‘N’ Class Fleet Destroyer

ORP Piorun
(HMS Noble)
1944

Resin & Photo Etched Metal Kit in 1/350 scale

History

Laid down on 25th July 1939 at John Browns Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, Clydebank, Scotland, she was built and launched on 7th May 1940 as HMS Nerissa. When she was completed, she was handed over to the Polish Navy and commissioned on 4th November 1940 as the ORP PIORUN. With Cdr Plawski in command, Pioruns first few months were spent with the 7th Flotilla and was involved with the search for the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau.

Later in May 1941 whilst attached to the 4th Flotilla under Captain Vian in the Cossack, orders were given to seek out and chase the German Battleship Bismarck after it had broken out into the Atlantic and sunk the pride of the Royal Navy, HMS Hood. Due to bad weather, Piorun lost contact with the rest of the Flotilla, but found the Bismarck and engaged with her 4.7 inch guns. Several hits were scored and the ships traded shots for 59 minutes, with Piorun transmitting radio reports until the Flotilla arrived. A torpedo attack was then carried out by the Flotilla which was unsuccessful. Piorun was then ordered to return to Plymouth as she was low on fuel, and played no further part in that action.

Throughout 1942 Piorun was involved in the escorting of the North Atlantic convoys, during which she located and gave chase to several U Boats. 1943 She was transferred to the Mediterranean for the Malta convoys and the landings on Sicily. Piorun was transferred back to the Home Fleet in 1944 for the D Day landings at Normandy and she served at home until the end of the war. In 1946 Piorun was handed back to Britain and commissioned in to the Royal Navy as HMS Noble. Eventually decommissioned and scrapped at Dunston in December 1955.

Specifications

Length: 356ft 6ins oa. Beam: 35ft 8ins Displacement: 1965 tons standard 2330 tons deep. Speed: 33 knots

Armament: 6 x 4.7inch guns in three twin HA/LA mountings. 5 x 21 inch Torpedoes in one quintuple tube mounting. 45 Depth Charges fired from 1 x Mk 1 depth charge rail and 2 x Mk 11 depth charge throwers. 1 x 4 barrelled 2 pounder Pom Pom. 1 x 4” HA AA Mounting. 4 x 20mm Oerlikon Mk 5 Powered Mountings. 2 x 20mm Oerlikons on single mountings

Equipment: 1 x 44 inch Searchlight projector on platform aft of torpedo tubes, later replaced with a 271 Radar Lantern. 2 x 20inch signal projectors.

Resin and Metal Parts Identification

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<td>25’ Fast Motor Boat</td>
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<td>Pom Pom Platform</td>
<td>Foremast Pole</td>
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The major parts are not included on this list, but come as one of each of the following: Upper Hull, Lower Hull, Bridge Superstructure, Funnel, Aft Superstructure and Deck Plate. The Main Superstructure may be a seperate part or may be supplied already attached to the upper hull.

This kit contains a mixture of resin and white metal small parts, of which some of the resin parts have been attached to sprues for ease of casting. Care must be taken when detaching the parts from the sprues, to remove the flash without causing damage. When cleaning off the excess material using files or abrasive paper, it is recommended that a mask is worn as resin dust can be harmful to health if inhaled.
1. Railings (Main Deck)  
2. Railings (Foc'sle)  
3. Railings (X Gun Deck Leader)  
4. Railings (Amidships AA Platform)  
5. Railings (X Gun Deck Ends)  
6. Railings (X Gun Deck)  
7. Railings (B Gun Deck)  
8. 291 Radar Antenna  
9. 285 Radar Yagi Antenna  
10. Railings (X Gun Deck Fwd Leader)  
11. Railings (Searchlight Platform)  
12. Ships Name Plates  
13. Vertical Ladder Stock  
14. Anchor Chain  
15. 291 Radar Antenna  
16. HF/DF Mast Assembly  
17. Splicer Matting  
18. Lattice Mast (Jervis)  
19. Lattice Mast Front Frame  
20. Lattice Mast Top Platform  
21. Lattice Mast Yardarms  
22. Radar Lantern House  
23. Radar Lantern Platform  
24. Radar Lantern Base Plate  
25. Radar Lantern  
26. Mid AA Platform (Poirun)  
27. Mid AA Platform Supports  
28. Boat Davits  
29. Foremast Top DF Antenna  
30. 4” AA Gun Foot Plate  
31. Lattice Mast Top Platform  
32. Lattice Mast (Kelvin)  
33. Lattice Mast Front Frame  
34. Mid AA Platform (Jervis)  
35. Mid AA Platform Braces  
36. 276 Radar Lantern  
37. Quad Vickers Machine Gun  
38. Quad Pom Pom Side Plates  
39. Headache Antennas  
40. 286 Radar Antenna  
41. Tripod Fore Mast Leg Spacers  
42. Tripod Fore Mast Upper Yard  
43. Tripod Foremast Lower Yard  
44. 20mm Oerlikon Footplates  
45. Twin 20mm Oerlikons  
46. 286 Radar Antenna Type 2  
47. Lattice Mast Yardarms  
48. 14’ Dinghy Thwarts and Rudders  
49. Depth Charge Davits  
50. Depth Charge Rails  
51. Single 20mm Oerlikon Mountings  
52. Twin 20mm Powered Mounts  
53. Carley Raft Racks (Forward)  
54. Carley Raft Rack (Mid)  
55. 27’ Whale Thwarts and Oars  
56. Jack Staff  
57. Radar Lantern Top Antenna  
58. Ensign Staff  
59. Fwd AA gun Platform Supports  
60. Mid AA Platform Supports (Type 1)  
61. Mid AA Platform Supports (Type 2)  
62. TSDS Winch Drum Wheels  
63. Torpedo Loading Davits  
64. TSDS Stern Gantry  
65. Signal Lamps  
66. TSDS Davits  
67. Adm Motor Cutter Parts  
68. Anchor Assemblies  
69. Funnel Cap Grill  
70. Rudder  
71. 276 Radar Antenna  
72. Anemometer Vane  
73. Inclined Ladders (Hull Step)  
74. A Gun Training Stops  
75. Bridge Semaphores  
76. Funnel Siren Platforms  
77. Searchlight Lens Cross  
78. 25’ Fast Motor Boat Parts  
79. Main Mast Wire Antenna Spreader  
80. Fore Mast Top ECM Antenna  
81. Bridge Front DF Antenna  
82. Main Mast Pole Yard  
83. Pole Main Mast
Clean any casting burrs off the metal parts 2 and 3.  Fit the photo etched parts 28, mechanisms over the ammo boxes, so that the rings take up around the circular area.  Secure the photo etched parts down either side of the angled center of part 3.  These will hold the barrel cluster in place, enabling it to elevate, if the glue has not made contact with the circular area.  Fit stock 2 Bar Handrails to the rear of the Pom Pom mounting.  Fit completed assembly to the platform 21 located aft of the funnel.

It is recommended that the deck plate under the 4" HA Gun Tub, is fitted and secured and any blending of edges done, before any other parts are fitted into place.  Once the larger parts have been fitted and secured and any seam filling done, it is recommended that the main areas be painted before adding any of the smaller details.

If the ship is to be modelled full hulled, it is recommended that the lower hull be fitted into place on the Upper Hull before any of the small parts are fitted.  Any joint or seam lines can then be filled and blended out without causing any damage to other parts.

Fit the twin barrels in to the turret housing simply by pushing them through from the rear, ensuring the barrels pass either side of the centre pillar.  Secure to the desired elevation before fitting to the decks.  Make three items.
285 Radar Yagi Antenna Assembly

Assemble the 285 Fire Control antenna by folding a gentle curve on to the rectangular reflectors then folding over the stays so that they face forwards. Fit the set of dipole centrally on to the reflector faces, locating the pegs into the slots. Nip the pointed ends of the stays together so that they trap the centre bar of the dipoles between them. Fit the mounting arms to the spindles between the reflectors. The complete assembly then fit on to the top of the main gun director part 20, so that the points face over the front of the director.

20mm Oerlikon

Assemble the 20mm Oerlikon mounting as shown above. Locate these into positions on either side of the quarter deck, all of the TSDS winches.

52 Radar Lantern Assembly

If the photo etched gun parts are to be used, remove the moulded metal gun barrels from the base. Fold up the gun barrel sides of the etched parts 52 to 90º so that they are parallel and fit into place where the moulded barrels had been. Fit the elevation mechanism to the right side of the trainers position and turn the gun sight across the front as shown.

22mm Oerlikon

Fit the 20mm Powered mountings to the gun platforms on each side of the bridge as shown left. The bulwarks may be cut down as shown to show the gun mountings being trained.

22mm Oerlikon

Shape and fit the railings sections, etched parts 7, to the edges of B gun deck as shown right. The rear stanchion butts against the spray shield below the signal lamp platforms.

Bridge Fittings Location

Fit the 285 Fire Control Radar Antenna centrally to the top of the rangefinder arm on the director tub.

Twin 20mm Powered Mounting

Fit the two 20mm Powered mountings to the gun platforms on each side of the bridge as shown left. The bulwarks may be cut down as shown to show the gun mountings being trained.

276 Radar Lantern Assembly

Fold the radar lantern to shape gently curving the side panel around a cylindrical object, until the outer ends meet. Secure them together, then fold down the top panel and secure to the top edges of the side panel.

Fit the two 20mm Powered mountings to the gun platforms on each side of the bridge as shown left. The bulwarks may be cut down as shown to show the gun mountings being trained.

Aft AA Platform Assembly
Port Side Boat Location

If the davits are to be fitted to the deck before fitting the boat in place, measure and mark out 9mm from the hull step and 23mm. This is the position to fit the two davits on this side. The small motor dinghy is placed directly on to the deck along side the Pom Pom platform.

Aft Superstructure Railings Location

Shape and fit the smaller railing sections, etched parts 6, to the edges of 'X' gun deck as shown. Fit the end sections, etched parts 5, so that they form a continuous run of railing around the deck edge.

Amidships Searchlight and AA Platform Railings

Shape and fit the railings sections, etched parts 4, around the edges of the amidships AA Platform. This is best done after the AA platform has been fitted into place behind the funnel. See diagram below. Shape the railing section, etched part 11, around the edge of the searchlight platform.

Boats Assembly

To assemble the davits, fold each one along the etched line at the base of the davit, so that the two side meet and are secured in place with glue. Ensure that the etched detail is facing outward. Attach the photo etched boat details as shown left and above.

Starboard Side Boat Location

It may be easier for some, to fit the davits to the deck first, before fitting the boats. The positions of each davit is as follows. Fit each one parallel to the next along the edge of the deck. The first one being 9mm from the hull step, the second 23mm, the third 41mm and the fourth 55mm. Measure out these distances and mark with pencil to ensure an exact fit. The boats may now be fitted to the falls by drilling fine holes into the coach roof or attaching the falls to the thwart or bulkheads as necessary.

Fore Mast Assembly

Assemble Foremast as shown above using the photo etched parts 41 and two 46mm lengths of 20thou (.5mm) diameter brass rods to make the tripod legs. Add an extra length of brass rod to the front of the mast pole between the deck house and the crow’s nest as a communications trunking. Fit the antennas 39 and 80 to the mast top pole as shown then fit the anemometer 72 to the front of the mast just above the lower yardarm.

The 291 radar antenna, etched part 15, is folded in to shape by bending the outer dipoles so that they face in the direction shown above. Fit to the very top of the mast as shown.

Port Side Boat Location

Fit the Lantern Radar assembly, to the top of the form searchlight platform. Fit the antenna array, etched part 57 to the roof of the radar lantern as shown right. Fit the wire antenna spreader, etched part 79 to the front of the searchlight platform after first folding the side frames all to 90º.

If the davits are to be fitted to the deck before fitting the boat in place, measure and mark out 9mm from the hull step and 23mm. This is the position to fit the two davits on this side. The small motor dinghy is placed directly on to the deck along side the Pom Pom platform.
Depth Charge Thrower and 4" Gun Location

The deck plate has been shown away from the hull for clarity, but at this stage should be fitted into its position before further work.

Fit the depth charge throwers and the reloads as shown left, along with photo etched handling davits 49.

Assemble the 4" AA gun mounting by fitting the foot plate, etched part 30, into the gun tub as shown.
Fit the gun mounting, part 8, centrally on to the etched foot plate in the desired position.

Fit the depressor paravane platform so that the sides straddle the depth charge rails and secure to the deck. Fit the ensign staff so that the pole passes aft of the platform and the support legs go either side.

Fit the main paravanes on to the deck on each side and forward of the handling derricks.

Stern and TSDS Fittings

Fit the 20mm Gun Platforms, parts 26, to each side of the Lantern Radar lower deck house so that they are 2.5mm below the level of the lower deck house roof.

Fit the photo etched supports, 27, to the outer extremes of the gun platforms undersides and to the main deck. A Carley raft, part 1, can be fixed on its side, to the platform supports so that the open top of the raft is outwards.

Fit the photo etched gun platform supports, 59, to the undersides of the forward gun platforms. Additional aft gun platform supports can be made from 1.5mm diameter plastic rod. Trim to length to fit directly under the 20mm mountings between the underside of the platform and the main deck.

Depth Charge Thrower and 4" Gun Location

Assemble the 4" AA gun mounting by fitting the foot plate, etched part 30, into the gun tub as shown.
Fit the gun mounting, part 8, centrally on to the etched foot plate in the desired position.

Fold the rail section so that there is an angle approx half way along that will match the rail on the sides of the frame. Fit rail section inside frame and secure in place.

Fold over the sides of the depth charge rails so that they are parallel.

Fold and assemble the depressor paravane platform as shown above.

Fit paravane winch brake handles to the drums as shown.

Fold over the sides of the depth charge rails so that they are parallel.
Fold the rail section so that there is an angle approx half way along that will match the rail on the sides of the frame. Fit rail section inside frame and secure in place.

Fold and assemble the depressor paravane platform as shown above.

Fit paravane winch brake handles to the drums as shown.
Fit the depth charge rails centrally to the deck on the stern as shown.

Before assembling the MF/DF antenna, decide whether to use the photo-etched pole provided on the etched part 7, or remove it and use a strip of 0.75mm diameter (30thou) of the same length to give a more 3D appearance to the assembly.

Assemble the MF/DF antenna by folding each of the two halves down the centre line to 90°. Join the halves together by gluing down the centre line and positioning the parts to form a cross when looking from above.

Fit completed antenna to the pole as shown right and fit a length of stock vertical ladder to the front of the pole when fitted in place.

Shape and fit the railings sections, etched parts 1, to each side of the foc’sle deck. Note that the aft ends of the railing, when fitted leave a gap before coming to the side of the superstructure. This is to allow access for the inclined ladders, etched parts 73 to be fitted.

Fit the assembled anchors, etched parts 68, into the hawse pipe holes. These may need to be drilled out using a 1.3mm drill bit.

Anchor Assembly

Assemble photo etched anchors 68 as shown above. Fit anchors into the hawse pipes each side of the bow, after first drilling out the holes with a 1.3mm drill bit.

Propeller and Rudder Fittings

If the ship is to be modelled as a full hulled exhibit, assemble the running gear components as shown above, using two 22mm lengths of 1mm (40thou) diameter brass or plastic rod.
1. The positions of the Carley Rafts have not been shown in the main assembly instructions, but can be seen clearly on the painting guide plan and profile above. The rafts were over painted in the colour and shape of the camouflage pattern against which they were positioned.

2. Safety Rails, etched parts 47, are for fitting on top of the fore and aft deckhouses adjacent to ‘B’ and ‘X’ turrets. These have enclosed sections of canvas dodgers that were fitted, to prevent empty shell cases from rolling off on to the deck below or even over the side. These sections are fitted against the deck.

3. Upswept Bow railing has been provided in the form of etched parts 49. Again these have canvas dodgers, that fit adjacent to ‘A’ Turret this time.

4. Ships name plates are provided in the form of etched parts 48. There are a pair of these with the name PIORUN that are fitted to each side of the aft deck house. You will have noticed that name plates have also been provided for ship in the J, K and N classes.

5. The splinter matting, etched parts 44, are purely optional and may be fitted if desired, on the bulwarks and railings around AA gun mountings and even the bridge. It is recommended that further research into the precise location of these mats be carried out.

6. Inclined ladders are fitted on each side at the hull step, from the main deck to the fo’c’s’le deck via the small platform that protrudes afloat from the step. Vertical ladders are fitted on the port side of the bridge for access. On the forward bulkhead of the aft deck house for gun crew access. Up each side of the funnel to the small platforms. Up the foremast to the crowns nest.