

Background – The Greatest Raid of All:

HMS Campbelltown began life as the *USS Buchanan* (DD-131), one of the 111 famed 'four stackers' of the US Wickes class. Built at the Bath Iron Works in Maine she was commissioned on January 20, 1919.

After six months of service in the Atlantic fleet, she was transferred to the Pacific fleet where she was based out of San Diego. The US had built over 260 of the '4 stack' destroyers and, due to reduced peacetime manning, not all of them could be kept in service during the peacetime years. *Buchanan* was one of many placed in reserve where she languished from 1922 to 1930.

Recommissioned in April 1930, she rejoined the Pacific Fleet until being laid up again in 1937. She was brought back out of reserve again in September 1939 and was assigned to the Neutrality Patrol in the Atlantic as part of the Antilles detachment. Patrols in the Gulf of Mexico followed until September 1940 when she was ordered to Halifax, Nova Scotia as part of the famous 'destroyers for bases' deal with Great Britain. One of the first group of nine ships to be transferred, she was decommissioned and handed over the Royal Navy.

The ship was renamed *HMS Campbelltown* in honour of the Scottish town of Campbeltown located on the peninsula of Kintyre and also the US town of Campbeltown in Pennsylvania. In company with other transferred destroyers she sailed for Belfast on September 15. After an eventful and stormy crossing, at one point going dead in the water due to a booster pump failure, she arrived in Belfast on September 29.

Assigned pennant number I-42, she underwent refit at Devonport until the end of November after which she joined the 7th Escort Group based in Liverpool. Very shortly afterward, on December 3, she was involved in a collision with a merchant ship and was under repair in Liverpool until March 1941.

On her return to service she was manned by a Dutch crew which operated her on the North Atlantic convoy routes. A highlight of this time in service, in company with other escorts of convoy SL-81, was the sinking of *U-401* on August 3. Reverting to an RN crew in September 1941 she was assigned to Escort Group 27 on the West African route, where she shot down a German aircraft on January 25, 1942. Defects and necessary repairs sent her back to Devonport in February 1942 where she was selected to be expended in Operation Chariot, a commando raid on the French Biscay port of St. Nazaire.

St. Nazaire contained the only dry-dock on the French Atlantic coast capable of berthing the German battleship *Tirpitz*. To prevent the *Tirpitz* from being used against British shipping in the North Atlantic, it was decided to destroy the dock and the adjacent ship repair facilities. After careful deliberation, the elected method of destruction was to ram an explosives laden destroyer into the dry-dock gates and blow them up while commandos were landed to blow up the dock pump buildings. Casting about for a suitable candidate destroyer the planners settled on the *Campbeltown*, ready at hand at Devonport and already under repair.

The immediate problem was to reduce the *Campbeltown's* draft by four feet in order to clear the shallow sandbanks of the Loire estuary leading to St. Nazaire. Her guns, torpedo tubes, depth charges, boats and boat skids were all removed. In their place a 12 pdr gun was fitted to the forecastle along with the addition of eight single 20mm guns and three single 0.5" guns. Armour plate and splinter mattresses were fitted to the bridge and around the emergency conning position. Parallel rows of protective plating two feet high were fitted amidships for the commandos to take cover behind during the run-in.

To give the ship a passing resemblance to German torpedo boats of the Mowe class, the forward funnels were altered in diameter and given a raked profile while funnels 3 and 4 were removed. As there were torpedo boats of the Mowe class based at St. Nazaire, it was hoped this deception would confuse the defenders and give the raiders a few vital extra minutes to close with their targets without being taken under fire.

Most importantly, 24 depth charges containing four tons of high explosives were cemented into the ship below decks behind the support pillar for the forward gun. Fitted with a 2.5 hour delay fuse to give the commandos time to get away, the subsequent detonation would hopefully breach the dock gate.

Despite the alterations, *Campbeltown* still drew too much water, so she was loaded with just enough fuel and water for the one way trip to St. Nazaire.

On the afternoon of March 26, 1942, the raiding force set sail from Falmouth. Aboard the ships of the raiding force - 16 motor launches, *MTB-74*, *MGB-314*, and *HMS Campbeltown* - were the members of the commando raiding force. All day during the 27th they gradually closed the French coast without

being spotted by any patrolling German forces, timing their advance to arrive at the dry-dock gate at 1:30 AM.

At 12:45 AM on the 28th, the force entered the Loire estuary. *Campbeltown* briefly grounded twice but was able to proceed. At 1:22 AM with the force within 1¾ miles of the dry-dock gate, they were illuminated by shore-based searchlights. For another four minutes they were able to press on by giving false answers to German challenges. At 1:26 AM, the jig was up and the Germans opened up with everything that could be brought to bear. The previously quiet and peaceful night was suddenly shattered by the rattle of gunfire, explosions, and streams of tracers arching through the night air. Down came the German flags being flown at the mastheads, replaced by White Ensigns as the raiding force returned fire.

Campbeltown worked up to 20 knots and despite nearly missing the entrance, barrelled into the dock gate at 1:34 AM, just four minutes behind schedule. She hit with such force that the top of her bow jugged right over the gate and projected a foot into the dock itself, with the lower bow a crumpled and twisted ruin up against the dock gate. This brought the explosives packed into the forward section to within five feet of the gate. Despite the maelstrom of fire, the commandos leaped onto the dock gate and sprinted for their objectives scattered around the dockyard, joined by their comrades landing from the motor launches.

The firefight went on until dawn when the remnants of the commando force either withdrew or surrendered. Only four motor launches returned to the UK, the rest including *MGB-314* and *MTB-74*, having been destroyed during the heavy fighting or during the withdrawal. Casualties were heavy; of the 622 Royal Navy and commando personnel, 169 were killed and 215 taken prisoner.

After the fighting was over, German forces went aboard the *Campbeltown*, still wedged into the dock gate with her stern settled on the bottom of the harbour. While there was extensive damage to the pumping equipment due to the commando demolition teams, the dry-dock gate had only suffered minor damage, and it looked as if the major objective had failed.

However, at 11:35 AM the four tons of explosives detonated, instantly vapourizing the ship back to the first funnel and killing all the Germans still on board. The dock gate was lifted out of its track and then swung back 90° allowing a tidal wave of water to flood the dock and completely destroy the gate. The *Campbeltown's* wreckage came to rest halfway along the dock. With the gate demolished, the dry-dock was out of commission and would remain so for the rest of the war. The little ship commissioned into the US Navy had successfully completed its final mission in another navy and on the other side of the ocean from where she was built.

Five Victoria Crosses were awarded in the aftermath of the raid, with another 80 decorations and 51 Mentioned in Dispatches, making this the most decorated single day of the entire war. *Campbeltown's* wreckage was broken up after the war, her name given to a Type 22 frigate in 1987 which carried the original ship's bell until decommissioned in 2011. The bell is presently in Campbeltown, Pennsylvania.

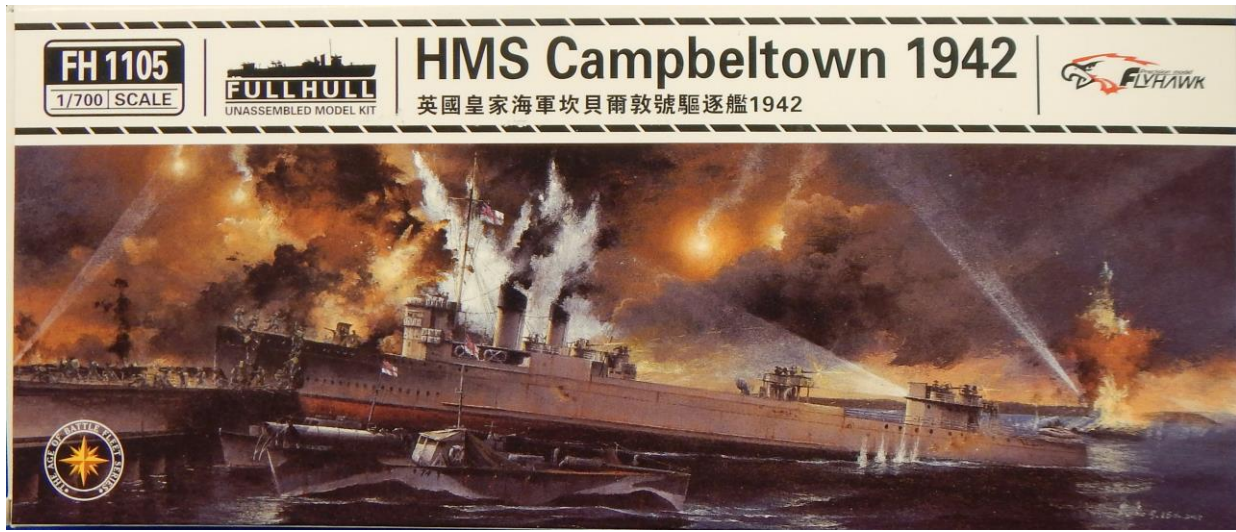
The Kit:

This features *Campbeltown* as configured for the raid on St. Nazaire on March 28, 1942.

Packaging:

The kit comes in a standard 8.5" x 3.75" box that opens at the ends and features a dramatic painting of *HMS Campbeltown* hard up against the dock gates in St. Nazaire harbour, with commandoes spilling off her bows and *MTB 74* cutting in front. The back of the box features an overview of *Campbeltown's* role in the St. Nazaire raid.

The kit comprises 90 parts on 11 sprues with a further 23 photo-etch pieces, all plastic parts are moulded in medium grey and are individually sealed in plastic bags. The hull, waterline plate, and hull bottom are single pieces not attached to any sprue.



---- Box Art ----

Hull:

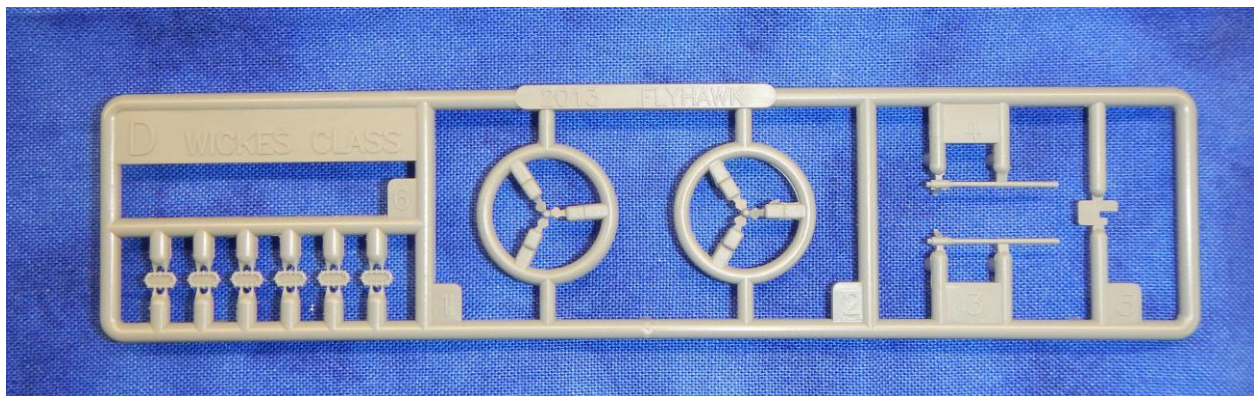
The starboard and port hull sides are in one piece and scale out perfectly to the actual length of 314 feet. A lower hull and a waterline base plate are supplied giving the modeller the option to build either a full hull or a waterline version. A photo-etch stand is included for displaying the full hull version.

The lower hull itself has finely moulded bilge keels with rudder, propellers, and shafts included as separate pieces.

There is a good attempt at capturing the line of hull plating along the sides of the hull. Although it is slightly exaggerated in this scale and could be sanded down to be less conspicuous, it does give extra detail to the hull. The oak fender along the waterline is present and the many portholes all feature 'eyebrows'.



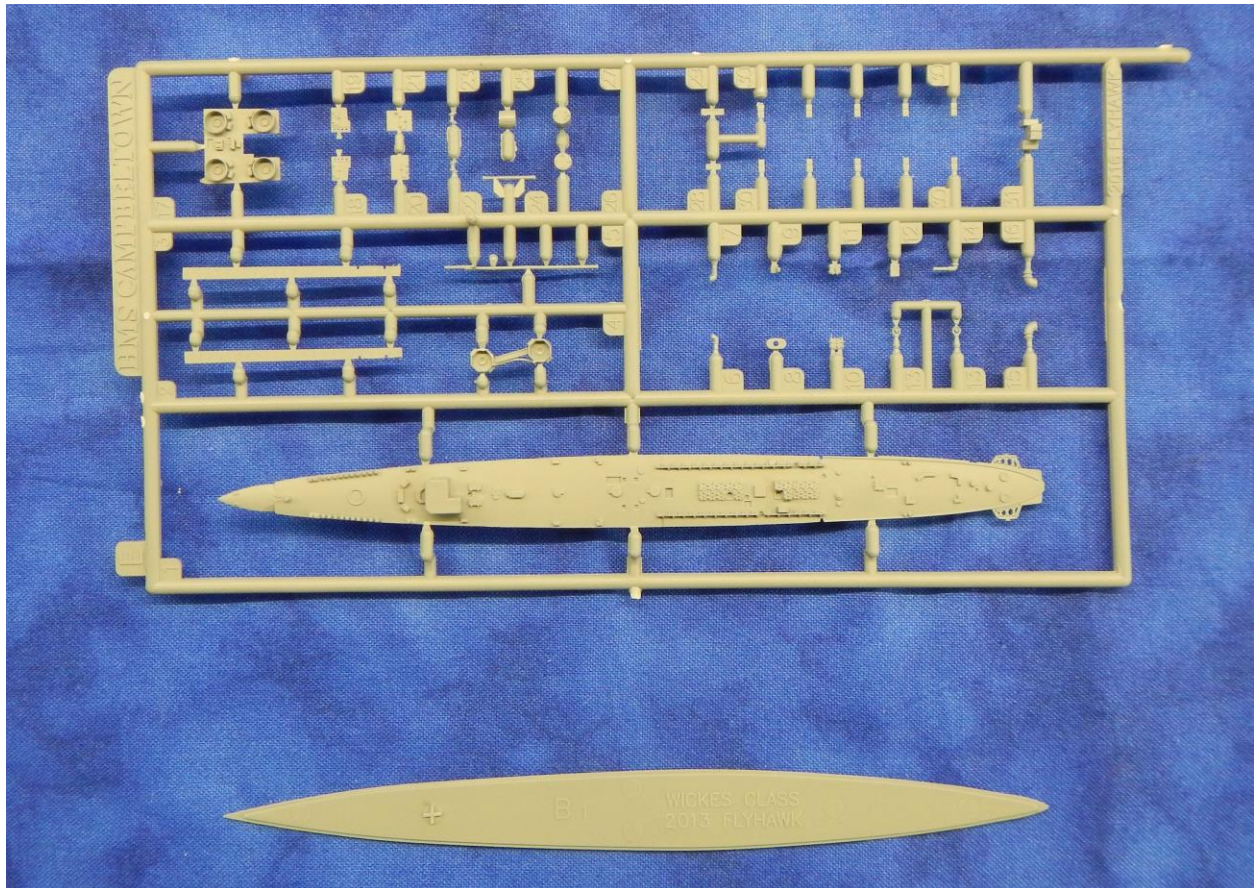
----- Upper and lower hulls -----



----- Life rafts, propellers, rudder, and propeller shafts -----

Deck:

The main deck is in one piece and features an amazing level of detail with hatches, engine room skylights, ready-use ammunition lockers, propeller guards, bollards, and the inboard amidships plating installed to protect the raiding party. At the deck edges alongside the forward gun there is a row of what appear to be smoke generators.



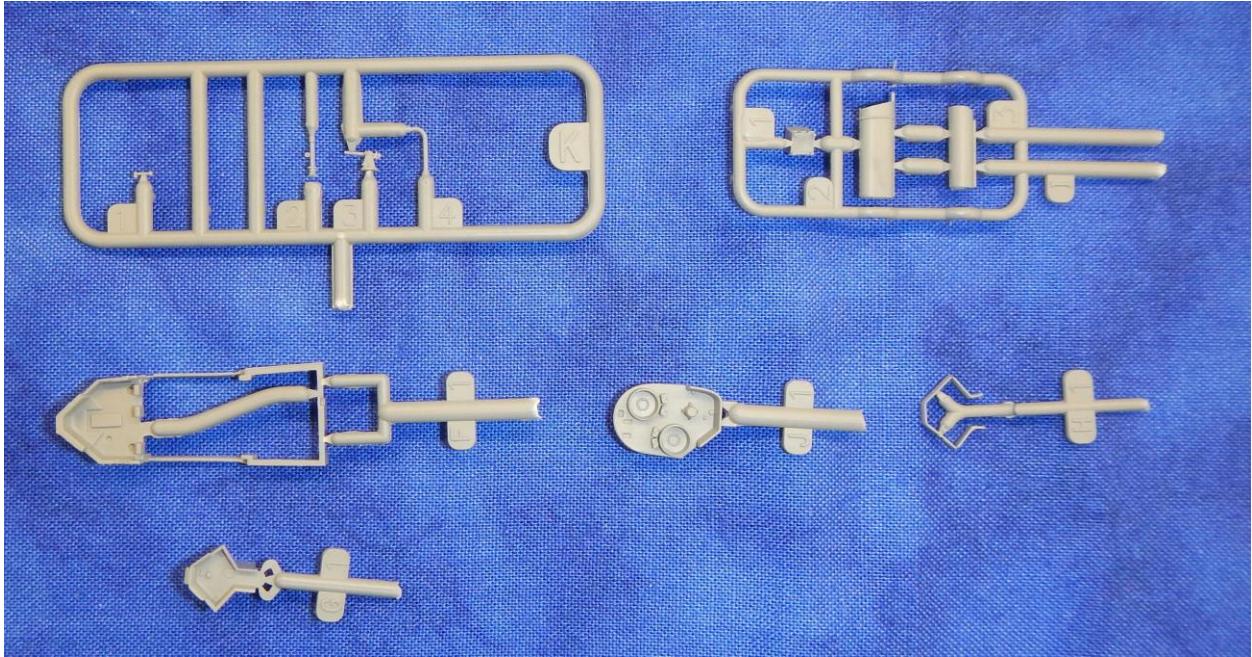
----- *Waterline hull plate, main deck, mast, and fittings* -----

Superstructure:

The bridge and after superstructure parts are on their own sprues, and feature detail on every face: hatches, handrails, and portholes.

The funnels are single pieces hollowed out at the top with a separate cap for the fore funnel.

The 20mm platforms and tubs installed for the raid feature ready-use ammo lockers. The outboard steel plating to be fitted to the main deck has detailed rivets on one side and moulded in supports on the other.



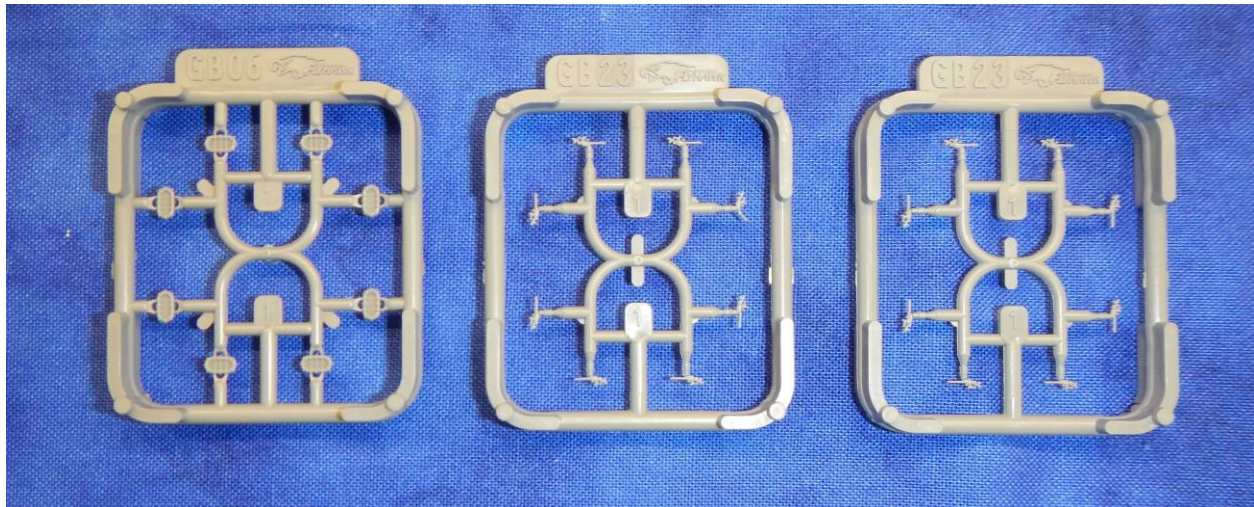
----- Superstructure pieces, funnels, and 12 pdr gun -----

Weapons:

Campbeltown's armament for the raid consisted of a single 12 pdr on the forecastle, 8-20mm guns, and 3-0.5" single guns. The single 12 pdr gun has a separate photo-etch shield and the 20mm guns have handles and sights moulded in. There are no 0.5" guns included in the kit.

Fittings:

There are many smaller fittings, every piece of which is incredibly detailed. The cowl vents are hollowed out, the life rafts are detailed both top and bottom, and the extra armour and splinter mattresses fitted to the bridge are included as separate pieces.



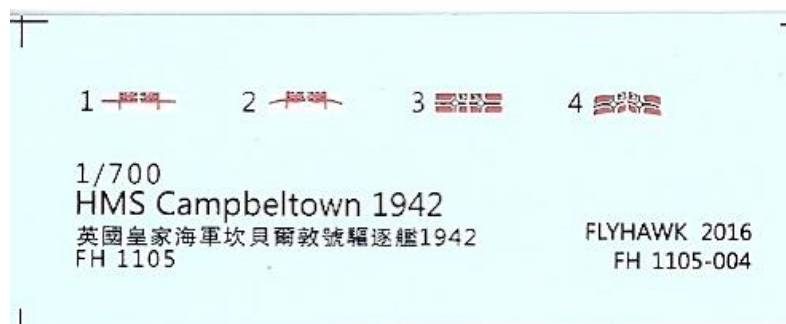
----- Life rafts and 20mm guns -----

Masts:

The single mast is supplied on the main fittings sprue and is remarkably thin, suitable for use as is without resorting to a thinner replacement from rod.

Decals:

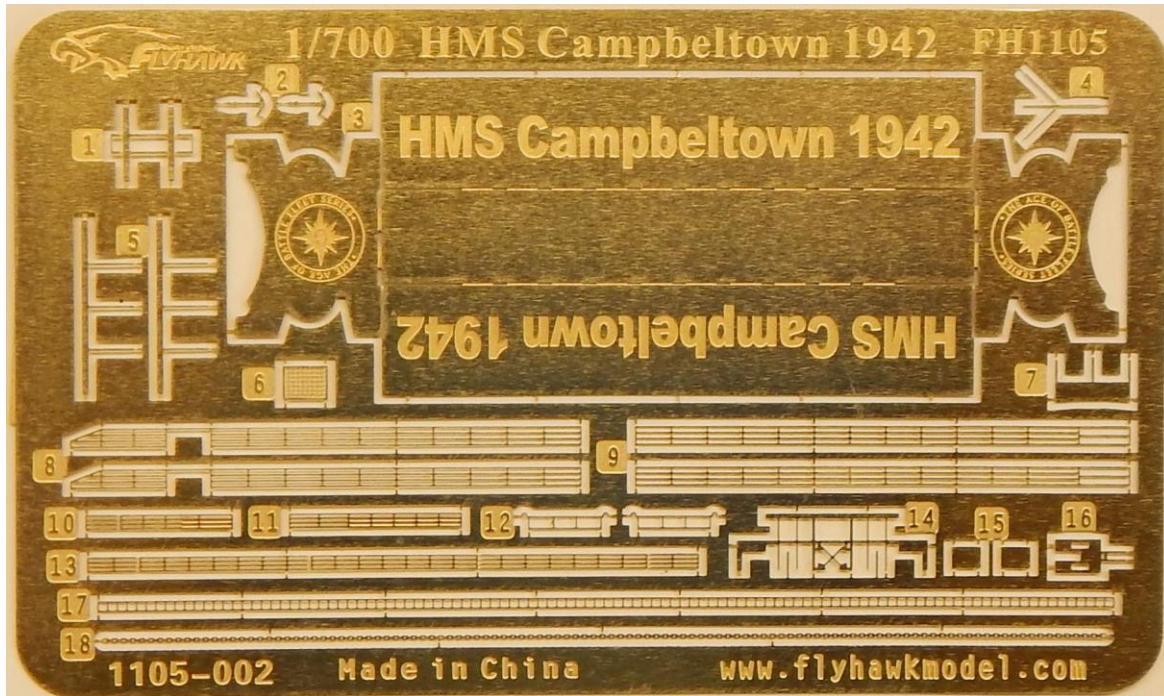
The decals consist of two White Ensigns and two German naval flags, allowing the modeller to choose which moment to portray as the raid progressed.



----- Decals -----

Photo-Etch:

A very comprehensive photo-etch sheet is included with all the railings and ladders needed for the kit. It also contains extra pieces for the bridge, anchors, anchor chain, a shield for the 12 pdr gun, supports for the amidships and stern life rafts, and a display stand for the full hull model. The railings are supplied pre-cut to the correct lengths with very clear instructions on where each piece is to be placed.



----- Photo-etch sheet -----

Instructions:

The instructions come on two large, double-sided full-colour pages. They are very clear and comprehensive and feature a drawing showing all the included sprues and parts. Flyhawk uses colour coding to assist with the placement of the photo-etch parts; this eliminates a lot of guess work.



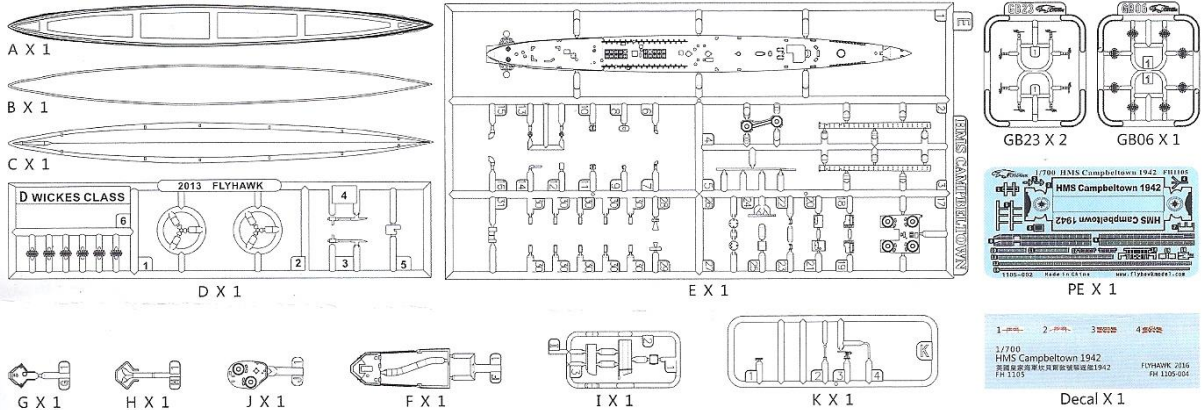
FH 1105
1/700 SCALE

HMS Campbelltown 1942

英國皇家海軍坎貝爾敦號驅逐艦1942
UNASSEMBLED MODEL KIT



The cover painting: Pet 21n 裝載の岡ノ根倉 舳艫：藤嶋



READ BEFORE ASSEMBLING

組み立て前に必ずお読みください 組裝前必讀

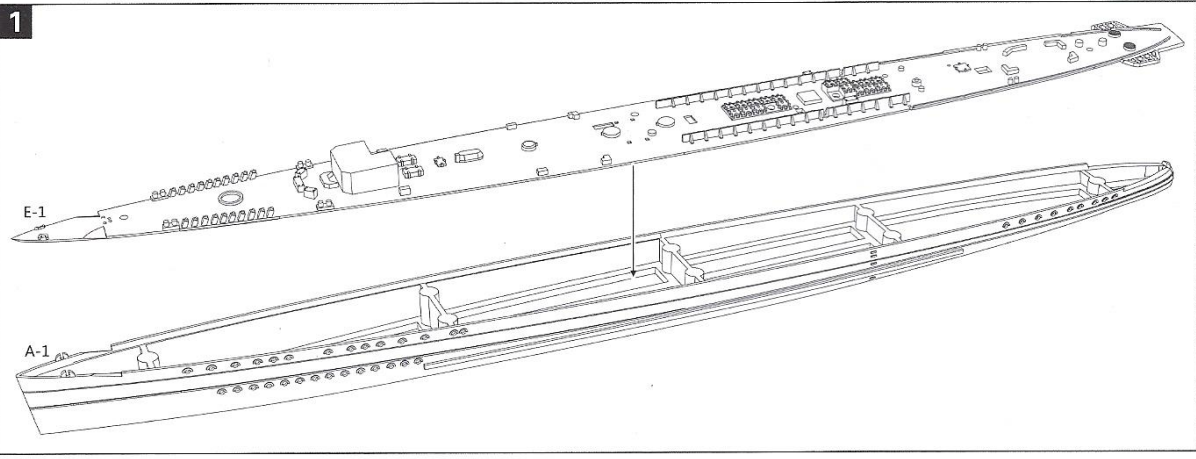
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please check out the instruction before assembling. ● Glue and paint are not included. ● Glue, paint and other tools are not allowed to be reached by children. ● Please take care while using tools, glue and paint should be kept away from fire and be sure not working with models in confined chamber. ● The suite may contain metal parts, please be careful while working. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 組み立て前説読書をよくお読みください。 ● 本キットは接着剤とペンキを含みません。 ● 接着剤とペンキと道具などを子供に接触しないでください。 ● 工具を使用する時安全に注意し、接着剤とペンキは火種に近づかないでください。また、密封の場所で模型を制作しないでください。 ● 本キットは金属パーツがある可能ですから、制作する時気を付けてください。 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 組裝前請仔細讀說明書。 ● 本套件不含膠水和油漆。 ● 膠水、油漆、工具等不可讓小孩接觸。 ● 使用工具時請注意安全，膠水和油漆請勿靠近接觸火種，請勿在密封的地方制作模型。 ● 套件中可能帶有金屬零件，請小心制作。 |
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ICON INSTRUCTION

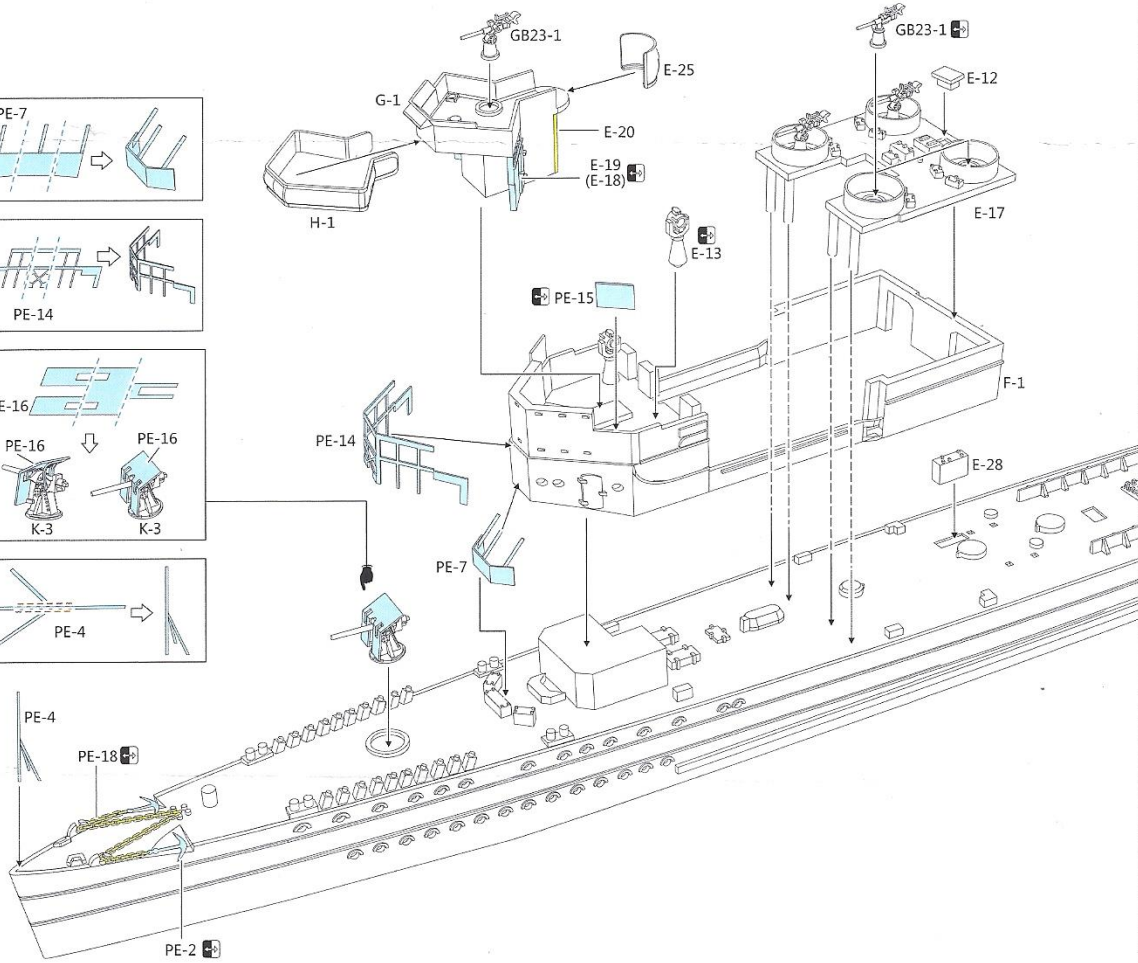
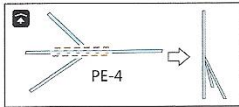
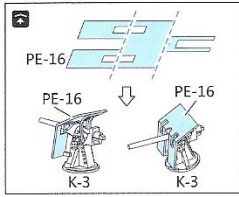
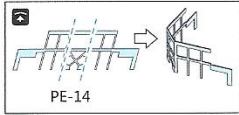
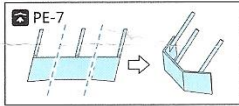
圖例

APPLY DECAL 貼上貼紙 NEB AUFBRINGEN APPLIQUEZ DECALCOMAIE APPLIQUEZ DECALCOMAIE 貼紙を貼ってください	REMOVE 取り除く ENTFERNEN RETRIER RETRIER 取り除いてください	OPTIONAL オプション NACH BELIEBEN FACULTATIF FACULTATIF オプションを選択してください	MAKE 2x2 2x2を2つ作る 2 TIELE FERTIGEN EFFETUER 2 PIÈCES FAIRE 2x2 PIÈCES 2を2つ作ってください	OPEN HOLE 穴を開ける OUFEN FAIRE UN TROU FORO FORO 穴を開けてください	FILL HOLE 穴を埋める SCHLIESSEN BOUCHER LE TROU FORO FORO 穴を埋めてください	INSTANT GLUE FOR METAL 金属用瞬間接着剤 COLLA A METAL INSTANTANEA COLLA INSTANTANEA PER METALLO 瞬間接着剤 (金属用)
BE CAREFUL 注意 NEB VORSICHT FAIRE ATTENTION USARE ATTENCIONE 注意してください	BEND 曲げる BIEGEN PLIER PLIER 曲げてください	CURVE 曲げる BIEGEN PLIER PLIER 曲げてください	DO NOT COINENT 不要結合 NICHT KLEBEN NE PAS COLLER NON INCLINARE 接合しないでください	BENT UPWARD 向上折る NACH OBEN BEUGEN AGGLUTNER VERS LE HAUT COLAR 上方に折る/折ってください	BEND DOWN 向下折る BOUKE AGGLUTNER VERS LE BAS NACH UNTER BEUGEN 下方に折る/折ってください	THE SAME MANUFACTURING ON THE OTHER SIDE 反対側同様に制作 DAS GLEICHE HERSTELLUNGSVERFAHREN AUF DER ANDEREN SEITE LA FABRICATION MÊME DE L'AUTRE CÔTÉ LA FABRICATION DEL MISMO EN EL OTRO LADO もう一方の側に同じ制作

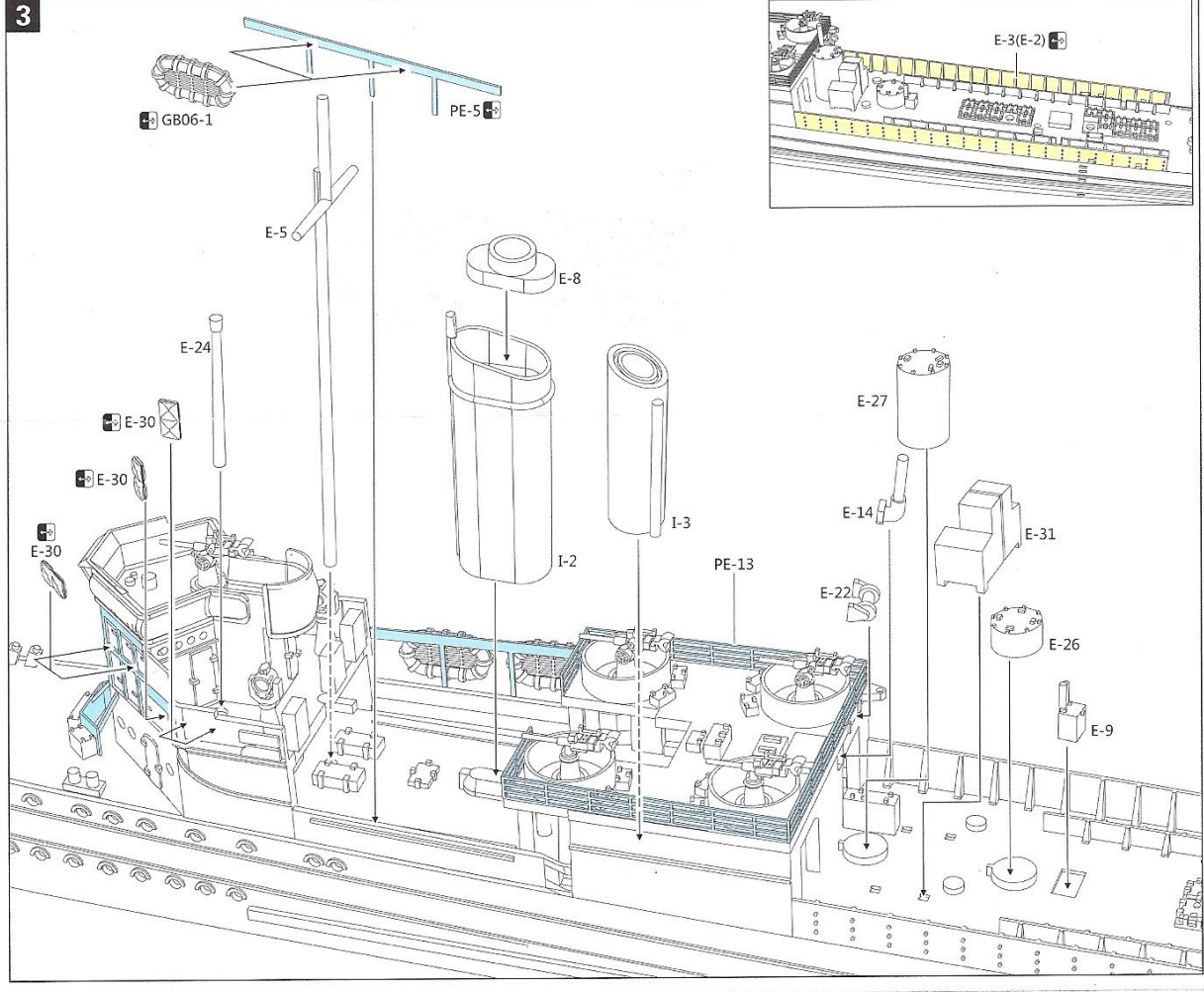
Dealing with PE requires more patience and technology, please according to your own conditions to decide whether to use it or not, however, models after being upgraded must be more excellent!
フォトエッチングを処理するには、多くのパセーションと技術が必要です。ご自身の状況によって、使用するかしないか、自分で決めてください。でも、改造した後の模型はきつともっと素晴らしいになりますよ！
處理蝕刻片需要您更多的耐心和技术，請根據自身情况決定是否使用，但經過改造後的模型一定會更加精彩！



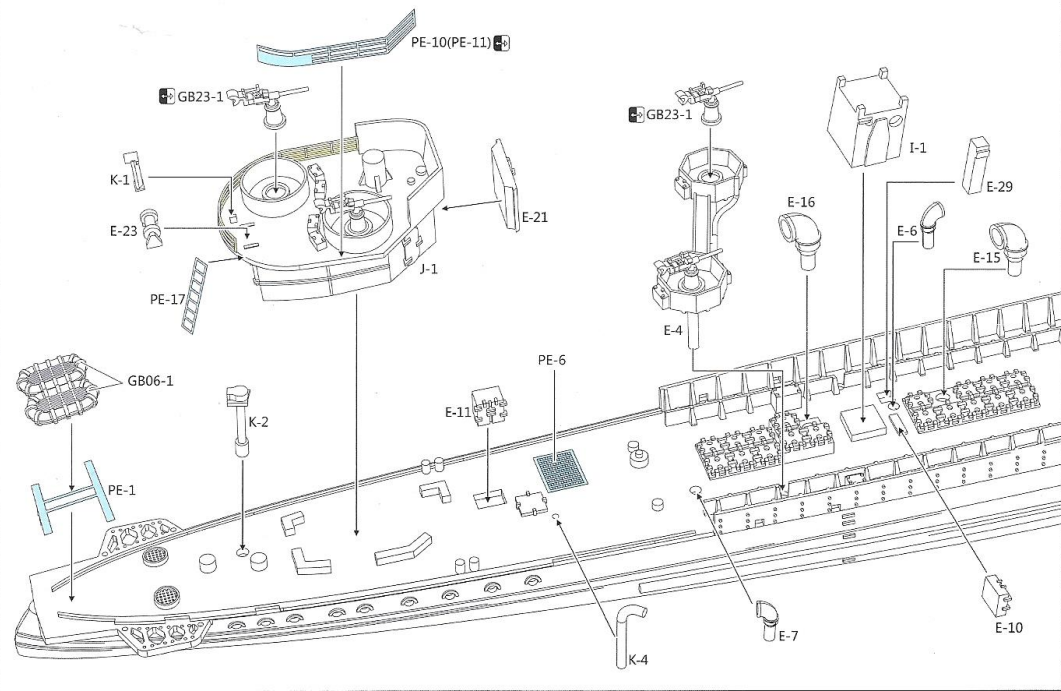
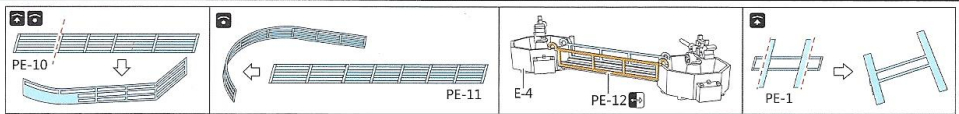
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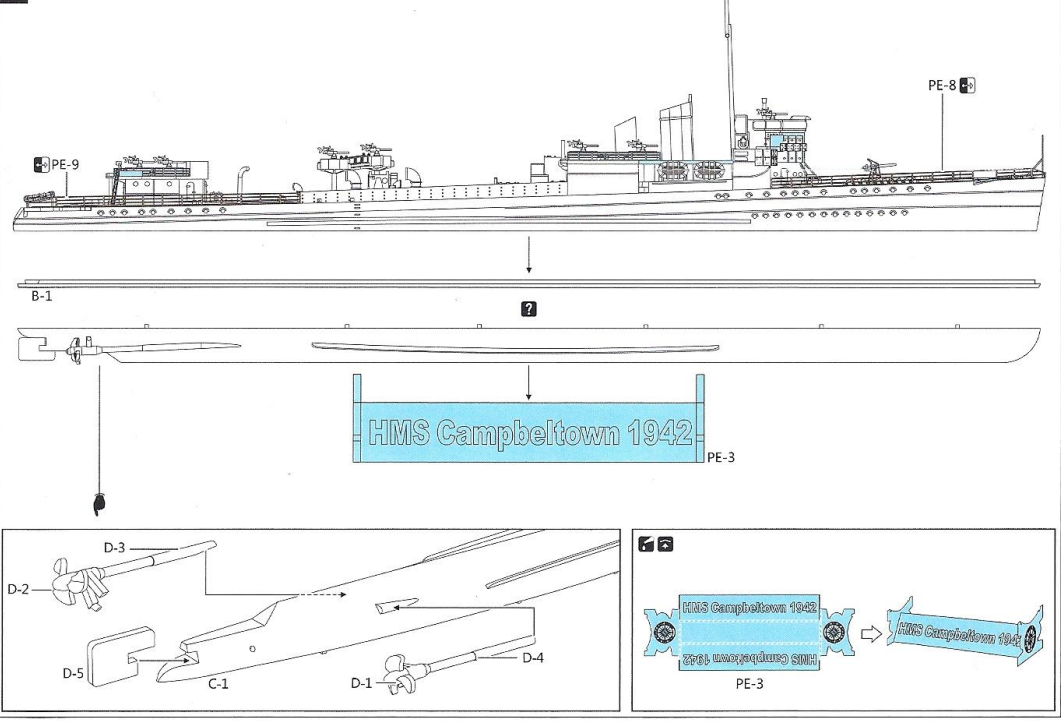
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4



5



----- Instructions -----

Colour scheme:

There is a full colour diagram of the camouflage scheme of overall Mountbatten Pink carried by *Campbeltown* during the St. Nazaire raid with references to the Mr. Hobby, Tamiya, and Colourcoats paint ranges.

PAINTING & MARKING GUIDE

Decal Application:

1. Cut the pictures from sheet as needed.
2. Dip the pictures in warm water for about 10 seconds.
3. Hold the picture backing sheet edge and gently slide the picture onto the model.
4. Please move the picture to the proper position on model.
5. Please gently press picture down with a soft cloth until excess water's out and no air bubbles.

塗装とラベリングの指示

デカルの使用方法

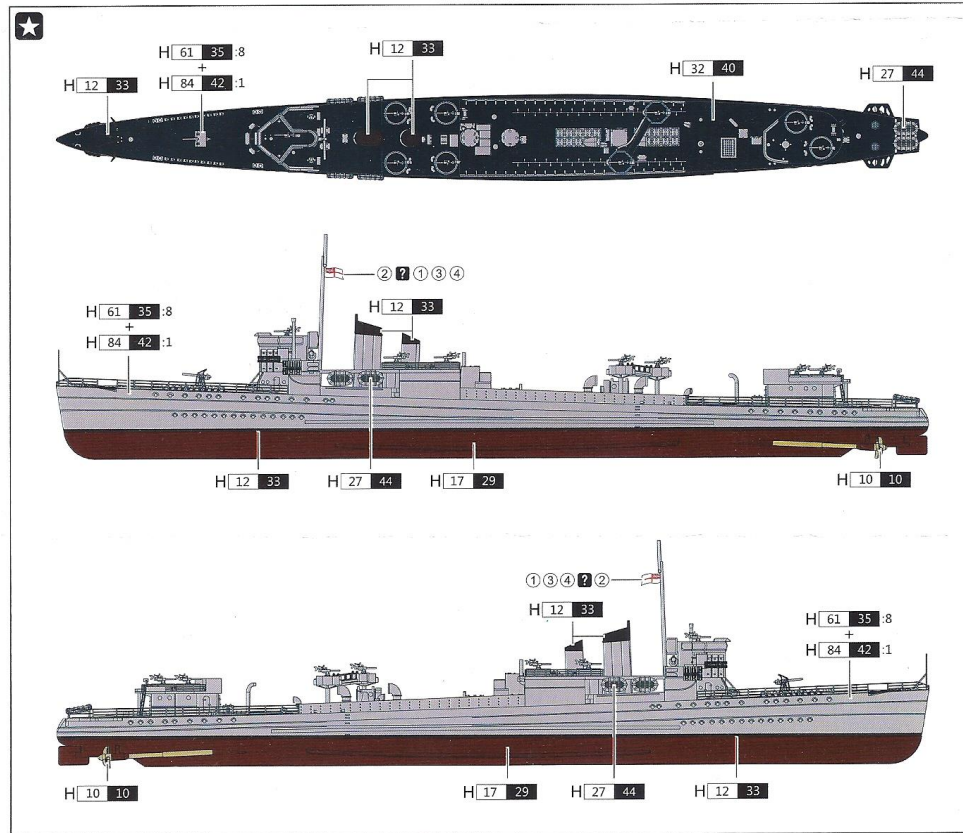
1. デカルから図案を切り取ります。
2. 図案を温かい水の中で10秒浸します。
3. 図案のボール紙を使って、図案を模型に移動します。
4. 図案を適当な位置に移動してください。
5. 柔らかい布で水が乾燥するまで図案を押さえて、気泡を消します。

塗装與標貼指示

水貼紙的使用:

1. 從水貼紙上剪下圖案;
2. 將圖案放入溫水中浸泡10秒;
3. 拿著圖案紙板將圖案移到模型上;
4. 將圖案移到適當的位置;
5. 用軟布輕壓圖案直至水幹,消除掉氣泡。

	Color	色	顏色	Mr.Hobby	Tamiya	WEM Colourcoats
	Mountbatten Pink	マウントバッテンピンク	蒙巴頓粉色	H 61 35 :8 + H 84 42 :1	XF-12:8 + XF-9:1	RN18
	Hull Red	ハルレッド	艦底紅	H 17 29	XF-9	RN19
	Copper	カッパー	銅	H 10 10	XF-6	---
	Wooden Tan	ウッドントン	木甲板色	H 27 44	XF-78	C01
	Flat black	フラットブラック	消光黒	H 12 33	XF-1	C02
	Deck Gray	甲板グレー	甲板灰	H 32 40	XF-63	---



<p>Dear Customer Thank you very much for choosing Flyhawk Model. If you have any question or need help, please contact the purchase location or our official customer service, we will serve you as soon as possible. Customer service number: +86 023 8816 4381 Service time: Monday to Friday, 10:00AM - 16:00PM E-mail address: flyhawkmodelcx@vip.163.com</p>	<p>この度は、弊社製品をご購入いただき誠にありがとうございます。ご要望やご質問などございましたら、購入先または下記のお問い合わせメールアドレスまでご連絡をお願いいたします。 コールセンター +86 023 8816 4381 受付時間: 月~金 / 10:00~16:00 お問い合わせメールアドレス: flyhawkmodelcx@vip.163.com</p>	<p>尊敬的顧客，感謝您購買真標模型，如果您有任何疑問或需要幫助，請您聯繫購買處或聯繫我們官方客服，我們會竭誠為您提供服務。 客服電話: +86 023 8816 4381 營業時間: 周一至周五 10:00AM - 16:00PM 郵箱: flyhawkmodelcx@vip.163.com</p>
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----- Colour scheme -----

Overall Impression:

This is a great little kit. The parts are extremely detailed and while some of them are small, most modellers will have no trouble with assembly. The kit will still build into a very highly detailed model if you chose to leave off some of the smaller parts.

There is absolutely no flash on any of the pieces and none of those lines that result when two mould halves are used to make a single component. The plastic that Flyhawk uses is quite durable; it stands up to very rough handling without any breakage.

The etch set is very comprehensive - I like the pre-cut railings as it makes installation just that much easier.

The completed model is just over 5" long and will be quite a detailed replica when finished. For those interested in absolute accuracy, photos indicate that *Campbeltown* carried a single 0.5" gun mounted just ahead of the searchlight on both sides of the bridge. The mount on top of the bridge was also a 0.5" and not a 20mm. These could be modified from the extra 20mm guns provided in the kit.

The only thing that could improve this kit would be the provision of anchor chain instead of the photo-etch chain that is provided.

This is a highly recommended kit – it will make a unique addition to any collection. Modellers will no longer need to convert other kits to *Campbeltown's* final configuration - this kit provides a near-perfect replica right out of the box.

References:

- *The Destroyer Campbeltown - Anatomy of the Ship* by Al Ross. Conway Maritime Press 1990
- *Destroyers For Great Britain* by Arnold Hague. Greenhill Books 1988
- *HMS Campbeltown (USS Buchanan) - Profile Warship 5* by John Wingate. Profile Publications 1971
- *Raid on St. Nazaire - Ballantine Battle Book No. 14* by David Mason. Ballantine Books 1970

Review kit courtesy of Flyhawk Models