



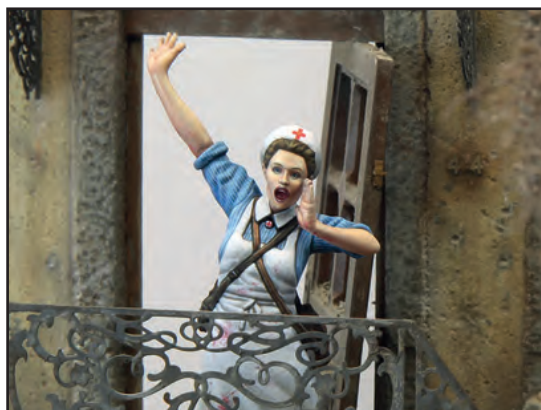




# Roberto Aguilera's REICH DEFENDERS

As a film Director one of the things I enjoy most is bringing talent together, and over the years I have been doing this, and this diorama is the result of combining the efforts of talented people, who's work I admire.

Perhaps you might wonder why I am using an old Verlinden building kit with so many nice modern kits out there, and the simple answer is that I don't like buying a kit and not building it. The old Verlinden 'Rathaus' kit has been out there forever, but I just felt that I wanted to do the best I could with it, since so many new paints, pigments and techniques have been developed since it was originally released. I wanted to apply them to a building and diorama. One of the things modellers complained about the old Verlinden building kits was the lack of doors and windows, not to mention floors or any other advanced detail and with this in mind construction began.

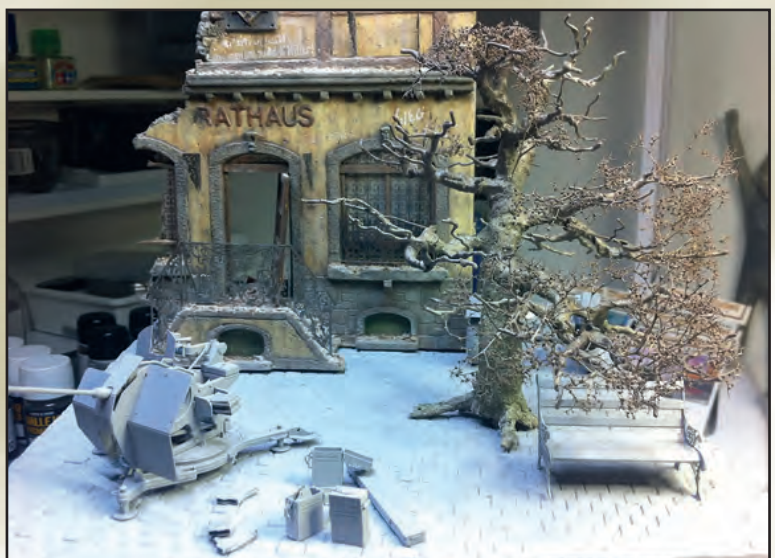






Extra Verlinden parts were acquired for the front door, furniture and floors, and the addition of Verlinden wallpaper brought the building up to a more acceptable level. Once they were assembled, the Rathaus was mounted into a very nice Redbricks Diorama cobble stone section, very nice with crisp detail, which you can easily find on ebay.

Next comes the interesting part, because this is a bombed building you want to enjoy the look of lots of rubble, debris, pieces of wood, and lots of dirt. So I slowly began the process of the realistic groundwork using several different products for this, Woodland Scenic's cement was key for this task, as it is very strong, dries flat, and very thin. Different kinds of Woodland Scenic rock debris, Talus rock debris, and a very nice couple of Mexican architectural brands. 'Miniaturas Con Proyecto', and 'Conmar', which both create the finest rocks and debris that I know. It comes in three different colours and its almost like dust, so gluing it is a bit difficult, but the result is great, you can see it clearly in front of the Flak. I also used Royal Model tiles, and finally Hudson & Allen Studio rubble item 9938, I added just a touch of it because there are no bricks involved in this diorama. I slowly added layers and layers of all of these elements along with pieces of balsa wood. To replicate shattered glass I used fragments of crushed Halls menthol cough sweets! It is a very long time-consuming process but I really like it, love the look and detail of it, I am really keen to try to achieve the best-looking ground possible. First the cobble stone road was primed and then I painted the cobble stone by stone using Tamiya Acrylics, each stone was







given a slight colour variation. Once it was all painted, stones, debris and dust are carefully applied layer by layer, this is an important part in terms of composition, and each stone is placed individually, and secured in place with Woodland Scenic cement. MIG and Vallejo pigments were used to give life to the debris, layer by layer to achieve a realistic look. Each pass was very subtle, avoiding clumps of pigment, letting each layer dry completely, then magazines, posters, bottles, glass, wood, branches, were added carefully glued and weathered, even a rat from Plus Models was placed under the house floor. The bench is from AM Works, a beautiful piece made of resin and PE, it was hand painted with Vallejo acrylics.

The 2cm Flak 38 is from Dragon, pretty much built from the box, and the hard to build ammo boxes and magazines are from Lion Roar PE set. Once assembled they were primed with Gunze Sangyo Mr Surfacer 1200 and this was followed by a coat of Vallejo red primer. Hair spray was applied to the Flak and accessories, and then the camouflage paint was scrubbed off to expose the red. Filters and oils were used to weather them and some MIG pigments complement the finish.







## The Figures

The idea of the entire project was that I have seen very few WWII dioramas with dead bodies, not to mention female figures on it, it's a very dramatic scene that is not usually seen.

Aurora Model from Japan, does a very nice range of female figures in 1:35th scale and award winning master painter Sang Eon Lee from Korea painted the figures, with details beautifully painted using Sonja's acrylics.

## The Tree

The base of the tree was scratch built with styrene plastic, the grass is from Mininatur a superb German company specialising in grass and foliage suitable for 1:35 scale.

UK company Treemendus owned by my friend Anthony Reeves produce handmade scale model trees which can be built using their own tree kits, available from their website shop. Creating trees like the one shown in the dioramas is achieved using Very fine wire, which is twisted and bent to form the basic tree shape. The wires are then trimmed to a suitable length and the trees shape is further refined. For winter trees with little or no foliage each individual wire is crimped using fine pliers to give even more detail. Trees that are in leaf will hide all this so crimping them is not always necessary. The wire armature is then given a coat Treemendus 'Bark Powder' which is mixed into a thick paste using the glue included in the tree kit, This adds all the texture to the







tree's trunk and branches and when dries is very durable. The winter tree in this diorama has had some sea moss added to the wire branches to give a beautiful fine tracery of branches to the tree. The seamoss was airbrushed a suitable colour to Match the existing bark colour on the tree. Once it had been fixed to The tree the whole thing was given a light spray of paint to blend it together. The final process in making the winter tree is to weather it and add some green paint to resemble algae and mosses. Winter trees also look great with a covering of snow on their branches.

This was a time-consuming process overall but the results in the end are I think worth it, and my thanks to all who cooperated on this project.