

MODELLING

New Releases and Kit Reviews

compiled by Joe Moran

In this issue I have decided to devote the entire section to the model that won the C&C award at Scale Model World (Telford) in 2022. This is the Wingnut Wings model of the Halberstadt Cl.II (late). It's a superb build by modeller Haris Ali. Bob Gladding and I will be back for the next issue. So sit back and enjoy Haris describing his work.

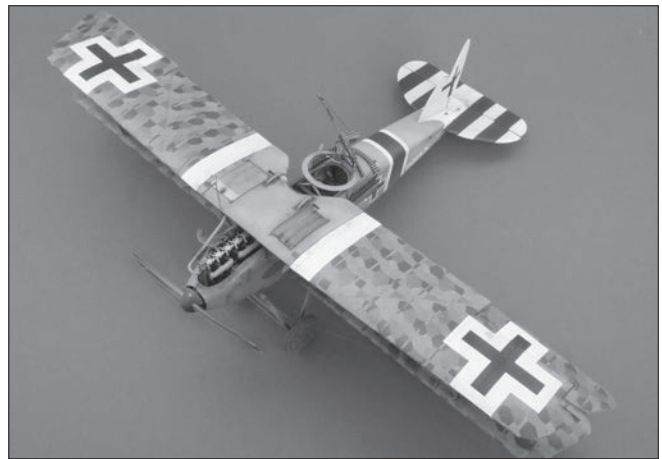
Halberstadt Cl.II (Late)

Scale: 1:32, Wingnut Wings, New Zealand / Materials: IM, PE, / Kit No.:32062/ Kit no longer available.

The Halberstadt Cl.II appeared in 2018 in both early and late versions. Its elegant lines have always appealed to me and from a modelling perspective there were many points of interest thorough its armament and layout, together with a complex, busy paint scheme. The stippled mottle camouflage is particularly noteworthy and while Richard Andrews' Aviatic produce a superb set of decals to replicate this finish I was determined to stretch myself and achieve it through paint. This late version comes with five different finish options, and I settled on Option B "Brünhilde", flown by Karl Prim of Royal Bavarian Schlasta 27b during mid to late 1918. The subject has been well recorded in a number of propaganda shots with it shown being loaded up with grenades. As with all Wingnut Wing decals the large sheet is superbly printed by Cartograph and five-colour wing lozenge is also supplied.

Getting started

It is advisable to develop some sort of strategy to the making of any complex kit, particularly with a model such as this where so many elements need to come together to make the whole. A good place to start is with the instruction booklet, and fortunately Wingnut Wings ranked among the best, if not the best. I tend to build sections of the model out of sequence so careful study is essential. To my peril I've often found that there is always a logic to the construction of the parts as laid down in the instructions, plus the fact that it would be very easy to miss some of the smaller items. I like to feel as if I've completed one element of the kit relatively quickly to gain some sense of progress, so on these complex kits I usually start with the engine which is a marve l in itself. Two Daimler-Mercedes D.III engines are provided, 160 and 180hp, though with some minor modifications the 180hp machine is virtually the same as the 200hp engine, illustrated in the booklet but not used here. The 180hp version is required for "Brünhilde", and careful painting results in a fine replica. I did



make a few changes though, notably the inclusion of asbestos lagging around the intake manifold using strips of masking tape, and some tubing running from the top of the valve at the end of the front rocker box down to the bottom of the engine. I also invested in some of Taurus models superb resin spark plugs, wired with fine lead wire. These very prominent features always seem to be inexplicably omitted by Wingnut Wings, leaving only a small hole where the plug should be. Oil washes were used to dirty the engine, with graphite from a 9B pencil ground to a powder brushed into the exhaust to give it a metallic sheen.

With this item completed, I moved onto the internal structure which requires all manner of painting finishes in order to replicate wood, metal, leather and fabric. There are some excellent decal products around to create plywood effects, but wanting to rely upon my own painting skills as much as possible, I stuck to my tried and trusted method of using base coats of acrylic (typically Tamiya Flesh XF-52 or Deck Tan XF-55), then applying coats of Burnt Umber and Burnt Sienna oil colour. Whilst preparing the cockpit details I also painted other wooden items to give them the necessary couple of days to dry out which included the tailskid, grenade handles and airscrew, the latter once dried requiring the application of strips of masking tape so that a darker oil colour can be applied later to represent the laminations. Using the Tamiya colours dictated by the instructions for the interior, other details were picked out using a range of Vallejo and Citadel Miniatures acrylics. The wide-open cockpit area reveals a very high level of detail, Wingnut Wings having done it full justice.

Problems

Once the cockpit was completed, other smaller items such as the guns and wheels were painted, and then I turned my attention to the airframe. Construction is pretty straightforward, but while cleaning up the parts I was surprised to see that the fine trailing edges of the ailerons were unevenly moulded, and had to be reinstated with small pieces of Evergreen strip. Further to this, I found that when dry fitting the tail unit into the slot at the rear of the fuselage it wouldn't fully engage, leaving a 3mm- gap. It is handed, making it difficult to insert it the wrong way around, and I couldn't work out why this should be

