

Mecalac
8MCR.



Liebherr
A309.



Liebherr
LTM1070-4.1.



Terex
Demag
AC35.



Germany's Blue Angels

When disaster strikes, THW is on the scene, writes **Steven Downes**.

The Technisches Hilfswerk organisation (THW) was formed in Germany back in 1950 by Mr Otto Lummitzsch with the aim to provide a civil security service. Its main goals are the protection of the population and to offer help and assistance to people in distress.

Formed from volunteers throughout Germany with expert technical knowledge, the Blue Angels, as they are affectionately known, provide help and assistance whenever and wherever disaster strikes. Armed with an array of equipment, they are able to quickly mobilise wherever needed to help in the clean-up after major floods and other natural disasters.

To commemorate this work, several 1/50 scale models have been produced in the striking THW decoration from NZG and Conrad and we felt it would be rather timely to focus on these models whilst the real vehicles are no doubt in operation during the recent devastations.

Mecalac 8MCR

The latest addition to the range is the Mecalac 8MCR tracked machine from Conrad. Considered a multi-use machine, it is the perfect choice for THW with the ability to do the job of a wheel loader, excavator and fork lift. The model is supplied with three attachments consisting of digging bucket, loading bucket and pallet forks allowing it to demonstrate the different

functions of the full sized machine. The track design allows for a high mobility and this has been accurately captured on the model with a working front blade and rotating rubber tracks.

The intricate boom configuration has been captured very well and is fully functional, topped with a replicated cab interior and crisp body casting.

MAN TGS 4x4 truck

Also by Conrad is a MAN TGS 4x4 truck with tipping body and crane, another typical vehicle used by THW. The underside has a fully replicated drive train with extending outriggers and a folding crane which can

be fully posed. The body features fold down side panels and pivoting rear tailgate with a realistic range of tipping movement, coupled with a tilting cab which reveals the engine block moulding at the heart of the chassis, topped with blue emergency warning lights.

Liebherr L510

NZG has produced three models in the THW livery: the Liebherr L510, Liebherr A309 and Terex Demag AC35. The Liebherr L510 stereo loader features opening cab doors, replicated interior and functional loader arms with a tipping bucket. Additional detailing includes flexible hydraulic lines, accurate printing and fully working articulated steering with pivoting rear axle.

Liebherr A309

The Liebherr A309 wheeled excavator has an interesting undercarriage with a full length blade at one end and a split blade at the other, doubling up as stabilisers to keep the machine level and this has been fully captured on the model.

The cab interior has been modelled, as has the boom and stick kinematics with swivelling king post, flexible hydraulic piping and blue beacon on the cab roof.

Terex Demag AC35

The Terex Demag AC35 mobile crane rounds out the set and features H-pattern outriggers with screw down pads, a fully functional telescopic boom with a luffing jib stored on the side of the boom and a single rope winch. The two-axle design has pivoting steering of both axles and the superstructure can rotate through 360°.

rear axles have linked steering allowing the various steering modes to be demonstrated and the cab interiors have been modelled with the crane cab able to tilt to about 30°.

MAN TGS

The latest addition to this growing range is a MAN TGS 6x2 truck with roll on/off body and palfinger crane from Conrad. The model is supplied with a fire and rescue container load consisting of an extending floodlight mast with rotating head and an opening rear door, revealing a moulded internal panel. The sides of the container have three simulated aluminium roller-shutter doors. The loading mechanism has been accurately reproduced on the model, allowing the entire loading/unloading process to be replicated which is a very good piece of engineering.

The multi-use nature of the vehicle is demonstrated with the addition of the folding crane which comes complete with a log grapple attachment that stores in the holder on the chassis for storm clean-up duties. The front and rear axle are steerable and have authentic rubber tyres while the underside has a replicated drive train to the engine block, which is visible by tilting the cab forward.

• Models available from www.nzg.de or www.dmbmodels.co.uk **DC**

MAN TGS
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