

Military Vehicles Partwork – IPC Media Reviewed by Jonathan Aird

With 2014 only a few weeks old, it is, of course, time for that late Christmas present that is the bargain-price part work issue. This year it's a corker of right subject, right scale (constant 1/72nd) and the right price too! IPC Media, who publish magazines such as *Flypast* and *Military Machines*, have entered the collectibles market with *Military Vehicles* (not to be mistaken for the Eaglemoss series of the same name of which feature 1:43 scale models). This is going to be a series of plinth mounted vehicles covering everything from the World War II up to modern times. Presumably to save costs the model isn't provided with the customary clear plastic dust cover. The first issue is priced at the bargain price of £1.99 and features the M35A1 Truck of painted up as a 1968 version with a quad machine gun mount. The package is completed with a fact file of style of magazine all ready for the binder that will come along with a subscription. This magazine features big text and lots of photographs and drawings of various variants of the vehicle which is very inspirational if one is considering building up a small fleet of these trucks of it would take very little effort to remove the gun mounting and convert the supplied example to a flatbed full of stores, or a fuel bowser, or a troop carrier with a canvas cover.

The main reason for purchase is, of course, the truck itself and this is a very nice little model with adequate detail to make it usable straight from the box of once it's off that



base of course. I'd be inclined to try and cut away the sides of the plinth and keep the rough road base that the model sits on. It's painted as a very particular example, but it would take a matter of moments to paint out the transfers labelling the truck as "Nancy" and then either add a different name or just leave it plain. For £1.99, one can hardly go wrong ó at least one of the four I bought is earmarked for my AK-47 armies; I may make a whole convoy up at some point.



As noted above, the first part is the bargain price of £1.99. Part 2, which will feature The Warrior ó will be £2.99, so that's another "must buy." Part 3 sees the full cover price of £5.99 being reached, but to soften the blow it will feature two vehicles ó a very useful M1126 Striker and a slightly less useful en-masse Bergepanzer Tiger. I just have to decide whether the Warrior and Striker go to AK-47 or to a near-future or SF setting ! I'm starting to wonder if the Bergepanzer could be Sfæd up as well with a bit of extra plasticard. Maybe the kind of thing scouting Jawas (from Star Wars) might find useful.

Naturally, it is also possible to subscribe ó and this brings "free gifts" in the usual form of binders and also an additional four tanks which will not form part of the general series and on top of that one free issue of the series ó which is £30 of model freebies plus the binder. Military Vehicles is available in shops in the UK & Eire, the online subscription form suggests the series will only be available in these territories.