artillery crew set. The guns and limbers are moulded in a soft, rubbery plastic so I coated them with very thin superglue to make them more rigid and able to hold their coats of paint. The Citroen P109 tractors are metal *MMS* kits. Gun crews are *Fantassin* and the seated crewmen are *Simon's Soldiers*.

Bottom:

Zvezda motorcyclists flank *ICM* 'Protze' trucks being attacked by two more *Heller* S-35s. With more space here to describe it, this village (that appears in several photographs) features a *Valiant Miniatures* Rapid Ruin house, a converted *Airfix* resin Dutch House, two *Airfix* ruined cafes converted into a terrace using spare shop and garage frontages from the *Valiant* kits and finally, a *Tiger Terrain* Normandy cottage. All have added rubble, exposed roof joists and even tattered wallpaper.

CORTIL NOIRMENT

Page 15:

Top:

Two *MMS* Pz IIs leads the *Fujimi* and *Minimi* 1/76th scale Pz Is and *ICM* 'Protze' trucks. The Horch car is by *Cromwell* and the Henschel engineers truck is in 1/72nd by *Legato*. By now you'll have noticed that I merrily mix 1/76th and 1/72nd models. The figures in the foreground are

converted *Valiant Miniatures* Fighting 20s Germans and the engineers are old *FAA* figures, with the rest by *Zvezda*. The village is the same one from the cover shot. The railway line is *Peco*, cut to 12" lengths and pressed into *Noch* plastic foam ballast underlay soaked in diluted PVS glue. It dries stiff and light. The level crossing is scratched from hardboard with Milliput roads embossed with cobbles and coffee stirrer planks between the rails.

Middle:

More *HaT* guns with their original spoked wheels plus limbers and *FAA* gun crews. Other figures are a mix of *FAA*, *Blitz*, *Fantassin* and *EWM*. The emplacements are DAS air drying modelling clay coated in ceramic tile cement and sprinkled in budgie grit and fine sand.

Bottom

The figures are *FAA*, but with some changes of heads to better represent Moroccans, all from decapitated and very old *Hotspur* Spanish Civil War North African Troops. The metal R-35s are from *Shell Hole Scenics*.

FLAVION AND THE DRIVE ON PHILIPPEVILLE

Page 19:

Top:

The 105mm Schneider is from *SHQ* with a *Simon's Soldiers* crew, the Citroen P109 tractor is *MMS* and the car a long forgotten make of model railway metal kit (*ABS* I think).

Middle:

All the Pz 38ts are the old 1/76th scale *Fujimi* kit, most bought when it first came out in the 1970s! The Pz IIs are converted *Matchbox* kits. The distant Sdkfz 231 armoured car is a resin and metal model by *Britannia Miniatures*. All AFV crew are *Wargames Foundry*.

Bottom:

Facing the *First to Fight* 105mm howitzer, *Zvezda* 37mm AT gun and *Zvezda* 88mm, plus *MMS* Pz IVs, are three repainted *Easy Model* Char B1 bis' sporting their eye-catching unit insignia. The one on the right is Rhin, a recently restored and running Char B1 bis from the Saumur Tank Museum in a freshly researched colour scheme. The Lorraine TRC refuelling tractor is converted from the *RPM* kit with a *Giesbers* resin trailer.

BOUVELLEMONT

Page 22:

The French bikers are converted *Zvezda* motorcycle combinations with scratch built sidecars and converted riders using *TDQ* (ex *Empress*) dismounted French tank crew. The P.19 Kegresse tractor is by *Mad Bob Miniatures*.

Page 23:

This shows an *FAA Pz II* and *MMS Pz III* with *Fujimi* and *Matchbox Sdkfz 251 APCs*. All the latter have been converted to the *Ausf A* variant and the battlegroup commanders' vehicle into a *Sdkfz 251/18* observation/command type with a map table, as a change from the usual command 'bedstead aerial' *Sdkfz 251/6*.

Page 25:

Above:

These are *HaT W.W.I* French cavalry modified for *W.W.II* with rearranged horse furniture plus green putty saddlebags and tunic collars.

Below:

This shows *TDQ* French motorcyclists, *S-Model H-35s* and *Shell Hole Scenics AMR 35s* (standing in for *33s*). The white cottage is an old *Britannia Miniatures* model and the other cottage an even older *Raventhorpe Miniatures* building. The fence was scratch-built. The ubiquitous 'tuft' sections are stream/marsh/soggy ground markers made from commercially bought tufts stuck to irregular shapes of thin rubber (the back of old carpet tiles). Each has painted (and varnished) patches of water and textured and static-grassed edges. The rubber was off-cuts from my road making. The road sections are cut from the backing of very old *Nairn* carpet tiles (after pulling off the 'carpet' material) and then coated with acrylic sealant. This is then smoothed into a thin layer which is marked with wheel lines or embossed with a pave/cobble texture.

STONNE AND TANNAY

Page 26:

This features four senior officer/radio operator figures from *Blitz* (bought at a show in 2013 and a mystery as they're not on the current catalogue list), plus a *Fantassin* officer and a *Caesar* plastic infantry man standing to attention. The *ADH* radio truck is resin by *Giesbers* with strengthened wire aerials and supports. The *Latil M7* is by *EWM* (ex *Skytrex*) with some additions.

Page 27:

The figures are a mixture of *Fantassin* and *Blitz*, the 25mm AT gun, *UE* Carrier and *Citroen* car are by *Shellhole Scenics* and the *Renault* buses (following a on-line forum tip off) were found on e-Bay. Don't buy the 1/50th scale model by mistake.

Page 28:

The motorcycle combinations are all *Zvezda*, the lead *Sdkfz 222* is in resin/metal by *Britannia Miniatures* and the following *Sdkfz 231* is a die cast model with magazine 'part work' origins I picked up in a market. It might be by *Altaya*. In the background is a *First to Fight Sdkfz 221* and *Britannia Sdkfz 231* (8 rad). Crews are *AB* or *Wargames Foundry*. The bridges, like the canal sections, were scratch built.

Page 30:

Top:

The figures are the previously mentioned *TDQ* French motorcyclists, who share the same uniform as the Chasseurs. The AMR 35 ZT is by *Shellhole Scenics*, tiny Simca 5 cars by *Sgts Mess*, Panhard armoured car by *SHQ* and the two H-39s are very old *RAF*M (bought in the US in the 80s!).

Middle:

The figures are as above, but the officer is *Blitz*, but from the command set that's not on their list. The 81mm mortar is from somewhere forgotten with a 60mm mortar crew slightly altered to fit it.

Bottom:

Figures are as above and the 38L APCs are *RPM*, but with one converted from the supply carrier version and with both trailers scratch-built. The field car nearest to the centre is a very old S & S model. The Citroen truck in the backgrounds is (I think) by *Cromwell*.

ARRAS — THE BATTLE FOR BEURAINS

Page 32:

The Norton motorcycle combinations are by *SHQ* and the Daimler from ye olde 'Monty's Caravan' set by *Matchbox*.

Page 33:

Top:

The infantry are *SHQ*. These lovely little models were purchased shortly after release in the 90s after Colin urged me to 'buy now while the moulds are fresh'. Their only drawback was that, initially unbeknown to me, they all carried the incorrect 1942 onwards entrenching tool which I had to laboriously cut and file off. Worth it though. The Matilda 1s are also by *SHQ* but with re-built turrets to get the correct and very difficult shape of the original. The period concrete telegraph poles are by *Sgts Mess*. The 'yellow' house is another Rapid Ruin kit from *Valiant Miniatures* and the other is the *Airfix resin* ruined cafe much modified and heightened.

Middle:

The Matildas are also by *SHQ* and the Horch heavy cars by *MMS*. The figures are converted *Valiant Miniatures* Fighting 20s and the MMG is *Zvezda*. It lurks in a converted resin *Airfix* ruined Dutch House.

Bottom:

The plastic 105mm howitzers are by *First to Fight* and *ACE* and the Sdkfz 11's are also by *First to Fight*. The gun crews are a mixture of *Zvezda* and converted *AB*.

ARRAS — CRISIS AT WAILLY

Page 38:

Top:

Rommel and friends are *AB* and the command Sdkfz 263 is by *Plastic Soldier Company*. The SP Flak 30 is a much shaved, filed and converted *Milicast* armoured Sdkfz 10 (bought cheap I hasten to add!) with a scratch built gun and *Zvezda* crew. The 88mm and crew are *Zvezda*, although one figure was converted from their German ground crew set. The towed 75mm infantry gun is by *Pegasus* and the distant Horch car is by *Milicast*.

Middle:

Passing the Church of St *Raventhorpes* are two *Milicast* armoured cars with converted *Zvezda* crew.

Bottom:

The Matilda II is the venerable *Airfix* kit but with the suspension raised (a nightmare job on this kit) and added armoured turret MG and exhaust modifications, plus the addition of the rear anti-ditching device. The Matilda Is are by *Skytrex* and *EWM* (same model, but *EWM*'s is mainly in resin) and both have re-built turrets. The 37mm AT gun is *Zvezda* and the infantry are the *Raventhorpe* figures designed many years ago by Colin. The building attached to the *Airfix* ruined cafe is another *Airfix* building (corner shop?) but, again, heightened to better match the *Valiant Miniatures* Rapid Ruin houses.

CALAIS – THE FIRST DEFENCE

Page 42

Top:

The A9 and the A13s are three piece resin/metal models by *Minimi* and the Mk VI light tanks are *Airfix*. Infantry and the 37mm AT gun are *Zvezda*.

Middle:

The vehicles are all converted *Airfix*, the scout carriers from the Universal Carrier and the Morris 15cwts from the six wheeled Morris tractor in the Bofors set.

Bottom:

The 2pdr in the right foreground is by *Zvezda*, the Pz II by *FAA* and the two Sdkfz 251 APCs are *Matchbox* or *Fujumi* kits converted to *Ausf As*. The German figures are from *Raventhorpe Miniatures* and the BEF British are by *Zvezda* from their Art of Tactic range.

DEFENDING THE YPRES-COMINES CANAL

Page 44:

The nearest Carrier crew are *Zvezda* and *SHQ* and the Scout Carriers are the previously mentioned converted *Airfix* Carriers. The cafe is by *Britannia Miniatures*. The German AT rifle is a

conversion of a metal *Almark* figure from the 1970s! The German command group is *Capitan* (ex *Fantassin*) and the BMW car was from *FAA*.

Page 46:

Top:

The British infantry is by *Zvezda* and was a real godsend, as they launched these superb Art of Tactic figures — much converted by me to vary the poses — shortly before I embarked on this Blitzkrieg odyssey. The German figures are also *Zvezda* and the Adler Kfz 13 armoured car is by *SHQ*.

Middle:

Armoured car as above but this shows the added and modified *Zvezda* gunner from their motorcycle combination kit.

Bottom:

The Germans on the right are converted *Valiant Miniatures* Fighting 20s with their lower trousers and gaiters shaved and sanded into boots. The MMG is by *Zvezda* and the infantry on the left by *Raventhorpe Miniatures*. The Brits are *Zvezda* and the pill box is by *Scaledale*.

THE COMINES COUNTERATTACKS

Page 48:

That's Rommel and chums again and a *Zvezda* observing officer and (I think) a converted *Pegasus* phone operator from their German mortar set. The Mercedes LG 3000 was originally the truck version by *Milicast*, but I heavily converted it to create the radio truck.

Page 50:

Nearly all the British infantry are *Zvezda* Art of Tactic conversions with *SHQ* chaps in the garden. Tanks are *Airfix* and so is the Scout Carrier as described before. Germans are *Zvezda*. The 'Tilly' in the rear left is by *Oxford Diecasts* as is the black taxi pretending not to be British.

Page 51:

Top:

The 18/25pounders and limbers are by *Bull Models* with *SHQ* crews. The Dragon III tows are converted *Raventhorpe Miniatures* metal models. The advancing infantry are by *SHQ*.

CASSEL— THE CITADEL

Page 53:

The command group is a mix of two converted *Emhar* W.W.I British Artillery set officers guarded by the casualty from the *Zvezda* British medical set (cured, stood up, re-headed and armed with a Thompson SMG!). The other three figures are conversions from the *Zvezda* medical set and a *PSC* artilleryman, based on a photo of BEF officers consulting maps. The infantry, mortar crew and half the gun crew are all *Zvezda*. The rest of the gun crew are *SHQ*.

The radio truck is converted from the *Airfix* Bofors tractor and the 18pdr field gun is by *Emhar* (same set as the officers) with tyred wheels from the *Matchbox* Puma kit with their hubs sanded smooth to a domed shape. The church is a converted *Airfix* Belgian Church (as it was originally marketed).

Page 55:

Top:

Two *MMS* Pz IIs lead *First to Fight* Pz 35ts in the foreground and *FAA* Pz 35ts in the background.

Middle:

First to Fight Pz 35t command tank and *AB* crewman and an old *Skytrex* Pz III converted to command status with an *AB* commander.

Bottom:

British forces: all figures and guns are *Zvezda* with a *Shellhole Scenics* 25mm AT gun. Tanks as above. The building is *Raventhorpe*.

HONDEGHEM

Page 57:

In the foreground that's an *Italeri* Boys AT rifle (from their quick build M7 Priest kit) in the hands of a *Zvezda* BEF conversion. The 18pdr field gun is by *Emhar* with the fore-mentioned replacement wheels and a converted gun shield. Other figures on both sides are *Zvezda* and the six wheel 3 ton searchlight truck is a converted *Matchbox/Revell* 'Monty's Caravan'. The grey building is a *Scaledale* school.

Page 60:

That's an *Oxford Diecasts* Bedford OYD truck on the left, converted Carrier in the centre with the 18pdr as described above, plus the searchlight lorry. Figures are all *Zvezda*. The pink garage is a converted *Heljan* kit.

Page 61:

Nothing new here apart from the *PSC* Quad tractor converted to a Mk I.

VG CHARTS

Page 62:

SHQ 47mm AT gun with *Fantassin* crew. The Laffly V15T tow is by *ACE* and the bus has been mentioned earlier, apart from its *Caesar* and *Simon's Soldiers* passengers. The farm was a house given me by Colin that I 'ruined' and added the remains of a roof. The barn is a model by *Scenix*.

Page 63:

Everything here has been described, except for the towed 18/25pdr that was heavily converted from the *Airfix* 25pdr with added *Esci* 25pdr limber wheels.

Page 64:

To match the *Zvezda* Flak 37 this *Airfix* 88 was heavily converted using an article on Airfix Tribute Forum to add lots of detail, including a few parts from the *Hasegawa* kit. The Sdkfz 7 halftrack has been re-wheeled with added spare tyres and extra stowage, plus tissue on the tilt.

Rear inside cover:

Figures and vehicles as described already and the central building is one I mastered that is now sold by *Lancer Miniatures*.

Back cover:

Two converted *Airfix* Matilda IIs rumble past an *MMS* Horch heavy car and *Milicast* Horch car.

MANUFACTURER

CURRENT STATUS

Altaya	Diecast manufacturer. I believe still producing.
AB	Now based in Australia. Still producing
ACE	Still producing
Airfix	Still producing. Periodical re-releases of old kits
Blitz Miniatures	Still producing. Partnered with CP Miniatures
Britannia Miniatures	Now produced by Grubby Tanks
Bull Models	Still producing? Difficult to track down.Highly detailed resin.
Caesar	Still producing
Cromwell Models	Not sure of their status. Moulds sold to Matador Models?
Early War Miniatures	Still producing

Easy Model	Still producing
Emhar	Still producing
Esci	Now produced by Italeri
FAA	Now based in America, but not all vehicles still in production
Fantassin	Now produced as 'Capitan' by Stonewall Miniatures
First to Fight	Still producing
Fujimi	W.W.II kits no longer in production
Giesbers	Highly detailed resin kits
Hasegawa	Still producing
Hotspur	Long extinct miniatures company
ICM	Still producing
Lancer Miniatures	Still producing
Legato	Still producing
Mad Bob Miniatures	Still producing
Matchbox	Produced by Revell. Periodical re-releases
Milicast	Highly detailed resin models
Minimi	Now sure if they still exist
MMS	The owner retired but I believe the moulds have been bought
Noch	Model scenery manufacturer. Still producing.
Peco	Still producing (model railway accessories)
Pegasus	Still producing
Raventhorpe Miniatures	Still producing. Order on Facebook
RPM	Still producing
Scaledale	Rotationally produced, ready-to-use model railway buildings
Sgts' Mess	Still producing
Shell Hole Scenics	Still producing
SHQ	Still producing
Simon's Soldiers	An Australian company with a growing range

Skytrex	No longer selling W.W.II vehicles. Some produced by EWM
S-Model	A Chinese company with intermittent availability in the UK
S&S	Still producing
Tiger Terrain	Still producing, but not the 20mm scale cottage unfortunately
TQD	Still producing
Valiant Miniatures	Still produced by RF's own Colin Rumford
Wargames Foundry	Still producing
Zvezda	Still producing