

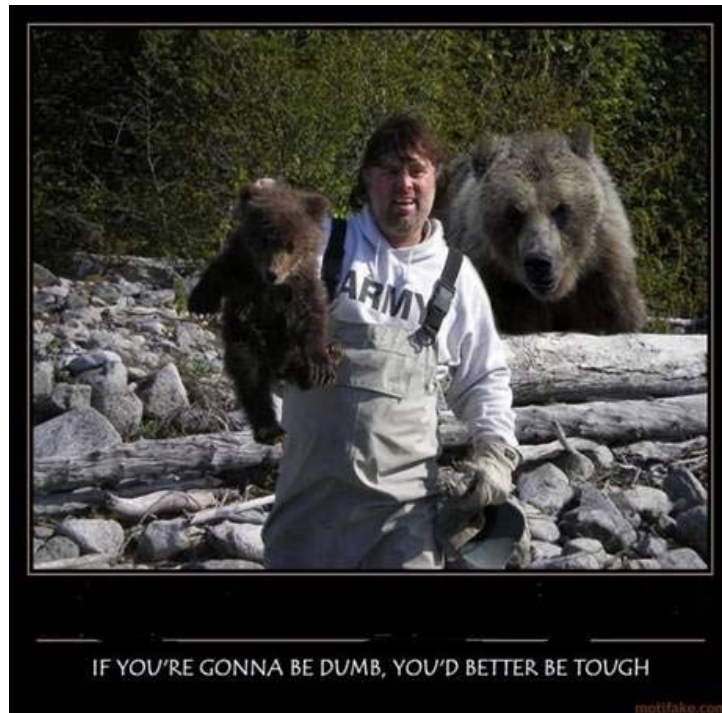


"STICKY FINGERS"

Magazine

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Peters Prattling

Next month – December – Quiz & Nibbles Night

Next month is the "Modeller of the Year" Competition night.

Home Front

Well the fateful day is dawning when I join the ranks of the unemployed, at least for the first few weeks I'll have plenty to keep me busy as we have booked to have the bathroom completely refitted from the 2nd December.

I did have an informal job interview the other evening, with a group of us all from the same department. This company perform similar functions to my current role, but it was a fairly surreal evening as we hadn't seen any job



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specifications so weren't really sure what roles we were being fitted up for and to top it all we were all drinking wine, which for an interview felt really strange! Whether any of us get a job offer isn't known yet, watch this space!

As I write this the build up to Telford is slowly gathering momentum, I've placed the usual Hannants order to get hold of those bits and pieces for the 10% discount, but otherwise there was little of interest for me to pre-order.

If World War One was a bar fight...

Germany, Austria and Italy are standing together in the middle of a pub when Serbia bumps into Austria and spills Austria's pint. Austria demands Serbia buy it a complete new suit because there are splashes on its trouser leg. Germany expresses its support for Austria's point of view. Britain recommends that everyone calm down a bit. Serbia points out that it can't afford a whole suit, but offers to pay for the cleaning of Austria's trousers. Russia and Serbia look at Austria. Austria asks Serbia who it's looking at. Russia suggests that Austria should leave its little brother alone. Austria inquires as to whose army will assist Russia in compelling it to do so. Germany appeals to Britain that France has been looking at it, and that this is sufficiently out of order that Britain should not intervene. Britain replies that France can look at who it wants to, that Britain is looking at Germany too, and what is Germany going to do about it? Germany tells Russia to stop looking at Austria, or Germany will render Russia incapable of such action. Britain and France ask Germany whether it's looking at Belgium. Turkey and Germany go off into a corner and whisper. When they come back, Turkey makes a show of not looking at anyone. Germany rolls up its sleeves, looks at France, and punches Belgium. France and Britain punch Germany. Austria punches Russia. Germany punches Britain and France with one hand and Russia with the other. Russia throws a punch at Germany, but misses and nearly falls over. Japan calls over from the other side of the room that it's on Britain's side, but stays there. Italy surprises everyone by punching Austria. Australia punches Turkey, and gets punched back. There are no hard feelings because Britain made Australia do it. France gets thrown through a plate glass window, but gets back up and carries on fighting. Russia gets thrown through another one, gets knocked out, suffers brain damage, and wakes up with a complete personality change. Italy throws a punch at Austria and misses, but Austria falls over anyway. Italy raises both fists in the air and runs round the room chanting. America waits till Germany is about to fall over from sustained punching from Britain and France, then walks over and smashes it with a barstool, then pretends it won the fight all by itself. By now all the chairs are broken and the big mirror over the bar is shattered. Britain, France and America agree that Germany threw the first punch, so the whole thing is Germany's fault. While Germany is still unconscious, they go through its pockets, steal its wallet, and buy drinks for all their friends.

Club Sweatshirts & a new logo

I have now had some contact with the company that were offering to produce the new clothing for us, but no pricing details yet. Slow and small steps!

Forthcoming Shows in 2011

Shows with **highlight** have been booked for us to attend. If you wish to attend any of the shows with the club stand please let me know so I can attempt to book space for the club.

2011	
6th February (Sunday)	ModelKraft , Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes , MK146BN - I have received the invite and replied to this requesting 2 tables and to be in the ground floor main hall, in case Danny feels like attending.
19th & 20th March (Saturday & Sunday)	Southern Expo
15th May (Sunday)	IPMS Birmingham – Midlands Expo , Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre, Alcester Road South, Kings Heath, Birmingham B14 6ER

Peter

Robins Ruminations



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My Official hat is now on.....

Robin

Wrighty's References

The U-Boats Last Secret Operations in W.W.II (U864)

Sky History Channel 27th September 2010

"Operation Ceasar"

U864 was selected for Operation Caesar around the end of December 1944, a new boat, she left Keil on her 2nd mission which as to carry secret and valuable supplies from Germany to their Axis partners in Japan. Leaving Keil on 5/12/1944 she sailed to Norway to join the Flotille based at Bergen, under the command of Korv/Kapt Rolf Wolfram, arriving on 5/1/1945 after a brief stop at Hortez and Jarsend. The plan was to take aboard samples of the latest BMW, Junkers and Messerschmitt jet engines and over 1,000 containers of the rare metal mercury for their Japanese allies, also engineers and scientists were to travel as passengers to act as advisors on arrival. The engine was being proved in battle on the Me-262 and He-162 fighters and the Arado 234 bomber.

Coding Messages Broken

Messages relating to the operation were picked up and Bletchley Park knew something was afoot in Bergen, home of large U-Boat pens. It seems the boat had grounded in shallow waters off Bergen between the 7th & 12th January 1945.

British Action

A raid by No.9 and No.617 Sqn Lancasters was arranged and on the 12th January 1945 the Bergen U-Boat pens were attacked using the famous "Tallboy" bombs, the pens were badly damaged, including U864 which was inside.

The Royal Navy also played a part, the Lerwick (Shetland Isles) based V Class submarine Venturer, commanded by the very experienced skipper, Capt Launders (who had some 9 sinkings to his credit), was sent to patrol the waters off Bergen.

U864 vs HMS Venturer

Over the last 2 weeks of January 1945, U864 was repaired and all the jet parts were checked and cased up in readiness for the voyage to the Far East, finally all was in order and U864 sailed from Bergen on a northerly heading towards Fedje.

On the 8th February 1945 they hit trouble, the starboard diesel engine was misfiring due to compressor and cylinder problems, the U-Boat should have been meeting her surface escort on the 10th February, but the engine problems worsened and a message sent to base called for a return to base. At this time, lying off Fedje, the Venturer had been listening on the hydrophones for some 3 days, in view of the decoded message that preceded the sailing of U864 from Bergen.

Action Stations (9th February 1945)

On the U864 temporary repairs were made to the starboard engine, but it was very noisy, was passing the Felia lighthouse, the meet with the surface vessels cancelled.

The HMS Venturer was in the area and picked up by hydrophone a repetitive noise. They observed a fishing boat in way of the direct bearing, but still picked up the noise on a different bearing, they suspected a submerged submarine and moved in to track her. KK Wolfram was no fool and knew that another submarine was in the area, he began a zigzag course to try to get his ship back safely to base.

However the experienced Launders (Venturers captain) guessed what was happening, when U864 came to periscope depth in a vain hope of finding his escort, Venturer spotted the periscope, radio mast and snorkel at some distance. U864 dived and continued his planned zigzag at 150 feet, but Launders had used his experience



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to work it out. He used his 4 bow tubes to launch his torpedoes each on a 17.5 second interval on course timed to meet his estimate of the zigzag. Wolfram was able to pick up torpedoes and turn accordingly, the first 3 missed, but his turn to port to avoid no.3 put him right in the path of no.4, it hit perfectly amidships and exploded just below the conning tower, U864 broke in half and sank to the bottom, 150 metres below, taking her crew and passengers to their deaths (a total of 73 men). It is believed it was the only submerged sinking by a submerged attacker in W.W.II.

Wreck Located 60 Years Later

Using a Norwegian Survey vessel with diving equipment and an ROV a search was conducted to find the lost U-Boat. A glance at the atlas shows the mass of islands and inlets to Bergen. Fedje and Hellesoy form the islands that border the outlet to the North Sea in this area U864 was sunk. The hull was eventually located in position 60.46N x 04.35E in two parts close to each other at 150 metres, the ROV went down to confirm the id of the vessel. This was confirmed when a mercury flask was located and brought up by the ROV remote arm, when tested it was found to be well above the safety level. Considering the 1,000 containers previously mentioned were aboard the site was an "time-disaster", the sea bed was contaminated. A fishing prohibition order was effected and the site sealed off for ecology reasons. So ends the tragic tale of the U864.

References

U-Boat Operations W.W.II, by K Wynn. Published Chatham Publications
Warships W.W.II Part Two, by H T Lenton. Published Ian Allen Ltd

Alan