

THE DRAGON IN THE EAST

80 pages



Flashpoint China

By: Andreas Rupprecht

ISBN: 978-0-9854554-8-4

Price: £18.99 Format: 280 x 210mm

Web: www.casematepublishing.co.uk

As a growing political, economic and military power, China is a fascinating subject-and one that deserves understanding of its overall intentions and capabilities. When read in conjunction with an earlier book (Modern Chinese Warplanes), this volume seeks to address these issues and supplies informed analysis of potential military

conflicts along China's borders. More importantly, it also considers how changing technological, political and economic factors affect each in turn. As an introduction, the reader is exposed to how China regards itself and the international community; when compared to a Western view of the world, the difference may be surprising. China's military structure (based on Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern commands) is then used as a framework to detail potential adversaries, allies and conflicts of interest, before examining the country's military capabilities in each region.

While not aimed specifically at modellers, there are plenty of clear colour photographs depicting Chinese aircraft to aid build projects, and accompanying tables provide guidance on how serial numbers are allocated, along with where certain types are based (ideal for those kits that lack such information). Finally, an extensive bibliography provides a plethora of additional material for those who wish to further their knowledge on China's military...and its place in the world. **SF**

STAGGERING CARRIER BUILD

75 pages

Modelling Full Ahead Special:
Lexington's Final Battle

By: Marijn Van Gils

ISBN: 8-436535-576673

Price: €15.95 Format: A4

Web: www.ak-interactive.com

Besides offering many weathering products, AK Interactive is also a prolific publisher.

In this case, it's naval modelling under the spotlight through award-winning builder Marijn Van Gils' stunning 1/700 diorama of the USS *Lexington's* final throes.

The entire book focuses on this single piece of work, but the number of pages is necessary considering the jaw-dropping levels of detail incorporated. An opening history section precis *Lexington* and offers period photos. One is then catapulted into how this amazing diorama was created; Trumpeter's *Lexington* is the base kit, but Van Gils also has the USS *Morris* DD-417 in the scene, for context and accuracy... this is portrayed by a converted Niko USS *Hughes* DD-410 kit. The author describes the entire process in a highly visual manner, via build photos with captions



and longer passages. Much photo-etched (PE) metal and scratch-building is employed, and the most impressive technique (and its execution here), is that of giving 3D appearance to miniscule PE sailor figures, of which there are a very high number. The only gripe is that ships are tricky to photograph and one needs high apertures to keep everything in focus...which hasn't happened, so not every part of each model shot is properly sharp. It's still a great book though, and hugely inspiring for maritime modellers. **CC**

A LEGEND ON WHEELS

172 pages

Military Land Rover 1948 Onwards

By: Pat Ware

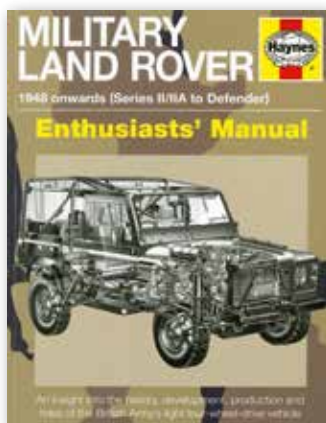
ISBN: 978-1-78521-096-9

Price: £14.99

Format: 264 x 206mm softback

Web: www.haynes.com

It's hard to believe that, almost 70 years ago a prototype was unveiled at Rover's Solihull plant, intended as an 'interim' successor to the wartime Jeep. Since then, the Land Rover (as it became known) has served constantly with the UK's armed forces and been exported widely. Haynes' *Enthusiasts' Manual* serves as a tribute to the type's longevity, as well as being an informative and entertaining history covering the myriad variants (even one-off oddities) and, in its penultimate section, a handy buyer's guide for military-surplus examples. Utilitarian by design, its flexibility in roles is covered in depth, with notable focus on those modified for use by special forces of various nationalities. Technical and structural details



are supplied, and the narrative is enhanced by the descriptions of how certain variants, such as the famous 'Pinkies' were developed. This is a one-stop-shop of data, diagrams and splendid photographs (including both black and white and colour examples) for modellers, which provides all one needs to know about military Land Rovers, regardless of the scale being built...although a different Haynes' Manual may also be required for 1:1 restorations! **SF**

ATLANTIC SCOURGE

96 pages

Fw 200 Condor Units of World War 2

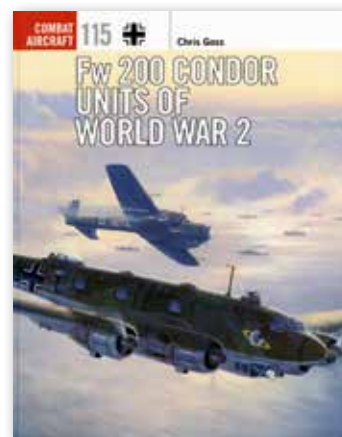
By: Osprey

ISBN: 978-1 Price: £13.99

Format: 248 x 185mm

Web: www.ospreypublishing.com

Searching the Atlantic for prey, Focke-Wulf's menacing Fw 200 Condor often heralded trouble for Allied convoys; directly or by summoning additional aircraft or U-boats. Osprey's *Combat Aircraft* series examines the units that flew these maritime predators, but as Condors were operated by a single *kampfgeschwader*, events are addressed chronologically, rather than by detailing the exploits of each staffel individually. Unsurprisingly, almost a third of this volume is dedicated to the Battle of the Atlantic, where the type played a substantial role, and how the Allies devised counters (not all of which were successful), before the tides of war changed and the Condors became the hunted, both in the air and on the ground. Less-well-known operations, such as those in the Mediterranean and airlift



missions in support of beleaguered German units in Stalingrad, are also covered in detail. The narrative benefits from a broad range of official and rare personal accounts, and is backed by high-quality black and white photographs and colour profiles, which highlight the varied camouflage schemes applied to the type. Bonuses in the appendices include biographies of notable Condor pilots, and a description of the standard attack profiles employed by KG 40 aircraft. **SF**