

# Review of Mulberry Harbour in 1/3000<sup>th</sup> scale model

## Review by Rob Morgan

A small series of 1/3000<sup>th</sup> scale components and accessories for the two massive post D-Day harbours built at Arromanches and at Omaha, newly produced by Mick Yarrow Miniatures, provide an unusual and interesting table-top element for a Normandy wargame, both at tactical and campaign level. Of course, as you'd expect, there are a few possibilities beyond that for several of the items!

Here's the list, and in this instance I'm just reviewing the 'floating' or sunk items:

- 3410 - Corn Cobø Grounded Liberty ship 80p
- 3411 - Corn Cobø Grounded Cargo ship 80p
- 3415 - Phoenixø Caissons + a/a post x2 80p
- 3416 - Lobnitzø pierheads x 2 80p
- 3416A Whale & Beetle roadways x3 80p

The Phoenix, Whale and Beetle elements, combined with the remarkable Lobnitz (where did that name come from?) pierheads make for a decent harbour, if you assemble half a dozen packs of them. There are so many photographs available of the Mulberries, and the Omaha version was sadly destroyed by a storm quite early on, that the set-up will be well known to most wargamers. However, there are two excellent and accurate drawings of the Arromanches and Omaha harbours at pages 84-85 and 86 in 'The Penguin Atlas of D-Day and the Normandy Campaign' By John Man; from these, you can assemble both easily, in full or stylised versions.



The Phoenix caissons are sturdy, based-20mm long, 10mm wide, and 6mm high. Each topped with an A/A platform and gun. I think these blocks can easily be painted up to represent heavily loaded barges in 1/1200<sup>th</sup>, even 1/600<sup>th</sup>, just be rounding the sea base to a more suitable shape, and replacing the gun, or removing it entirely. Any period at all, from the Napoleonic, ACW and WWI onwards.

The Lobnitz pier-heads are rather 'singular' in use, but have the potential to become pontoon

bridges in larger scales, 1/300<sup>th</sup> or even with 10mm or 15mm figures possibly. Or with naval games in other periods, as basic floating batteries, you'd need to add say 1/600<sup>th</sup> ACW guns from Peter Pig for this option. The Whale and Beetle roadways and pontoons might make pontoon bridges for earlier wargame periods, in 1/1200<sup>th</sup> or 1/600<sup>th</sup> scale. A pack will cross about 50mm of river or harbour.

Take a good look at the Corn Cob blockships, they are neatly sea-based, and though they sit rather deeply in the water, a bit over the Plimsoll line, they are -- at 80 pence each -- excellent value for standard sea use. Pack 3411, the cargo ship, will fit in with Tumbling Dice early C20th warships in 1/2400<sup>th</sup> for instance, but would need a little super-detailing for that purpose. The Liberty ship type is an excellent, well detailed model, too, but limited to WWII and post-war scenarios. Mine will join my ever-victorious Red Navy as one of the half dozen such ships which were actively used by Gorshkov's fleet until the 1970s, *Dekabrist*, *Orel* or *Sergei Kirov* perhaps? They'd fit in nicely!



There are a several more Mulberry-related ships in the new group of models from Mick Yarrow which I'd like to examine briefly.

First 3426, a tug and barge, a single piece, 2 in a pack for 50p., useful, small, at only 20mm long overall, but tremendously useful. As a small river tug with tow, and the tug's funnel is easily replaced with a taller one, and the barge load increased in any one of a dozen ways, then ACW, in 1/1200<sup>th</sup> or 1/2400<sup>th</sup>, or 1/3000<sup>th</sup>. I thought they looked good

with the Tumbling Dice 1/2400<sup>th</sup> ACW ironclads and gunboats. WWI off Gallipoli would work, or in the North Sea, or many other late C19th or C20th campaigns.



Next, 3406, two small coasters, at 50p, basic but can be added to for most WWII and post-WWII and Cold War scenarios. Two in a pack, 25mm long, superstructure aft, small funnel. Will serve as convoy vessels, coasters, ice-breakers etc in 1/2400<sup>th</sup> or 1/3000<sup>th</sup> and as bigger vessels in 1/4800<sup>th</sup>. You can easily add gear, containers, etc. to the forward well deck which is 10mm long and 4m wide. Pack 3405 is a version of the coaster with a small barrage balloon on a 15mm long sprue, and these were used, but the

balloon, it occurs to me might have a use in another wargame scenario, the Operation Outward balloon attacks from Britain launched against the European mainland. Pack 3428 at

50p is two barges with balloons, and pack 3412 provides two large balloons for 50p. Again, useful.

Finally, Mick Yarrow's new issues include two packs at 50p each, one, 3413 is a group of 10 tanks and trucks, based, and about 4mm long in each case; pack 3414 is a group of 10 tanks, useful not only for adding to the Mulberry scenario, but potentially for a wider range of wargame purposes. They are, despite the size readily identifiable, though can be used for Allied or Axis forces, or post-WWII in fact. You could add them to transport vessels, to the barges or small coasters, or Liberty ships as lend-lease cargo for Russia. I'm toying with the idea of actually wargaming with them as land forces.

That's more or less it. A new and interesting, and valuable, and inexpensive range, worth taking a look at.