SHQ Miniatures - Scammell recovery truck

Let me start by saying that I am not a fan of complex whitemetal kits but I do like the range that SHQ produce so I guess that I have to bite the bullet sometimes and dive in.

The need for a British recovery vehicle led me to this SHQ offering - the vehicle entered service early in the war so from "Sealion" onwards, the vehicle is suitable to represent the RE recovery elements.

The kit comes with an exploded diagram showing the construction although not a recommended order that the job should be tackled in. It also took me a little while to work out that the two diagrams showed the vehicle crane bed from the front and the back. This is not altogether clear but once you realise what they are showing, it all makes total sense!

The parts are not numbered but they are easily recognisable from the diagrams. They fit together well with very little fettling. I assembled the parts using Loc-tite super-glue gel (I find this easier to use than the liquid types). I began with the chassis and front wheel/axle assembly followed by the rear wheels. This gave me a secure platform on which to build. The rest was quite logical. The only awkward pieces were the cab roof/windscreen which I fitted after the cab interior had been painted.

The completed model was painted with Humbrol 226 acrylic green and dry-brushed with 127 light grey. Tyres are dark grey. The whole thing was varnished with the excellent Games Workshop satin varnish spray.

The only markings are the vehicle recognition symbol E3 which is allocated under my own system. No doubt, number plates and other markings could be added from your own transfer box.

Prices for SHQ kits are very reasonable. I don't have a problem paying £10 for this type of kit. These days, £10 would just about buy you a decent ready-to-run model railway wagon in this scale!

Overall I would give this kit 9/10 - the edges of whitemetal kits are not as crisp as plastic kits but it makes for a really chunky finished article. SHQ get 10/10 for producing the vehicle in the first place and for translating it into whitemteal (very brave!). Recommended kit.