

## CAMS Cadet Project Update April 2010

December witnessed George B slip into a rhythm, guiding the cadets through the building stages of Airfix Spits, Hurricanes and Bf-109s. (Thanks to Elm City's Scott for patiently waiting on and for George's orders of supplies.) As Christmas approached, it was suggested some tangible examples of how the project should advance were needed. Ben and I had previously shown a series of photos of dioramas to a chorus of "that's too hard" or "that'll take too long"... so one partially complete P-40 was borrowed from young Mr. Rushton of our last show. Ben and I, painted it and added to an hours worth of foam tray, spare parts, toothpicks and tissue to create a simple RAF in the desert diorama.

Suitably impressed, the cadets began work on buildings (paper), vehicles and groundwork for their own WWII Battle of Britain diorama. Throughout January, faces would change as other cadet programs overlapped with model building (including our own 2<sup>nd</sup> program for R/C instruction). We lost Ben to the R/C program and brought Matt D in as his replacement. As new cadets joined the group and eager cadets finished building their first models, new kits were started. Some of the new starts were kits donated by myself and other CAMS members. Thanks to Bill K and Bryan W for bringing in some of their own kits and supplies, sometimes providing too great a temptation to us old hacks (that's how I ended up with a rare Tupolev airliner).

Once a cadet showed promise with a new airbrush (see photo right), it was time to break out the big guns. George B's gravity fed, double action airbrush has proved to be very popular and very easy for the newbie's to use. This led to masking, clear coats, and a host of other tricks that we had initially thought would be outside the scope of this little project.



February saw the 1<sup>st</sup> Sea Cadet join us (my fault...after meeting one of our regulars and his Mom at the flea market we had a wonderful discussion about kit costs and, availability while we were surrounded by vendors all flogging cars! The topic of boats and older brothers came up.) Not being bound by the constraints of a project's theme of squadron history, we happily cracked open and started a French destroyer from Ben's stash (see photo right). That ship is close to completion as I write this. It was built at home, a little bit each day, and by

the 21<sup>st</sup> it was ready for paint.

February also saw the arrival of our 1<sup>st</sup> young lady, who has proved to be the most enthusiastic and the most patient of the group (see photo right). Her Bf-109 has been carefully



assembled, masked and painted by both airbrush and by hand. She showed some of the lads how it's done.

With March came a fleet of RC aircraft (see photo right) with Jim M and Ben demonstrating indoor flying. Jim has also provided simulators to keep the cost of repairs and replacement parts to a minimum. Flying has been an exciting adventure in the main gym of the Fredericton Armory. The permanent Christmas lights, the lockers, and the spent pellets on the black floor, have made damage inevitable and finding parts almost impossible. But its darn fun to watch the aerobatics!



The Cadet Project, both the building and the flying portions, are proving to be very rewarding and exciting for all involved, and we are looking forward to the upcoming CAMS show.

*Remember to Share the Hobby*

*Bill Daisley*