

Parkfield Miniatures 1/1200th ACW Naval Range

By Jonathan Aird

Parkfield Miniatures (www.parkfieldminiatures.freesevers.com) are one of those "fringe" companies who have quite a large number of ranges, most of which run to a couple of dozen figures at most and mostly for the more obscure subjects. One of their smallest ranges - both in scale and numbers - is American Civil War Naval in 1/1200th scale. This features seven ships (mostly classes of more than one vessel) and one ancillary item - a shore battery.

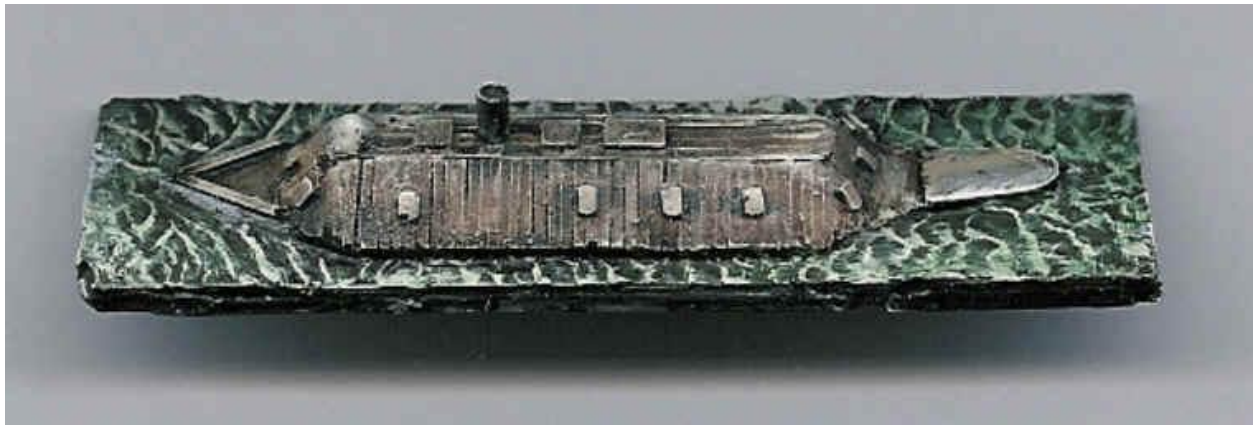


Figure 1 CSS Virginia

Naturally such a small range includes USS Monitor and CSS Virginia, and also other vessels that I already had from Navwar's excellent (and extensive) white metal range. I also had some emplaced batteries from Irregular's very useful 2mm range. However Parkfield's offerings are very attractive and I did find a couple to purchase - CWN7 CSS Neuse and some CWN8 3-Gun Shore batteries. Parkfield's offerings are in resin (with metal smoke stacks), and the ships come on rectangular scenic sea (or river!) bases, which is a very nice touch.



Figure 2 CSS Neuse

The CSS Neuse sits on a scenic base 2cm by 5.5cm, the vessel itself being 4.2cm long, which means it scales up just a little over size, but nothing that is really noticeable (it's maybe 1.5mm too long!). There is a nice level of detail on the ship with the deck planking well defined, and the casemate nicely proportioned. My main reference (Warships and Naval Battles of the US Civil War – Tony Gibbons) suggests the casemate may have too many gun ports – but there is a margin for error with most civil war vessels and it is just as possible that the book is wrong. At £1.75 Parkfield's model of the CSS Neuse compares favourably with Navwar's offering (which is £1.25) particularly when one considers that it comes "prebased" – that is as long as your rules use rectangular basing of course.

The shore battery comes on a nice hexagonal base - 5.5cm long and 2.5cm wide. Behind an earthwork, which protects along three edges, are three cannon separated from each other by low blast walls. At the back of the battery is a small building which presumably incorporates the immediate ammunition store. It's a simple enough item, but very useful for the period. The only alternatives I can think of come from Irregular and Langton Miniatures. To put together a similar battery from Irregular would be ~£2, and Langton's ~£3.50 so Parkfield's £1.50 compares very well, and a mix of the three ranges would give a nice variety (Irregular do earthworks for 1, 2, or 4 guns and Langton's offerings go up to an 8 gun battery).

Both of these are very simple items, but also very useful, and the boats being prebased is a bonus. There's very little flash to clean up (which is always a bit of a concern with resin), the ship models are as nice as those from Navwar and not as beautiful as the (more expensive) metal offerings from Langton (who offer an Albemarle at £3.50). If you're looking for a handful of ships that will get into action very quickly then Parkfield's range may be just what you need.

Full Range :

CWN1	USS Monitor	£1.25
CWN2	CSS Virginia	£1.75
CWN3	CSS Manassas Ironclad Ram	£1.25
CWN4	USS Passaic	£1.25
CWN5	CSS Baltic Casemate Gunboat	£1.75
CWN6	USS Cincinnati Casemate Gunboat	£1.75
CWN7	CSS Neuse Casemate Ram	£1.75
CWN8	3 gun shore battery	£1.50