

U-Boat VIIc

The German submarine fleet played a decisive role during the Second World War, so much so that at a certain point it seemed that the outcome of the conflict depended on these Sea Wolves and their relentless predatory raids against the Allied convoys.

Forty young men shared the hardships and risky life on board, firing at the enemy both the 8.8 mm deck gun and the torpedoes whenever an opportunity presented itself.

The diorama shows one of these warships (the U-Boat VIIc) in 1940, preparing to fire in the middle of a stormy sea.

The effort and commitment of these crews, greatly decimated during the war, have won them the respect of friend and foe alike, and as a whole they are still considered to be one of the premier examples of military courage.

S12-S01, S12-S02

SCALE 1:72



MODELLING AND PAINTING WATER

When building large dimension dioramas it is advisable to use lightweight materials. For modelling water, and working around the already assembled submarine, several wooden sticks were used like a frame which was subsequently stuffed with polyfoam and glued paper using as many paper layers as necessary to achieve a solid surface. This allowed the work to continue while avoiding any risk of breaking it. In this way a solid surface was created that at the same time was light and easy to handle.

To avoid an excessive height, a section of the submarine keel was cut away, facilitating the inclination at which the U-boat was positioned.

The waves were modelled using Das Pronto, taking great care to add the same direction to every wave. This



Base of the terrain using a Das Pronto coat.



First applications made using the airbrush.



The base with the different blue shades employed.



material was chosen due to its easy application and because it is easily employed on large surfaces. It is advisable to have a reference you can imitate to achieve the most realistic result. The modeling and painting of the waves were copied from a book that features many sea pictures.

Once the basic shape of the waves was attained, the whole surface was painted in different blue shades using

an airbrush. Darker shades were used on the bottom areas and troughs, and lighter shades used on the more illuminated areas, such as the crests.

The colours used were Navy Blue + Blue FS 15044 + Blue FS 15050 + Emerald Green and they were applied following the pictures displayed in the book already mentioned. Different tones and colours were merged by means of trans-



First foam effects.



Last painting shades applied on the surface of the diorama.



Finishing touches with a paintbrush.

BARBAROSSA, 1941

DIORAMA

SCALE 1:35 (54 MM)

On June 22nd 1941 the 6th Panzer Division invaded the Soviet territory. It seemed that nothing could stop the implacable advance of the German troops on the vast Russian lands. But very soon, men and machines were halted by General Winter, and Hitler's expansionist plans began to falter.

COMPOSITION OF THE DIORAMA

The invasion of Russia by the German army was no doubt one of the most relevant episodes of the Second World War and that's why we found the first hours of that epic campaign to be a topic worth approaching in one of our dioramas. When we were composing the diorama we tried to create a dynamic scene and not a confused mass of elements placed on a board, although the real thing was supposedly more like this.

The starting point was to create a riverbed to place the figures in different levels and we followed the basic rule of not placing any element parallel to the edge of the base. So the bridge crosses the base diagonally.

It is important to steer the spectator's sight from the image of the Russian woman holding the child to the guarded Russian prisoner on the other side of the terrain, going by figures such as the cavalrymen, the sappers and the infantrymen who fill out the storyline in the diorama.



Detail of the left area of the diorama where the Russian prisoner is placed.



Every figure in the diorama, specially those who are marching, is an individual creation.