

Amphibious Assault Ship (LPD) H.M.S. FEARLESS

1/350 Scale

History

In the late 1950s early 1960s the Royal Navy recognised the need to be able to provide and support an amphibious assault force made up of Royal Marines and their equipment plus any services required to establish a beach landing site. The ships needed to be able to support and inspirote and support and any location of the ships needed to be able to support and inspirote and support and any location of the ships needed to be able to support and inspirote and support and any location of the ships needed to be able to be able

HMS Fearless would be the first purpose built Landing Platform Dock (LPD) to be built for the Royal Navy and was based on an existing American design that incorporated an array of specific add on's for the Royal Navy's operational needs. She was to carry four large Landing Craft Utilities (LCU), capable of transporting up to two Centurion Main Battle tanks each. Another four Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel LCVP were to be carried on davits as well as the standard ships boats. A large internal vehicle deck with access to the landing craft dock and the flight deck could house an assortment of vehicles needed for the particular task in hand .. Two ships of this class were ordered, HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid.

HMS Fearless was laid down at the Harland and Wolff, Belfast Shipyard on 25th July 1962 and launched 19th December 1963. After completion and builders trails she was accepted into the Royal Navy and commissioned on 25th of November 1965.

She was soon to see service in her intended role, along with her sister ship Intrepid, during the counter terrorism operations in Aden operating a selection of Royal Air Force aircraft and acting as a command platform throughout the period leading up to the British withdrawal from the region.

After the Aden experiences, Fearless took on a new role, providing the venue in 1968, for talks between British Prime Minister Harold Wilson and the Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith after the earlier Rhodesian Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI) from Britain.

Between 1969 and 1971 Fearless found herself touring the Far East, during which time, she found herself providing disaster relief to Bangladesh following a major typhoon that had caused total havoc amongst the widespread villages and townships.

In July 1972 HMS Fearless ferried several Centurion AVRE demolition vehicles, derived from the Centurion tank, to Northern Ireland to be deployed there as part of Operation Motorman. Then in 1977 Fearless featured in the James Bond film "The Spy Who Loved Me" which was filmed off the Island of Malta the previous year. Such was the variety of roles that were asked of her.

Soon things were to get more hectic and the role that Fearless and Intrepid had been designed for was to come to pass. In 1982 both HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid were part of the British Task Force committed to Operation Corporate, the re taking of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic from the invading Argentine forces that had occupied the islands and South Georgia in late March.

The ships had been refitted with the latest satellite communications equipment and were able to host the staff of the Amphibious Force Commander Commodore Michael Clapp and the commanding officer of 3 Commando Brigade, Brigadier Julian Thompson and his staff.

Fearless and Intrepid were to enter San Carlos water and initiate the landings by the Royal Marines and Parachute Regiments on the 21st May 1982. The main assault had begun with the landing craft

from both ships shuttling back and forth ferrying troops and equipment ashore, whilst helicopters operated from their decks doing the same. That same day HMS Ardent (Type 21 Frigate) had come under a concentrated attack and sunk whilst being stationed to the south, providing Naval Gunfire Support (NGS) for the landings. Two days later received the HMS Antelope the same treatment and two of HMS Fearless's landing craft were involved in the rescue of her crew. Foxtrot 7 one of the LCVPs carried by Fearless, the coxswain of which received a commendation from Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, and Foxtrot 4 one of the LCU commanded by Colour Sergeant Brian Johnston who was awarded the Queens Galantry Medal for rescuing other crew members.

Unfortunately on the 8th June whilst ferrying supplies and vehicles around the island to support the landings in Fitzroy, Foxtrot 4 was bombed by enemy aircraft and sunk in Choisel Sound.. Colour Sergeant Johnston and five other crew members were killed and two more injured in the attack.

After the Argentine surrender on 14th June HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid returned home to Portsmouth Naval Base, bearing the scars of battle. She had been strafed by enemy aircraft several times and had some near misses with bombs, but had come through with flying colours. Job done.

Fearless was placed in reserve in 1985 for three years prior to a major refit at Devonport. She recommissioned in 1991 sporting the new Vulcan Phalanx CIWS mountings that replaced her aging Sea Cat missile system and the new 20mm BMARC cannon that replaced the old WW2 vintage 40mm Bofors.

She was to spend the next few years as part of the Dartmouth Training Squadron where she supported the sea training phase of officers from BRNC Dartmouth. She was due to take part in operations in the Gulf, but that role was handed to HMS Ocean in 2000. Fearless carried on in service, taking part in amphibious warfare exercises that took her to the Indian Ocean and Far East, but her days were numbered, to be replaced by newer and larger vessels HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark that were now taking shape in the builders yards.

HMS Fearless was withdrawn from service and decommissioned 18th March 2002 and moored up in Fareham creek near Portsmouth, along side her sister HMS Intrepid and mothballed for the next five years. In late October 2007 HMS Fearless was towed to Ghent in Belgium to be broken up.

Specifications

Length : 520 ft (160 m) Beam: 80 ft (24 m) Draught: 21 ft (6.4 m) Displacement: 12,120 tons (Full Load) Propulsion : 2 x English Electric 2 shaft geared Steam Turbines at 22,000 shp Speed : 21 knots Complement : 580 Landing Platform could operate up to five Sea King sized helicopters.

Armament as of 1982

4 x Quadruple Sea Cat Missile Launchers 2 x 40mm Bofors Mk VII Single Mountings ? x 7.62mm GPMGs on Single Mountings located at various vantage points.

Armament as of 1991

2 x Vulcan/Phalanx CIWS Mountings 2 x 20mm BMARC GAM B01 Single Mountings

General Precautions

When assembling a Resin / Photoetched metal kit, certain precautions must first be taken.

1. Resin dust can be harmful if inhaled. It is recommended that you wear a suitable dust mask when drilling or sanding resin parts.

2. Cyano adhesives (super glues) are generally used to assemble this type of kit. Care must be taken when using this type of adhesive as it will bond in seconds. Follow the advice on the container.

3.Wash resin parts in a solution of warm soapy water before assembly. This will remove any residual mold release agents and ensure a good key for

painting. 4. Soak photoetch parts in a suitable solvent, such as white spirit, to degrease the surfaces prior to painting.



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Photo-Etched Metal Parts (Part A)

Railings (SCOT Radome Platforms)

Railings (Main Mast Fwd Platform) Railings (Flight Deck Crane) Flight Deck Aft Safety Nets

Railings (Fwd Life Raft Racks (Aft) 16.

Railings (Fore Mast Sirens)

Railings (Quarterdeck Port) Railings (04 Deck)

Railings (Main Mast Top)

Railings (Flight Deck Aft)

Railings (Quarterdeck Stbd)

Railings (Vent Boxes Stbd) Railings (Flight Deck Access)

Photo-Etched Metal Parts (Part B)

Railings (Comms House Roof)

Railings (Flight Deck Sides) 17

18

19

20

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26. 27.

28.

29.

30.

- 31. Railings (Port Crane Steps) 32.
- Safety Nets (Sea Cat Stbd Aft) Safety Nets (Sea Cat Port Aft) 33.
- 34 Verticla Ladder Stock
- 35
- Quarterdeck Crane Rigging Inclined Ladders (Quarterdeck Stbd) 36.
- Inclined Ladder (FlyCo Upper) Inclined Ladder (FlyCo Lower) 37.
- 38.
- 39. Inclined Ladder (FlyCo Middle)
- 40. HF/DF Antenna Assembly)
- 41.
- Flight Deck Crane Rigging Inclined Ladders (Catwalk Access) Inclined Ladders (03 04 Deck Aft) 42 43
- Safety Nets (Sea Cat Forward)
- 44. 45. Anchor Chain Stock

Railings(Fwd Life Raft Racks (Fwd) 15

Railings (01 Deck Port)

Railings (01 Deck Stbd)

Railings (Catwalk Stbd)

Railings (01 Deck Forward) Railings (Catwalk Port) Railings (Vent Boxes Port)

Railings (Dock Catwalks)

Railings (Main Deck Midships)

Railings (Fore Mast Platform)

Railings (03 Deck Forward) Railings (182 Winch Deck) Railings (03 Deck Aft)

Railings (Fo'c'sle)

Railings (Searchlights Platforms)

2.

4. 5. 6.

7. 8.

9.

10.

11.

12. 13.

14.

- Boat Davit (Cheverton/ Whaler) 46
- Funnel Badge Disc Boat Davit Supports (Stbd) Vehicle Deck Roller Door 47 48
- 49
- Boat Davit Supports (Port) Landing Craft Davits 50.
- 51.
- 52 Landing Craft Davit Supports
- 53 Landing Craft Davit Falls
- 54. 55
- Quarterdeck Crane Rest Flight Deck Crane Jib (Intrepid) Flight Deck Crane Jib (Fearless) 56.
- Forward 02 Deck Platforms 57.
- Forward 01 Deck Platforms 58
- 59. Accommodation Ladder Railings
- 60 Accommodation Ladder (Upper)
- Accommodation Ladder (Ciper) Accommodation Ladder (Lower) Accommodation Ladder (Fixed) Vent Grill (Stbd Funnel) 61
- 62
- 63.
- Quarterdeck Crane Jib (Intrepid) 64.
- 65 Crane Hook
- 66 Quarterdeck Crane Job (Fearless)
- 67. Wessex Helicopter Rotor (Folded)
- Wessex Helicopter Rotor (Spread) Vent Grill (04 Deck Fwd) 68
- 69
- 70. Wessex Helicopter Tail Rotor

- Wessex Helicopter Rotor Hub Doubler Wessex Helicopter Tail Wheel Wessex Helicopter Tail Plane Vent Grills (FlyCo)
- 72. 73. 74.
- 75. 76. Vent Grills (Port Funnel)
- Sea King Helicopter Rotor (Folded) Sea King Helicopter Rotor (Spread)
- 77. 78. 79. Sea King Helicopter Personel Door
- 80
- 81.
- 82
- 83.
- 84
- 85
- 86
- 87
- Stern Door Support Plates Stern Door Supports Kedge Anchor Stowage Frames 88
- Kedge Anchors 89.
- 90 Wire Antenna Spreader
- 91 Yardarm Stays (Fore Mast Sides)
- 92 93 Yardarms (Fore Mast Sides)
- 94.
- Formast Yardarms (Fore Mast Front Quarter) Yardarms (Fore Mast Front Quarter) Yardarms (Fore Mast Footbars)
- 95. Yardarms (Main Mast Top Aft) 96

- 97. Yardarm Stay (Main Mast Top Aft)
 98. Landing Craft Fittings (LCU)
 99. Dan Bouy Marker
 100. Signal Lamps (Small)
 101. Vent Grill (02 Deck Stbd Fwd)

- 102. Funnel Cap Grills
- 103. Sea Cat Launcher Rails
- 104. Sea Cat Missiles
- 105. Sword & Shield Antennas
- 106. Yardarms (Main Mast Lower) 107. Yardarms (Main Mast Mid)
- 108. Vent Grills (Stbd Side)
- 109. Bridge Front DF Antenna
- 110. Vent Grills (Port Side)
- 111. Yardarm Stays (Main Mast Upper)
- Yardarms (Main Mast Upper) 112.
- 113. Binocular Sites 114. Vent Grills (01 Deck Fwd)

- 115. Signal Lamps (Large)
 116. Bridge Wing Front Brackets
 117. Flight Deck Flood Light Bases

- 118. Ships Name Plates119. Life Raft Racks (Triple120. Life Raft Racks (Double)
- 121. Life Raft Racks (Single)
- **Resin Parts** 2 1 6 7 4 5 9 8 3 26 27 28 29 30 12 13 14 17 18 19 10 11 21 20 25 24 34 38 39 31 32 33 25' Cheverton Motor Boat Vent Trunking (Stbd Aft) Vent Trunking (Stbd Fwd) Vent Trunking (Port Fwd) Main Superstructure Bridge and 04 Deck Flight Deck Plate Flight Deck Crane (Intrepid) Flight Deck Crane Base Flight Deck Crew Shelter 21 22 11 31. 40mm Bofors Base x 2 40mm Bofors Guns x 2 Corvus Chaff Launchers x 2 2 12 32 3. 23. 13. 33. 4. Fore Mast and GDP Quarterdeck Crane LCVP Davit Mechanism x 4 14. 24 34. Main Mast Portacabin (Port) 25 Vent Trunking (Port Aft) 35. Quarterdeck Decoy Winch 15 6. Comms House Portacabin (Stbd) 26 Chaff Launcher Enclosure x2 36. Anchors x 2 16 20. 27. 28. 29. 17. Life Raft Canisters x 69 7. LCVP x 4 Cage Aerial Base 1006 Nav Radar Antenna 37. 8. 9. IFF Antenna 993 Radar Antenna Stern Dock Gate Port Funnel 18 Sea Cat Director x 4 38. Main Mast Top Pole Array Stbd Funnel Sea Cat Launcher x 4 27' Motor Whaler 39 19 Rudder x 2 10. Flight Deck Crane (Fearless) 20. 30 40. Propellers x 1 Pair
 - 41. Propeller 'A' Frame Bearing x 2

- Sea King Helicopter Tail Rotor Sea King Helicopter Cargo Door Sea King Helicopter Sponson Struts Sea King Helicopter FOD Guard

- Life Raft Platforms 01.5 Deck
- Life Raft Platform Supports
- 182 Decoy Crane Jib





Shape the small railing sections, etched parts 15 and 16 to fit the forward and aft edges of the life raft canister platforms on both sides as shown above.

Flight Deck Crane and Crew Shelter Location

Shape and fit the railings sections, etched parts 13, to the edges of 03 deck aft, as shown above. Fit the shorter length along the aft edge of 03 deck so that the ladder access opening is on the port (left) side, above the Flyco entry platform. Shape and fit the inclined ladders, etched parts 37, 38 and 39 to fit on to the access platforms as shown.

Fit two of the Sea Cat Launcher Assemblies, resin parts 19, to the locating holes on each side of 03 deck. Note : The railings immediately adjacent to the Sea Cat launchers may be cut away and replaced with the retractable safety nets, etched parts 32 and 33, if desired. The larger fitting around the deck extension.

Fit the Flight Deck Crane base, resin part 12, into place on the outer locating peg so that the angled archway is between the crane base and the rear of the superstructure as shown above. Fit the Flight Deck Crew Shelter, resin part 13, to the inner locating peg with the entry door former to next.

Fit the railings sections, etched part 49 into position over the access. This door may be rolled up around a length of plastic rod and fitted across the top of the opening to give the impression of a partially opened door. Fit the railings sections, etched parts 27 to the rear platforms on HMS Fearless crane only. Fit the crane assembly on to the base in the position required

Shape and fit the sections of railing, etched parts 5, to thwe edges of the port flight geck catwalk. The shape includes recesses for the positioning of lengths of life raft canister racks tha twill be shown in a further diagram.

Propeller and Rudder Assembly

- 1. Etched parts 40, the HF/ DF Antenna assembly has been included for fitting to the Fore Mast top pole if required as part of the fit being portrayed. It is assembled by locating the vertical bars on the half sections against the vertical central bar on the full section. The half sections should fit on each side at 90° to the central post.
- 2. A selection of ventilator grills of various shapes and sizes has been included in this set for fitting as desired. The locations of most of these are noted in the parts list on pages 2 and 3, but etched parts 108 and 110 are for general use on the port and starboard sides of the superstructure on 1 deck. These are all fitted in the same way, using the raised rectangular mouldings on the resin parts to correctly identify their location and provide a base onto which they are fitted.
- 3. Etched parts 113, Binocular sights are folded in half so that the relief detail is outer most. The binoculars at the top are folded outwards to give better 3D appearance. These are located at the front of 03 deck forward, below the bridge.
- 4. The Flight Deck Floodlights, etched parts 117, are supplied in strips of two, three and four lamp backs. To give a better 3D appearance, cut some small strips of plastic rod and attach to the lamp backs as the light shields would appear.
- 5. The small brackets, etched parts 116, form a tripod when shaped and are sometimes fitted with the feet to the fronts of the bridge wing bulwarks, single leg to the top. These are spaced equally, with two on each side.
- 6. Etched parts 47, have been supplied to fit on the outer sides of each funnel to mount the ships combined operations funnel badge. This badge comes in the form of a decal and is applied in the same way as the ships numbers and other markings.
- 7. The model has been cast with the side accommodation ladders moulded into the stowed position. However, if it is desired to build a diorama with these ladders deployed down to boats in the water, then etched parts have been provided to make these possible. First the resin mouldings must be cut away to the upper landing. Etched parts 62 are to represent the short top sections of ladder that are fixed in place leading down from the upper landing. These are shaped by folding the edges to 90° so that they are parallel, then turning each step out to the horizontal. The remaining ladder sections 60 and 61 are also shaped in this way. Etched parts 60 are the upper sections of the accommodation ladder and it is this section that is hinged on to the short ladder section 62. This is lowered down to the half way point, where after, ladder section 61 sildes out from inside until the ladder is fully extended. The handrails on ladder section 61 will have to be fixed into place on the sides of ladders 60 to give extra strength.
- 8. Etched part 90 is the wire antenna spreader for the mast WT antennas. This fits into place centrally on 03 deck aft, just in front of the auxiliary conning position.

