

Crocodile and hippo figures

By Rob Morgan

Two £2 packs each of two animals new from Mick Yarrow Miniatures, Innuitt 89 is two semi-submerged Hippos 35mm long and 15mm wide on a small river base; while Innuitt 90 is two large crocodiles, 55mm long overall, elegantly curved as they swim, and some 12mm wide. The intention is that these are 15mm scale, and that they can, quite rightly be used in any number of scenarios from ancient to modern times.

The hippo can be used in 15mm scale, but will just about fit into a 20mm scale alongside available small boat and ship models. This is in say Victorian or WWI lake actions, or in general river exploration scenarios, for example. Purely in Africa of course, and of course the hippopotamus has one endearing feature: it's about as vicious as any big animal gets, and is likely to try to get into any boat or small ship which comes too close to it. There are tales of Hippos pursuing vessels which have caused them some slight annoyance, and hippos kill more people in Africa, on land and in the water, than rhinos and lions put together. A chance appearance might reward the weaker side in an African Queen wargame?

The Crocodile's a beauty, very useful in the 20th century. In 15mm, it's a big croc, in 20/25mm it's medium-sized. In 28mm, for instance, it will probably serve as an alligator in the New World. It might be valuable at a S.E. Asia river crossing, or in the Congo, in a mercenary set-up, maybe in a colonial expedition in the 1800s or in any of the post-colonial bush conflicts. A group of say six or so would look awesome. I thought of that story of the Japanese battalion which was hiding in swamps in the Dutch East Indies in 1945, and was almost to a man eaten by large crocs. The Peter Pig 15mm range has some extremely suitable, half-naked Imperial soldiers for the purpose.

On a similar thought track, the Mick Yarrow range has a couple of packs of swimming divers, which can pass nicely as Japanese, or Allies if you want neutral, nasty crocs about. A raiding party might unprofitably encounter a group of them? Add in a few of the Peter Pig 15mm pirate swimmers for a Gamma Group maybe? Not forgetting the fact that the skin of a crocodile as in the noted Crocodile Dundee films may not necessarily contain a crocodile in reptilian form. It could be a small group of raiders sneaking in to blow up your PT boat or landing craft.

My sample's going to be a floating bomb, with a tiny pin for a sort of periscope behind the head, which in this case contains a decent lump of explosive. Maybe radio controlled?

That's just a glance at 15mm options, but the 20/25mm possibilities are quite similar, and as alligators in the larger scale might serve for a civil war or rebellion campaign or even an ancient game.

Nice models, especially the crocodile.

Put them together for an inexpensive, unusual solo raid!