

Secrets of the Bulge Book Model Shots

Quite a few people have asked what models (and which manufacturers' products) are shown in the Battle of the Bulge wargames photos. Here's a page by page guide to put you out of your misery!

- Front Cover A Hasegawa Panther G with soft (almost wilting!) track, modified 'bazooka' plates and evergreen foliage from some natural source I can't remember! The commander is Britannia with a Green Stuff scarf and the grenadiers are all Caesar soft plastic with replacement Raventhorpe heads. Incidentally, some people may argue that Peiper's Kampfgruppe had no Panther's with the extended lower mantlet - as shown on the Dragon Mk V (ready-made, but re-painted) in the background – but a photo of such a tank has been published by no less than Steve Zaloga (mind, he does think they had satellite TV in 1944...see the Panther model shot in his Concord book on the Bulge)
- Page 1 Raventhorpe ambulance, general service cart and converted VG bike and cyclist. Britannia (captured) Soviet limber and cart crews (some with Raventhorpe heads) and an SHQ 120mm mortar. I've still got to add the traces and reins!
- Page 4 Same as above, with converted Britannia medic and Revell soft plastic engineer officer-turned doctor with a Raventhorpe head.
- Page 8 A mixture of Raventhorpe and Britannia VG Panzerschreck crews – some with extensive cosmetic surgery - and an Esci Hetzer with Britannia commander.
- Page 11 Quite radical this! It's a HaT soft plastic W.W.I German n16 field gun (three in a box – great value but they don't take paint very well), with a slightly modified breech and sanded barrel. I added brakes from an Emhar German W.W I 75mm gun which can also provide footrests for the crew seats either side of the barrel. Camouflage is old Tamiya 1/35th netting with dried aquarium fronds for fir branches. The crew are Caesar winter infantry with their weapons carved away. The limber is the Revell soft plastic 105mm version with Raventhorpe crew.
- Pages 12 and 13 A brand new Academy ambulance, with imaginative markings based on 'Bulge' photos, poses amongst veteran Raventhorpe US infantry. These figures also populate the Schnee Eifel foxholes.
- Page 15 A Raventhorpe 6pdr and crew with a Hasegawa M4 mortar carrier converted into an M2 halftrack carrying extra shields for the gun.
- Page 16 Ready-to-Roll Fiats, an MMS Steyr and unknown 'cheapy' toy VW with tissue 'sun roof' cover. Figures are Raventhorpe.
- Page 17 Raventhorpe US infantry and Britannia M10. Yes, that is the 'Conflux' barn added - without planning permission - to a semi-scratchbuilt farm.
- Page 18 Esci Panzer IV L70 with Britannia commander.
- Page 21 Caesar infantry and Ready-to-Roll Pz IV hull with Hasegawa Wirbelwind turret (no, I don't know why either...)

- Page 23 Raventhorpe infantry and Ready-to-Roll 1 ½ tonner and Sherman guard an old RAFM 3" AT gun. With the spare wheels and trails that came with this kit bought in the 1980s(!) I scratched another gun and I've no idea which one I photographed. Old age is a wonderful thing... The Scaledale 'Boy's School' has been modified to simulate shell damage or the aftermath of a dodgy chemistry lesson – take your pick.
- Page 24 Raventhorpe infantry with much switching of heads, and Ready-to-Roll M10 Panther and Ford V3000 truck, both mastered by yours truly.
- Page 27 A close up of the R-to-R Ford with Raventhorpe bogus Americans and (genuine) Kelly's Heroes Fallschirmjager.
- Page 30 Esci M12 SP 155mm with converted Raventhorpe crew. Hasegawa and Revell Panthers in the distance.
- Page 34 Raventhorpe VG infantry, many heavily converted, supplemented by Caesar and Revell soft plastic figures with Raventhorpe metal heads.
- Page 35 Chiltern Miniatures German grenadiers support a Britannia StuG III.
- Page 36 Top: Very old (1972!) Skytrex US infantry with Raventhorpe heads and supporting 6pdr. The M18 TD is MMS.
Bottom: Raventhorpe and Britannia figures and limbers and Britannia 75mm Infantry gun.
- Page 38 Roden Puma and Hasegawa Sdkfz 234/1 with an AB commander.
- Page 41 Italaeria M8 Greyhounds and AB commanders, followed by a Britannia M8 SP 75mm (I mastered that too, but a long time ago!)
- Page 43 Britannia Shermans and Ready-to-Roll carrier.
- Page 45 Ready-to-Roll M4A3 Shermans lead a mixture of Hasegawa and Britannia M3 halftracks. The Thunderbolt is a ready-built Easymodel.
- Page 46 Ready-to-Roll Mobilwagen and Raventhorpe crew, plus Chiltern infantry and Britannia StuG III.
- Page 47/48 Chiltern German infantry.
- Page 50 Dragon ready-built Sherman 105mm and heavily converted Hasegawa M4A3E8 with a Ready-to-Roll turret, plus Raventhorpe infantry and Esci Panzer IV L70.
- Page 52 Ready-to-Roll M4A3 (76mm) and Raventhorpe infantry.
- Page 53 The Panther from the front cover supported by Fantassin, Kelly's Heroes and converted Caesar engineers.
- Page 57 Chiltern panzer grenadiers.
- Page 58 Dragon ready-made Sherman and Chiltern infantry.
- Page 60 M426 rig (one piece) that I mastered for Ready-to-Roll and Kelly's Heroes Ardennes US paras.

Page 61	Dragon (ready-built/re-painted) Panther and Ready-to-Roll Sherman dozer.
Page 64	Resin Milicast Mercedes L4500A with SHQ metal gun and AB crew.
Page 65	Academy Jeep, Ready-to-Roll Ford and Raventhorpe figures.
Page 66	Jeep as above, Hasegawa Sdkfz 234/1 (heavily disguised), Ready-to-Roll Ford V3000, converted Esci Sdkfz 250 APC, converted Britannia BMW combination and Raventhorpe US Harley Davidsons.
Page 67	Raventhorpe infantry.
Page 69	Esci Tiger II and Caesar SS grenadiers.
Page 71	Britannia Grille and engineer halftrack.
Rear cover	<p>Top: Raventhorpe infantry support my 'jigsaw puzzle' tank company. The 'bits' are Esci and Armourfast hulls, Ready-to-Roll, Armourfast and Esci turrets and Armourfast and Esci trackwork. The end result is (front to back) a Sherman M4A1(76), an M4A3 and an M4 Composite 'hybrid' (welded rear hull with cast glacis). Note that the Esci Sherman as it comes out of the box is WRONG. That type of cast hull was only used on 76mm tanks and hybrids. Unfortunately the Britannia cast-hull 75mm Sherman repeats this error.</p> <p>Bottom: A Hasegawa Panther G with all-steel wheels supported by Caesar SS Grenadiers lurking around a scratch-built Pre de Froidcour. Peiper's Kampfgruppe had at least one of these experimental vehicles.</p>

So there you have it. I apologise for the trip down memory lane with some of the more venerable pieces and hope I haven't confused too many of you with weird conversions. As manufacturers' W.W.II ranges only seem to grow it should get easier to find more of the vehicles and figures you need for the scenarios 'made-to-measure' (such as the Ready-to-Roll Panzer L70 (A) that some idiot has mastered...) whilst I had to do quite a lot of sawing and sticking. If nothing else, I hope this illustrates how you can still build up armies using cheap alternatives and lots of imagination (plus the odd expensive treat!)

All the models were badly stuck together, painted and then saucily photographed by me.

Have fun

Richard