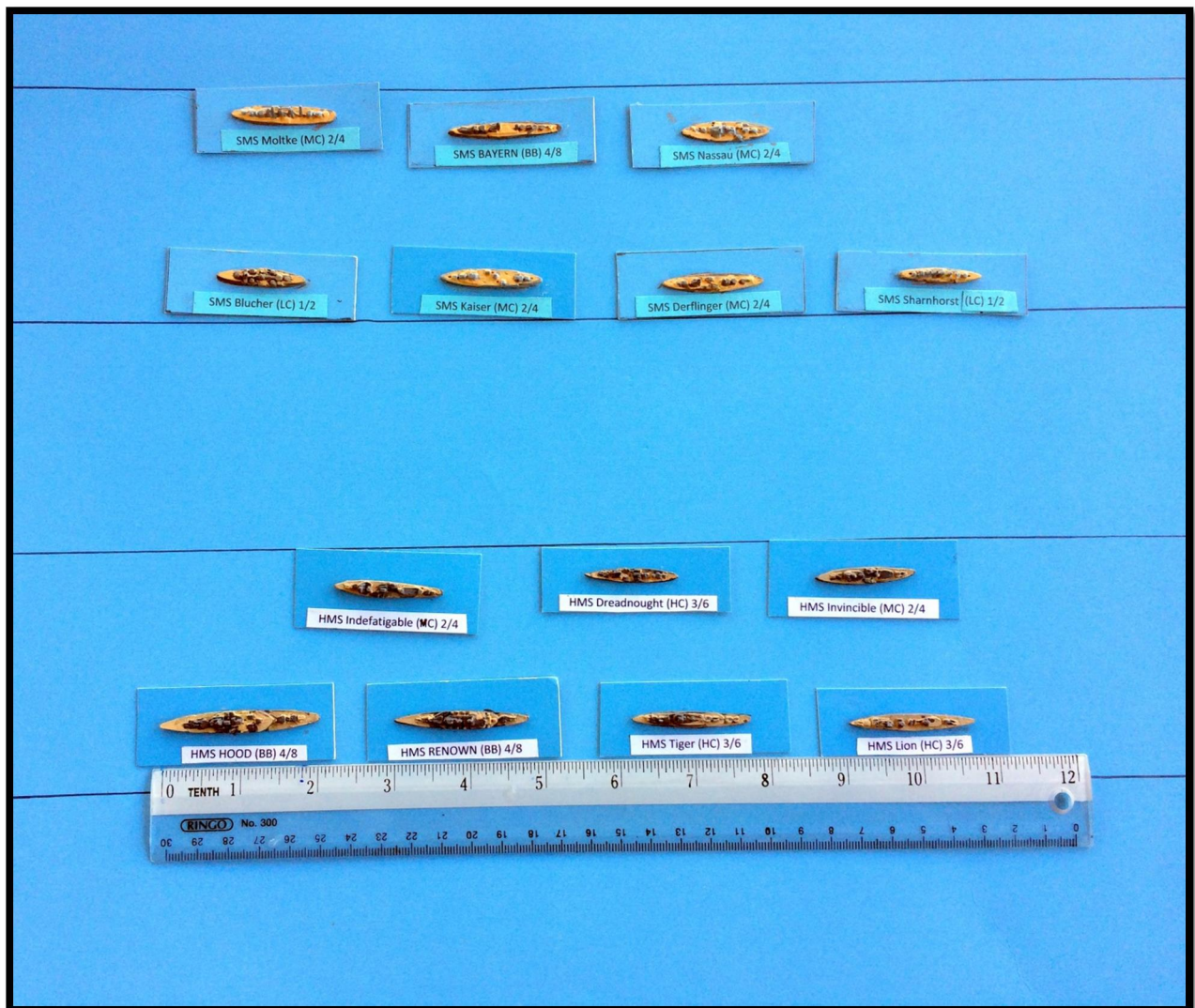


Mick Yarrow WWI ship models in 1/4800th scale

Review by Mike Crane

This review of WWI ships includes an assortment of British (Hood, Renown, Iron Duke, Dreadnought, Lion, Tiger, Indefatigable, Invincible) and German (Bayern, Blucher, Derfflinger, Kaiser, Moltke, Scharnhorst) ships in the Jutland & WWI Range. First, note the scale. The 1/4800th scale ships are smaller than those usually found on the wargaming tables at conventions. Battleships, dreadnoughts, and cruisers are approximately 1.25 to 2 inches long. For the solo gamer this smaller scale has one disadvantage and several advantages.

Because the detail is small, the disadvantage is the difficulty in readily recognizing some of the ships. The war gamer's solution to the problem may be by mounting the ships on a small piece of poster board with the name of the ship attached.

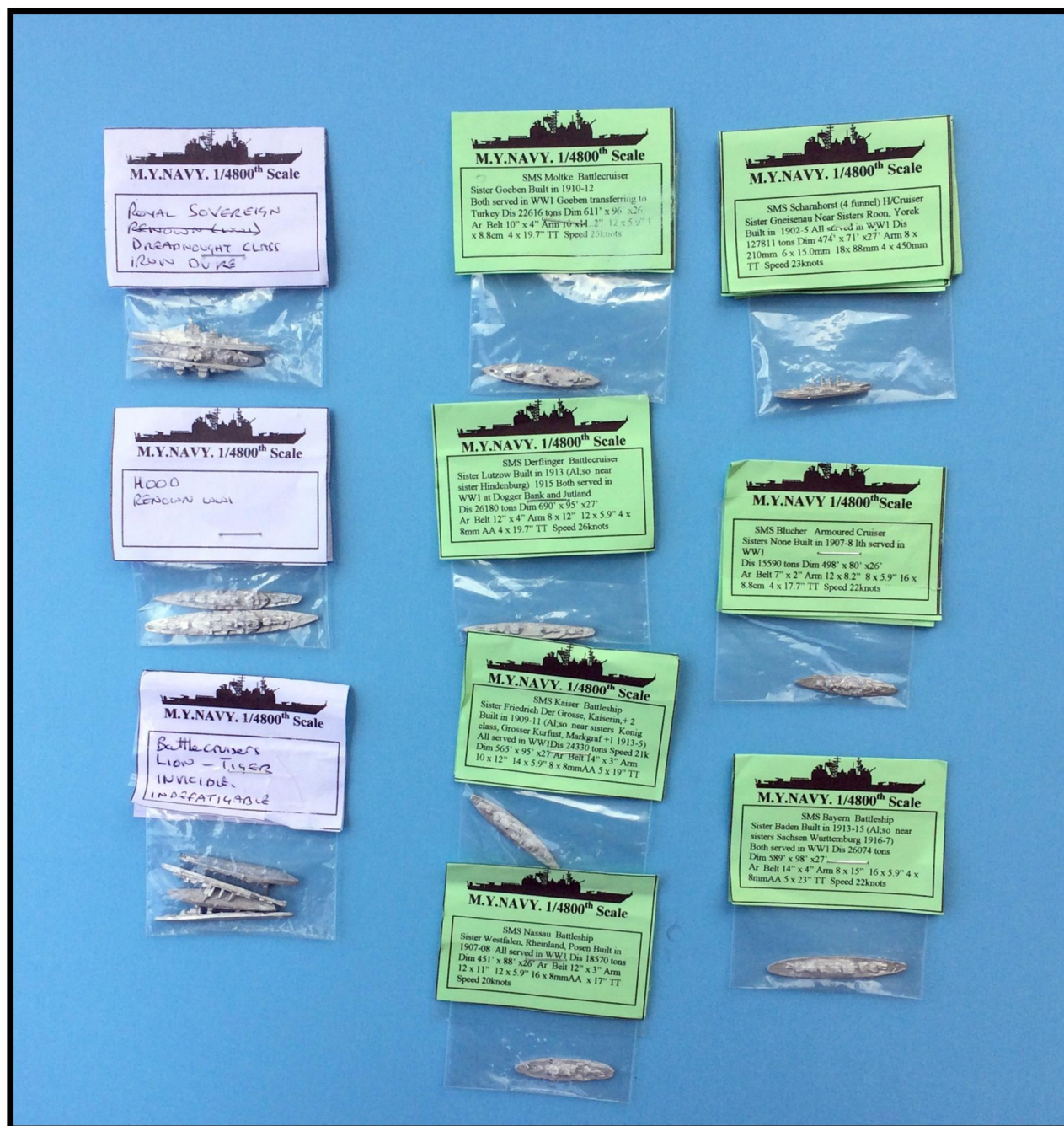


As a solo gamer, in my opinion, the advantages of using the 1/4800th scale far outweigh those of using a larger scale. For one thing, the models can be easier to paint. Just spray them with two different colors of gray primer—light and dark—and they are ready to sail off to battle. Of course, those of us who are more particular can repaint the ships and wooden decks with acrylic craft paints—but then this advantage disappears.

The second advantage is that the ships can be used on a smaller playing area. This means there will be no more playing on the floor. A table top or bed top in a guest room will do nicely. I am seriously considering using a piece of blue poster board to game on. A smaller game also means a quicker game. This scale is perfect for a one-off game that takes no more than a couple of hours.

And the third advantage is that the small ship models take up less storage space. Let's face it. Man caves, closets, and storage buildings have limited amounts of room available. Two opposing fleets of 1/4800th scale ships can be stored in a small plastic box. That's a real plus.

Next, the packaging is very good. All of the models were enclosed in small, sealed, clear plastic bags with paper covers stapled to them naming the ship(s) inside. The British bags contained two to four ships and the covers were white. Each of the German ships was in a separate bag and the light green covers contained data about the ship: when and where the ship was built; a ship of the same class; the battles it participated in; displacement in tons; dimensions, armor belt (if any), armament, and speed. More information, particularly about sister ships of the same class, can be found in *Jane's Fighting Ships of World War I*.



Now, consider the models themselves. The unpainted ship models look almost like jewelry. They look really good but the price of the ships looks even better. You can buy an entire squadron for the price of one large model ship. The ships cost 40 pence (about 50 cents) unless marked otherwise. The only imperfection in the molding was a small bit of flash on the bottom of a few of the ships where the model was removed from the sprue. A small file took care of that quickly and easily enough. Then the ships were ready to paint.

Looking at these 1/4800th scale models helps one to visualize the difference between the British and the German naval philosophies of that time. The British went for bigger ships and guns and

the Germans relied on ships with more armor and smaller guns. Perhaps a few good wargames could determine which philosophy was right.

If any reader is unfamiliar with Mick Yarrow miniatures, go to the MY website to view a complete line of all the models and figures. The website address is:

<http://www.spanglefish.com/mickyarrowminiatures/>.

