

# Talos, Mythical Bronze Man Figure

## Review by Rob Morgan

Ancient Greek mythology's a great place for any wargamer to look for inspiration. Take galley warfare, for example. I've got some 1/600<sup>th</sup> Phoenicians and a few of the 1/600<sup>th</sup> Xyston range which are delightful if expensive. Over recent months the superb, and extensive 1/2400<sup>th</sup> Tumbling Dice Classical and Ancient naval range, which are very reasonably priced, have taken centre stage in my thoughts. This is also one of the largest of ranges, with everything from light, fast pirate galleys and pentekonters, to the enormous merchant galleys and the powerful quadriremes to choose from. Google Tumbling Dice and take a look at the web-site.



Of course, for the ancients, myth was as powerful in war as warships. So the release of Talos, the bronze man of Crete, in the Mick Yarrow Fantasy range (it's F 25 at £2, and comes with a useful winged Pegasus, by the way), adds another potential dimension. Talos, who was re-made into bronze by the gods for reasons which probably sounded perfectly reasonable at the time, kept guard over Crete. He appears in "Jason and the Argonauts" (the film, that is) and also in written forms of the myths. *The Argonautica* and *The Voyage of the Argo* are examples readily available. Poor old Talos loses out to Jason in the end, but his primary role is to protect Crete. He does this by throwing huge rocks at approaching

vessels, and is armed with a bronze sword and great spear, but no shield apparently. He can't swim, but is able to wade offshore up to his neck, and thus attack enemies in their own element. He's slow naturally, but has a good reach and doesn't tire at all. He can attack for days on end, and nights too!

The bronze man has only one weakness, like Achilles. He has a single vein running from neck to ankle, and this is stopped by a bronze pin (in the film it's a bronze plug) so, eventually, by removing the pin, Talos bleeds molten lead out of

the plug-hole and stops dead in his tracks. All that his opponents have to do is get to the pin. Simple, of course, eh? According to the myths, he can also make himself fairly unpleasant by heating his bronze body in fire and causing damage that way, to beached wooden ships, or to fortifications, perhaps. Of course, Talos protected his island from Jason, but he may well have had allies to whom he would be friendly.

Before I forget, the model's a single 28-30mm high figure in armour, tunic and helmet, with a separate sword. Both hands are open, and so a pin, or big rock can be added to either hand. All he really requires is an undercoat and an overall bronzed finish, with a few interesting highlights. His singular weakness, if you use him on the table top with any of the vessels named earlier, means that in the water divers might be effective against him. Ashor, a sort of "suicide squad" attack, unless maybe you've got an early stone-throwing engine. If he's "hot," then it's a case of get out of the way quickly.



Talos might attack every ship on the board, or be selective, if he recognises allies. He will be active at night, so beaching your victorious galleys and allowing the exhausted crews a rest on land might be difficult -- until he's destroyed. As for the model, well it's not too expensive to buy a couple, one used full figure for shore duty, and another cut to the tunic bottom or waist, to be shown wading at sea. The helmet's a crested job, by the way, and it may be that you could find a simple 25mm ancient head, and forearm with sword, axe or spear, to mount on a sea base. The Tumbling Dice range have wrecked and sinking oared ships which would suit nicely. This 28mm bronze man will fit into 1/600<sup>th</sup>, 1/1200<sup>th</sup> or 1/2400<sup>th</sup>, even 1/3000<sup>th</sup> scales, easily. He just becomes a bit bigger and more menacing. Don't forget, if this bronze assassin sees off your fleet, when you get home it might be worth petitioning Zeus for a similar model to add to your own island's coastal defence system.

A marvelous addition to enliven classical naval warfare. Though, of course, if you're gaming ashore you could add a 54mm Greek painted bronze overall for similar purpose. Simple.