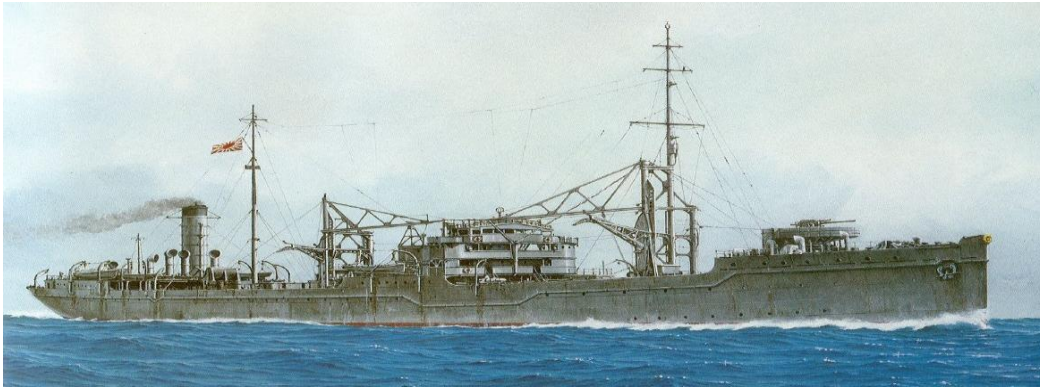


Model of the Month?

By Rob Morgan

Sounds a bit ‘Playboy’ doesn’t it, but in this case I’m looking at a delightful 1/3000th model, N0. 3292 in the range at a mere 80p, from Mick Yarrow Miniatures. The ship is ‘*Kamikawa Maru*’ one of a group of fast merchant ships built in the 1930’s and intended to act as Seaplane Tenders in air recce and general support of the fleet around the islands and coasts of the Pacific. Among her sisters were *Kimikara Maru*, *Kaiyokama Maru* and *Kunikara Maru*. They were apparently capable of around 21 knots.



It’s an unusual, but useful choice for a model in this one of the best of WWII naval wargames scales, and is a one piece flash-free metal moulding some 55mm or 2” long overall. I’ll find it useful in quick solo raid games using fast attack craft, fighter bombers, etc against the Japanese held island chains.

The ship has a central well detailed superstructure, a single funnel and comes with nine tiny seaplanes moulded to the deck. The ship had the capability to operate a dozen or so seaplanes, these appear to be ‘Pete’s’, but presumably ‘Jake’s’, ‘Norm’s’, ‘Glen’s’ or ‘Rufe’s’ could also be carried. The Seaplane Tender was provided with a single catapult, and 2x5” AA guns and some lighter weapons. It really is most attractive, and will fit in neatly with an attack group, or as a fast transport perhaps. It can I think easily be super-detailed even in this scale by the provision of small cranes and a mast. One thing it does provide is the opportunity to lighten up all those dark sea grey Japanese hulls, with the opportunity to paint the upper wings of the seaplanes! Mick Yarrow’s also issued as 3294 in the 1/3000th WWII Japanese range, at the same price, *Akagi Maru* one of a class of 19 knot ships intended as Armed Merchant Cruisers, around a dozen of them in all, sisters *Asaki Maru* and *Awata Maru*. In dimensions and style a similar model to 3292, with gun platforms for 2x5” AA forward and aft, a single seaplane on the after deck and a neat, clean hull and superstructure. Many of them were expended as transports in the island campaigns, but a Japanese expert among the readership may be able to explain the theory behind The Imperial Fleet’s AMC’s; if there was one?

Mick Yarrow Miniatures are at www.spanglefish.com/mickyarrowminiatures
Or 7, St Peter’s Lane, Laxton, Goole, E.Yorks. UK. DN14 7UA.