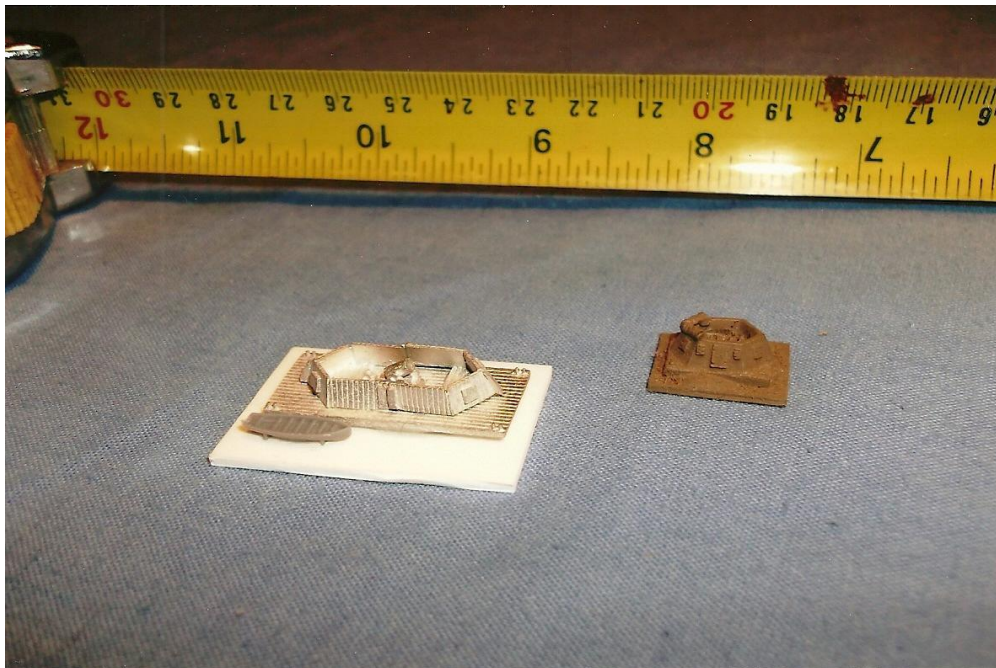


# Mortar Rafts of the American Civil War

## Reviewed By Rob Morgan

The very 'Victorian Era Science Fiction' look of the venerable 'Jack Scruby' 1/1200<sup>th</sup> mortar vessel reviewed elsewhere in this splendid publication doesn't of course lend itself to the exact purpose which had been intended by the designer, lovely though it is. But I took a quick look at the other models of this unique craft around for comparison. The one which 'fits' in with the Scruby models is available from Peter Pig (Brookhurst Hobbies carry the range in the USA), and it's the small model shown undercoated on the right in the photo. Hopefully the scale shows well enough, it's about a centimetre long overall. Intended of course for larger scenarios, and it appears in the 'Pig' Range 7 'Hammerin' Iron' which is 1/600<sup>th</sup>. The rafts sell as a pack of 8 for £2.60 in the UK, and is number 5 on that list.



The finest and best value 1/600<sup>th</sup> Mortar raft around is made by Thoroughbred Miniatures, the US based company to which I turn for the more unusual models for my River fleets and Ironclads. This is the larger model at left, and it is a model, not a single moulding. Four parts, the base raft, two armoured panel sides, and of course a delightful mortar to cement in the middle. It will take a crew too, from the 'Pig' range. Twice the size of the other, this is a substantial piece of river ordnance. You could make it into a variant, say an ammunition raft, without mortar, even cover it with tarpaulin, and make it a store or casualty post. Someone reading this, probably Mike Crane, will know far more than I do about the original craft. The little ship's boat sitting alongside the model is from a 1/700<sup>th</sup> Japanese kit, and it looked right. Thoroughbred sells these at 4 for \$8 US which is very good value, and it's 1355b in the range.

While writing this, I also looked at the 1/2400<sup>th</sup> scale 'Tumbling Dice' range of ACW ships, their mortar raft (ASA 29 in the list) is of course very much smaller than the 'Peter Pig' craft, but the 'Dice' pack also includes a very attractive ACW Floating Battery described as CSS Memphis, but Tony Gibbons book gives little or no detail beyond her fate. Does anyone know more?