

HMS REPULSE - 1936

A SIMPLE 1-600 SCALE CONVERSION

BY M. W. WILLIAMS.



immaculate peace time finish, to allow those interested in the career and appearance of this great ship, the opportunity to construct an example of her at the conclusion of her major mid-thirties refit in May 1936.

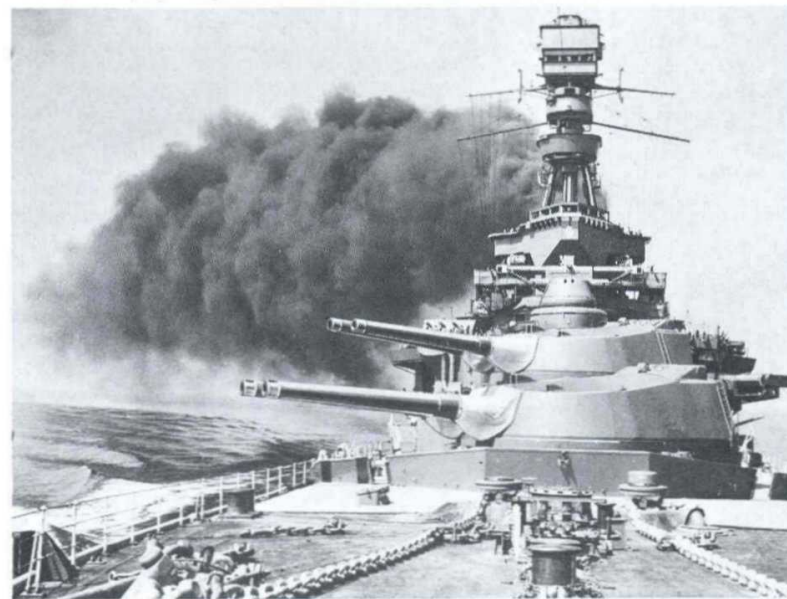
As can be immediately appreciated by those readers who already know something of her long and eventful career, she never altered her basic outline or specifications during the years 1936-41, so this article deals with a collection of minor alterations and scratch building items, added to the original kit to finally create a *Repulse* which although closely resembling the 'straight from the box' model, will however clearly

Left: HMS *Repulse* about 1930 entering Portsmouth Harbour. Note the small flying-off platform on X turret. Below: 1940 view shows modernisation.

Introduction

With the recent release of HMS *Repulse* by Airfix in their 1:600 scale range, an obvious gap in every naval modeller's capital ship collection has been very satisfactorily filled, and a new base for conversions created. This well detailed and accurate model of the *Repulse*, is surprisingly the first ever representation of this famous ship to appear in kit form. Up until now anyone wanting to obtain an example of the *Repulse* had only the daunting prospect of a major scratch-building project to undertake, but Airfix have now solved this dilemma with their impressive release.

The Airfix kit represents her in her final December 1941 layout and camouflage appearance, producing a very striking completed model. This small article will now try to complement this rugged wartime look with a simple representation of her

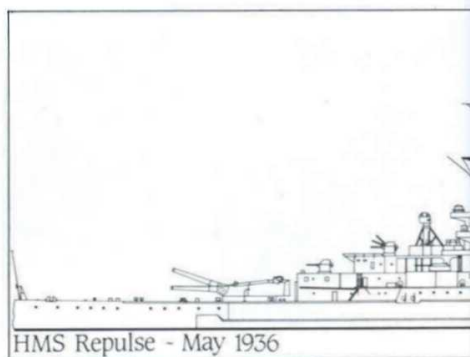


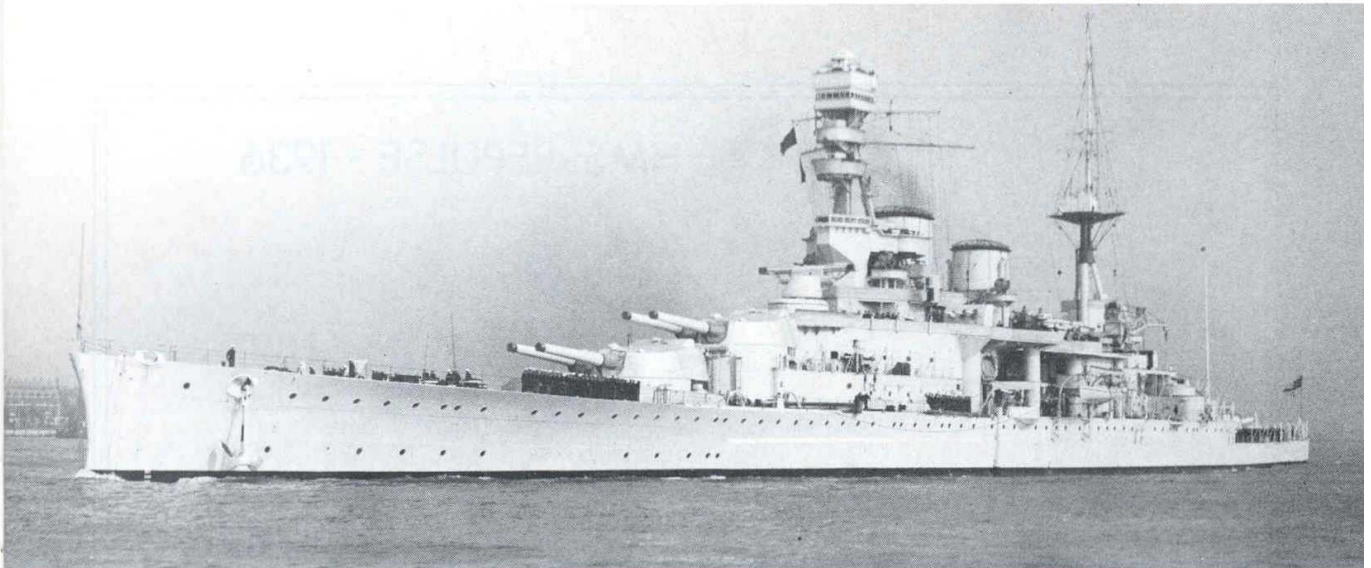
Left: 1932 study of the ship steaming at full speed, seen from the bow.

show her at a very different period with a lot of new interesting changes and features, to her very pleasing and distinctive outline.

Conversion

As with my earlier series on the Airfix HMS





Dating from 1939 this shot shows *Repulse* as refitted with electric cranes, AA directors and an early radar aerial on top of the main mast.

Hood, this project will mainly rely on my scale artwork to clearly illustrate the full extent of the work involved, with my short text only as a support to describe the relevant stage by stage approach. These stages are the same as those employed by Airfix in their instruction sheet, so there should be no difficulty in following the alterations and changes required, finally I would like to point out that only stages actually involved in this conversion will be listed.

Stage 1: Provide the four 15in guns here with blast bags at their bases, remove the two 20mm gun tubs on the forward superstructure.

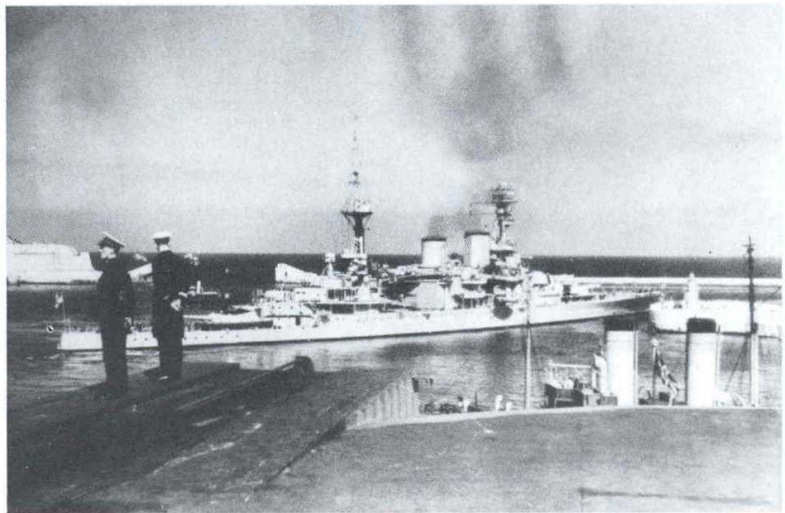
Stage 2: Again provide the two 15in guns with blast bags, omit the two 20mm pieces and remove their moulded on bases from the roof of Y gunhouse part 13.

Stage 3: Remove the gash shutters on the hull and provide two new ones just forward of the single 4in position.

Stage 4: Carefully remove the four 20mm gun tubs from the aft forecastle deck (I found this quite a difficult alteration, but with a sharp scalpel and care it can be done). Level off the single 4in position on the shelter deck as shown (for stage 16), also trim away the four life rafts on parts 37 and 38.

Stage 8: Make up only two sets of multiple Pom Poms.

Repulse passing *Ark Royal* when leaving Grand Harbour, Malta in 1939. OOD and RM bugler of *Ark Royal* are standing on the port catapult extension, and forward of the bows may be seen the mast and funnels of a tug.



Stage 10: Alter part 82 as shown, to carry four spare seaplane floats.

Stage 13: Omit all four prominent ventilators parts 110, 111, 112 and 113, and fill in their location positions, and add a new structure with life rafts. Replace the aft

Pom Pom on the flying deck with a completely new scratch built triple 4in mounting, using a kit example as your guide.

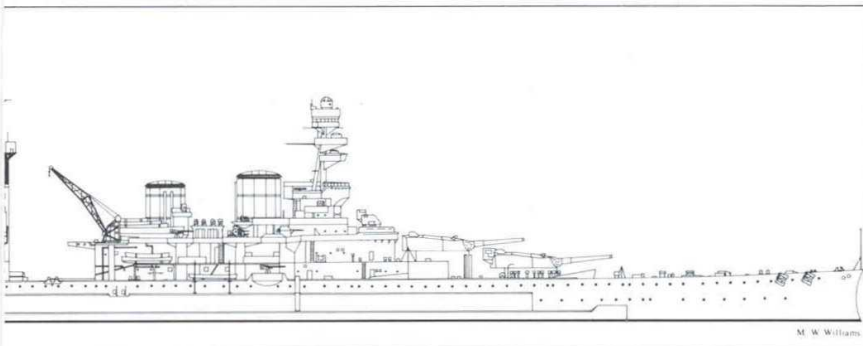
Stage 14: Omit the two quad 0.5in mountings on the 4in director platform, add a gaff to the small platform just below the starfish (after mast part 146 has been fitted).

Stage 15: Replace the kit's Walrus flying boat with a scratch-built representation of a Blackburn Shark floatplane (optional).

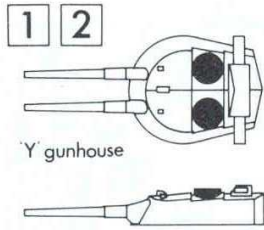
Stage 16: Omit all the 20mm guns, parts 133, 134, 137, 138, 139 and 140. Also the two aft single 4in guns parts 141 and 142, should be replaced by two new, between decks twin 4in installations, on the shelter deck as illustrated. Finally provide four davits amidships for the two 32ft cutters, parts 131 and 132.

Painting

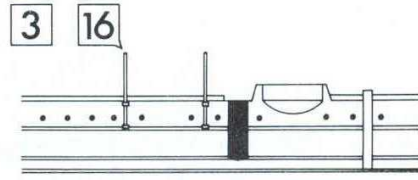
This feature will be markedly different



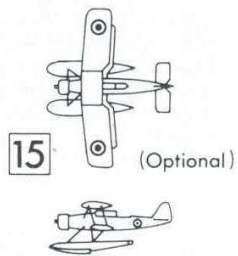
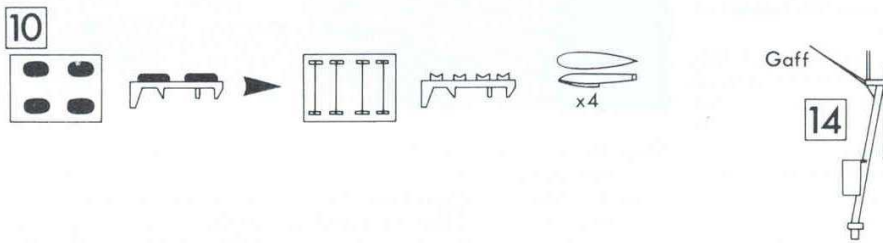
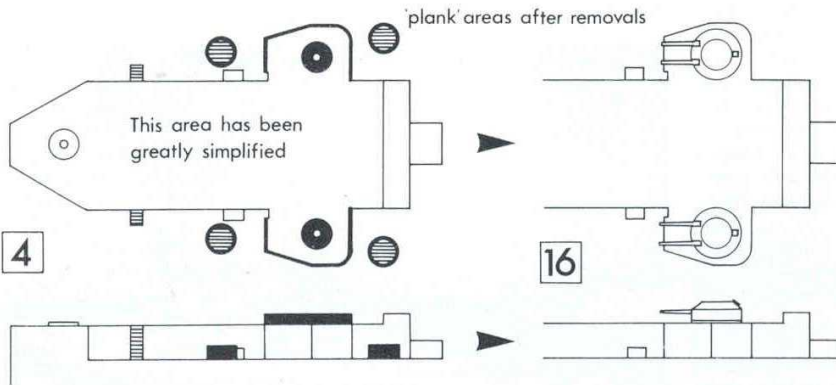
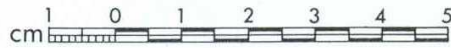
HMS REPULSE ~ 1936



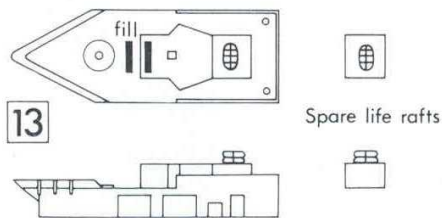
'Y' gunhouse



Remove all solid black sections.
All side views, to starboard.

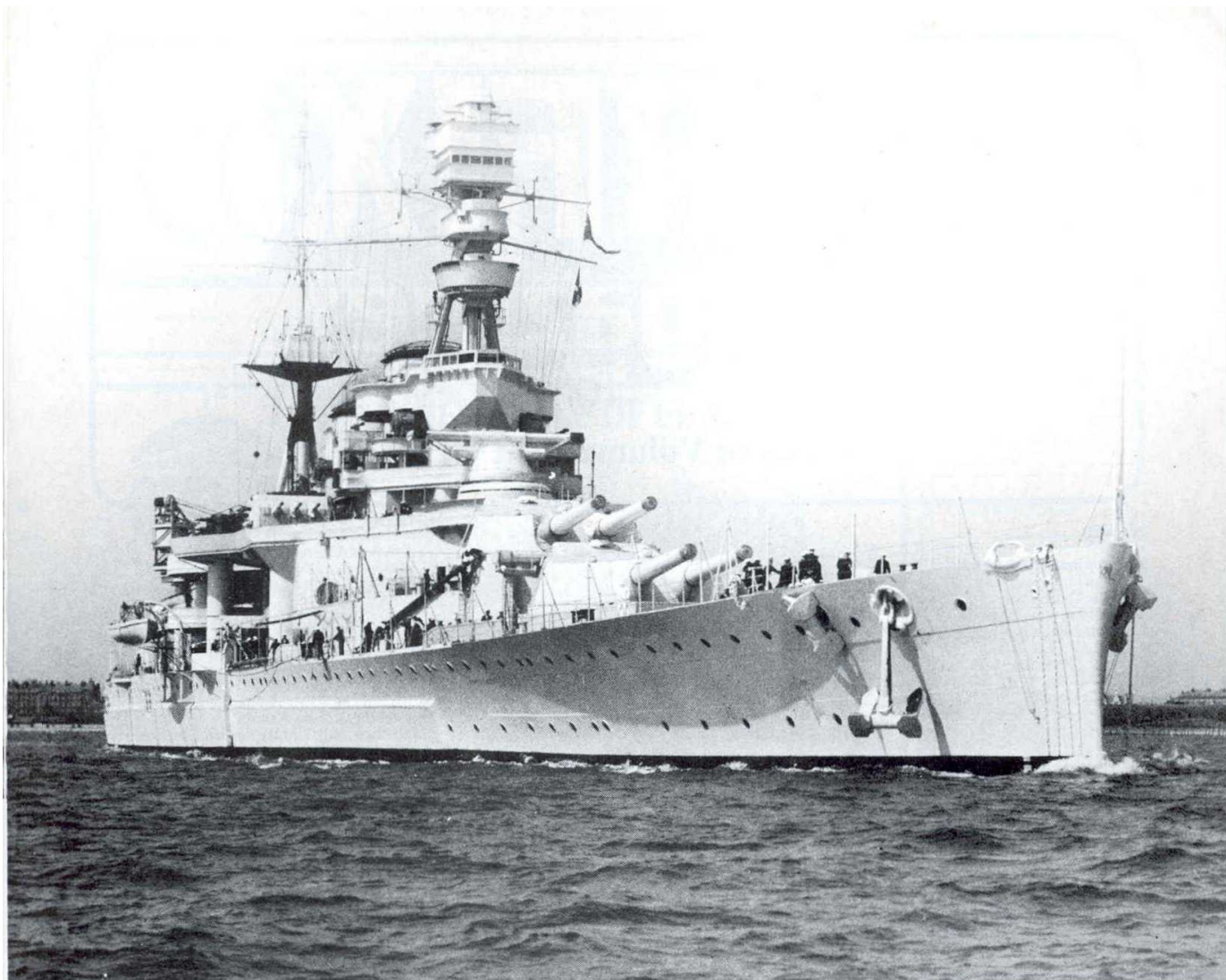


(Optional)



Spare life rafts

M. W. W.



Above: *Repulse* in 1939 or 1940 leaving port. On the foretop is a new secondary director and an early radar aerial is just visible atop the main mast. One of the new light AA mounts can be seen outboard of the triple 6 inch turret and the end of an electric crane can be seen behind it. A 32ft pulling cutter rigged as the seaboat. Right: *Repulse* in dock apparently at the time of her 1936 modernisation.

from the striking two-tone camouflage scheme of the original model, instead your *Repulse* of May 1936 should reflect the immaculate finish of a pre war capital ship, with its carefully applied, overall light grey paint scheme and wide expanse of bleached teak, wooden decking.

From the various photos of her in May 1936, all the ships launches and cutters appear to be light grey, with only the black funnel tops and upper portion of the mainmast and starfish as the only dark areas on her upperworks.

For the lower hull use black for the boot topping with brick red for the submerged portion of the hull. White blast bags. Silver

overall finish for the Blackburn Shark (plus markings) with silver also used to pick out the lenses for the otherwise black searchlights. The representation of some areas of varnished wood on the numerous ships boats, completes this interesting and basically simple project.

Sources

For anyone interested in finding out the full story behind this great ship, may I recommend the following publications, *Ensign 8 — Renown and Repulse* by Maurice P. Northcott, and the comprehensive volume, *British Battleships of World War 2*, by Alan Rowen and John Roberts.

