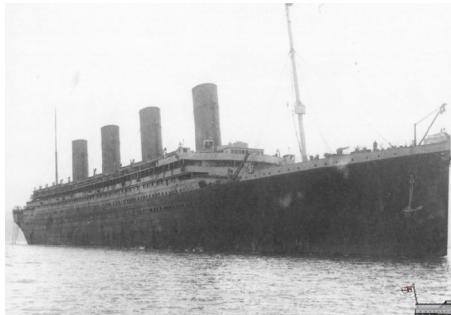


Short history of the White Star Liner H.M.T. Olympic

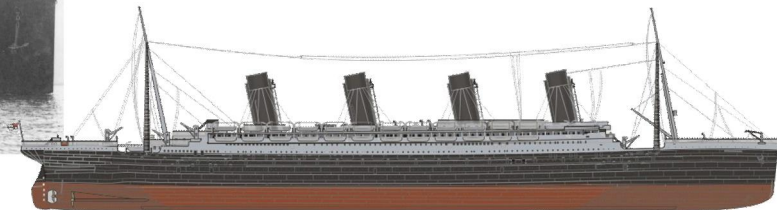


The R.M.S. Olympic, Titanic's older sister, was built in 1911 and joined in on the transatlantic passenger service, looking *almost* identical to her more famous sister, Titanic. But during the First World War the Olympic returned to Belfast to be stripped of her luxurious fittings to join her younger sister, the Britannic in war service. Britannic served as a hospital ship, carrying the wounded home.



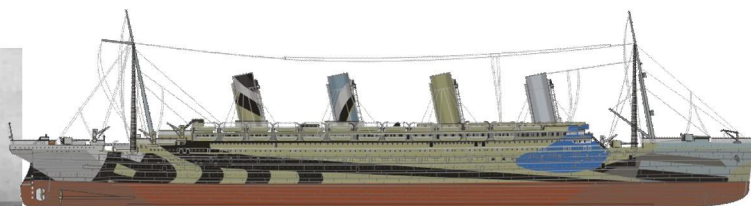
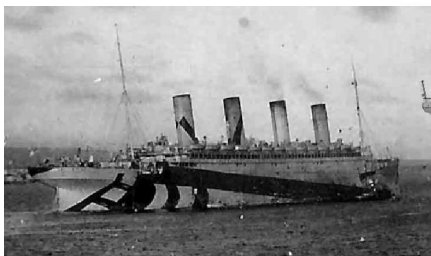
Olympic in her early war dress during 1915

The Olympic was used as His Majesty's Troopship carrying soldiers to the front. In the early war years she transported troops in her White Star livery, but shortly after she was painted in her first war dress, simply painted black and grey.

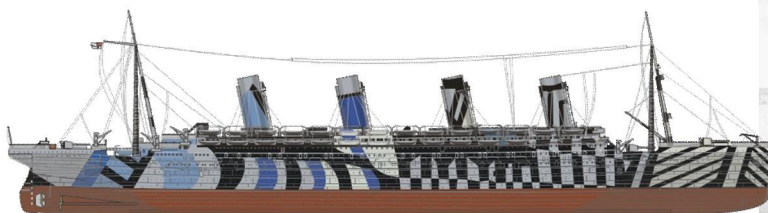


Just a couple of years later the dazzle schemes were introduced. It consisted of a complex pattern of geometric shapes in contrasting colors, interrupting and intersecting each other. Dazzle was not intended to camouflage or conceal the ship but it made it difficult for the enemy to estimate its type, size, speed and heading. The idea was to disrupt the visual rangefinders used for naval artillery. Its purpose was confusion rather than concealment. The dazzle pattern usually included a false bow wave to make estimation of the ship's speed difficult.

These dazzle schemes is what the H.M.T. Olympic is known best for. During the war the Olympic was painted in two different dazzle schemes.



Olympic's first dazzle scheme, in use during 1917 & 1918



Olympic's second dazzle scheme, in use since mid 1918



In 1917 the Olympic returned to Belfast to be fitted with anti submarine guns. She sank one submarine during her service. After the war the Olympic returned to the passenger service, but after the merging of the White Star & Cunard Lines the Olympic, or "Old reliable" was eventually sold and scrapped.

War dress and Dazzle scheme drawings, Jerry N. J. Vondeling© 2010

Building the model of the H.M.T. Olympic



After building Ralph Currell's 1:1200 scale Titanic model I had redesigned the Titanic paper model to depict her sister the H.M.H.S. Britannic in December 2009. After finishing both models of HMT Olympic in their dazzle paints I got a request this year (2012) for a model of Olympic in her first war dress. So I started changing my, updated, model of RMS Olympic into HMT Olympic during her first war years.

For this model it is not necessary to have the original Titanic parts as you did with my Britannic conversion set. You *do* need the original instructions. They can be found here: http://www.currell.net/models/mod_free.htm Start building the model according to the original manual, but using the parts from this set.

Go through steps 1 – 29 without any changes.

At step 30 add a second crow's nest above the original crow's nest, you can use the drawing on the parts sheet as a reference.

Note; the masts should be painted in a grey tone.

At step 32; since the sinking of the Titanic the Olympic was fitted with more lifeboats. So I had added more lifeboats into the set as well. You can stack the lifeboats on the boat deck as it is done on the scheme as seen below. *I had used only one lifeboat on each place while building my prototype, but you may wish to place a collapsible lifeboat stacked under each lifeboat, this is recommended for upscale models.*

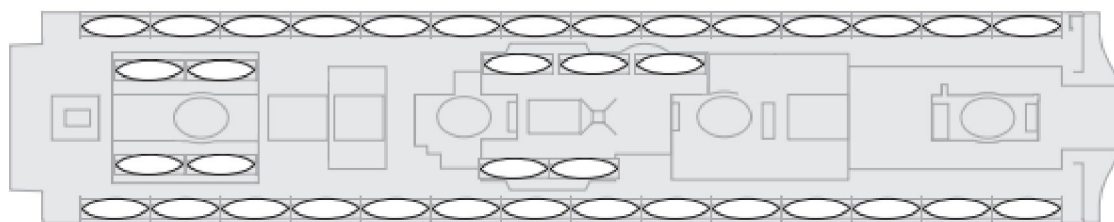


Fig. 1, placing the lifeboats on the boat deck

Next to the boats on the boat deck there were also 4 boats stacked on the poop deck and two more, on top of each other on the aft deck. (see fig. 4)

After you have placed the lifeboats you are finished with the original building manual, now you can go to step 33 following this manual;

33 cut out the gun parts B 83 and 88 a or b, fold the barrel parts to double thickness and cut out the barrels, build the gun housing and glue the barrel on the grey area in front.

Place the smaller gun on a platform over the forward cargo hatch (part 2) and put the larger model of the (4.7 inch) gun on the aft deck, at the stern behind the docking bridge as shown on the scheme below.

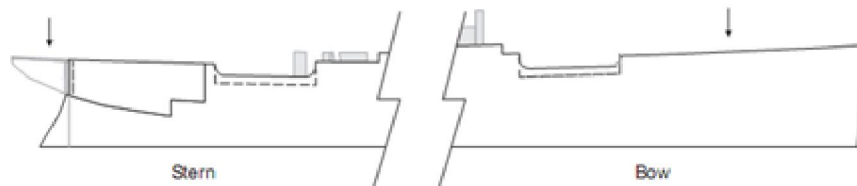
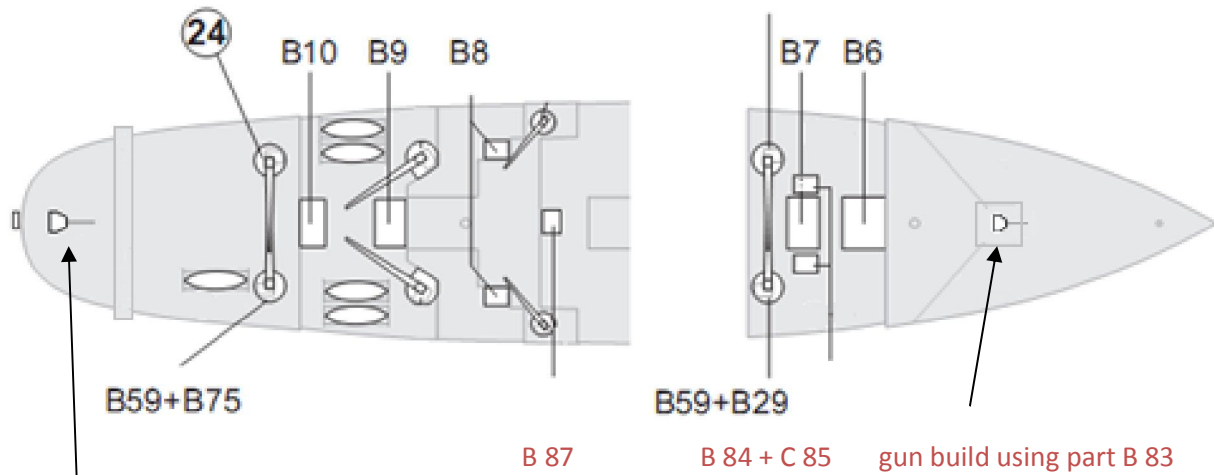


fig.3 placing the guns

34; cut out the part holding parts B 84, 85, 86 and 87. Fold to triple thickness or glue on heavy card, making them thicker than parts B 6 – 10. Cut out parts B 84 – 87 and glue them on the decks as shown on fig. 4 below.



Gun build using parts B 88 (a or b)

fig. 4, the placing of the guns, additional lifeboats and deck housing

You might wish to add some more details for this you can use the parts 86, the Z67 sign should be put on the starboard bow railing, this sign was a temporary sign used at Mudros, the other sign shows her registration number 2210 which can be put beneath the bridge area. You might even like to add some rigging

Enjoy building your model and show us your results!

Jerry N.J. Vondeling May 2012

Optional name plaques for the Olympic model.

