

# Making HMS Cumberland

## FROM THE AIRFIX 'SUFFOLK' KIT

LAST survivor of the famous 'County' class cruisers, *HMS Cumberland* ended her 30-odd years with the Royal Navy in the prosaic but vital role of trials cruiser for the fleet. As such, she carried out the prototype sea firing trials for the twin 4.5 inch turrets fitted to the 'Darings' and subsequent classes of Royal Navy frigates and destroyers.

This was in the early 'fifties, when her surviving sisters were already scrapped or soon to go to the scrap yards. In the middle 'fifties, *Cumberland* landed the 4.5 inch turret and shipped instead the pilot models of the automatic 6 inch and 3 inch turrets destined for 'Tiger' class cruisers.

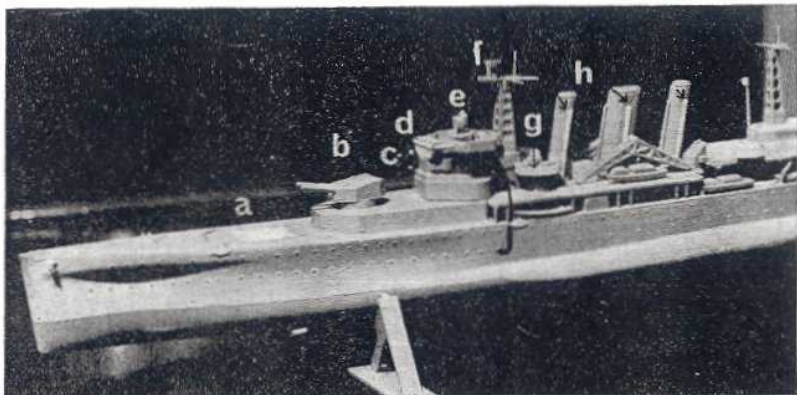
As trials cruiser, *Cumberland* had a particularly handsome and purposeful appearance which can be captured exactly in model form by combining

### Warship modelling by C. O. ELLIS

the basic Airfix *Suffolk* kit with the appropriate armament taken from the *Tiger*, *Daring*, or *Devonshire* kits.

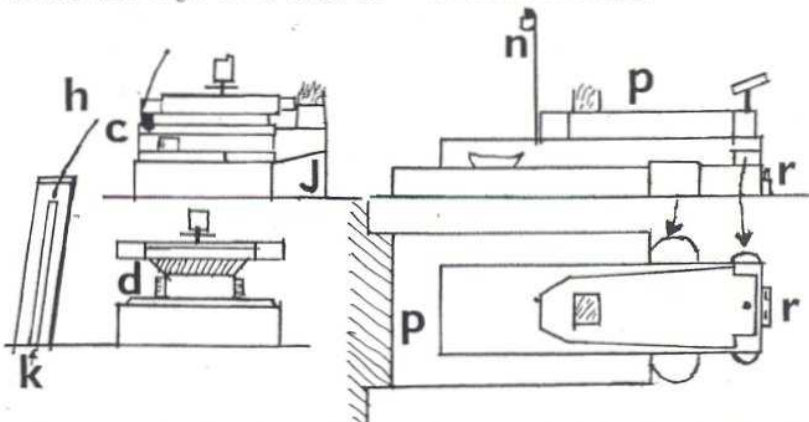
My model features a 6 inch turret from *Tiger* in B position and a 3 inch turret in Y position, thus representing her in the middle period of her career as trials cruiser. If you wanted to make the model up for the early 1950s period, substitute a *Daring* or *Devonshire* main turret in B position and omit the 3 inch turret. Then place a single 40mm Bofors gun in each of the positions which would normally take the twin 4 inch mounting supplied in the kit. Make the Bofors mountings up from the drawing given in our November, 1965, Warship Modelling feature. Finally, place the *Daring* director on the bridge in place of the *Tiger* director fitted in the version illustrated.

If you wish you could also go one stage further and fit the model as she appeared in about 1957-58. In this condition, she had twin 4 inch mountings—as supplied in the kit—in the two forward positions abreast the forward funnel, and twin Bofors



Use these key close-up pictures for *Cumberland* conversion details. Work in alphabetical order from bows to stern. A—Saw and file off forward ('A') barrette. Then cover hole in deck with 12mm square of paper. B—Fit 6 inch turret from *Tiger* kit in 'B' barrette. C—To give *Cumberland* bridge appearance transpose bridge parts 89 and 92, so that 89 is now on top. Omit parts 90 and 91. D—Fit new bridge front from card, and add bulwarks round upper bridge. (Note: some filling is required to make parts 89 and 92 fit snugly.) Remove two protruding rear sponsons from part 89 and fit these 3mm back from front face of part 92. In picture the port sponson can be seen in line with letter 'c'. E—Fit 6 inch director from *Tiger* kit in centre of

upper bridge. F—Build up *Tiger* foremast and cement sideways into position (see J. below); remove all except after yards from the mast platform, using one of these upright as a topmast. Radar aerial also from *Tiger* kit. G—File off fluted edges from pom-pom platforms; then add bulwarks from 3mm deep paper strips. Fit searchlights—pom-poms 85 and 86 with gun barrels removed—in these platforms. H—Cement whip aerials—from fine bristles—to top of each funnel; these go one each side of funnel capping. Whip aerial also goes one each side of upper bridge. J—Take part 90 and file its base to fit sloped top of lower bridge (83). Foremast then fits on top of structure so formed.



Follow these drawings in conjunction with the corresponding letter keys in the pictures. They give the necessary dimensions for all the modifications illustrated. Mast posi-

tions are shaded, also the funnel deck position. In P, the upper deck is taken from the *Tiger* kit, and modified as shown. Note curved wings in after superstructure.

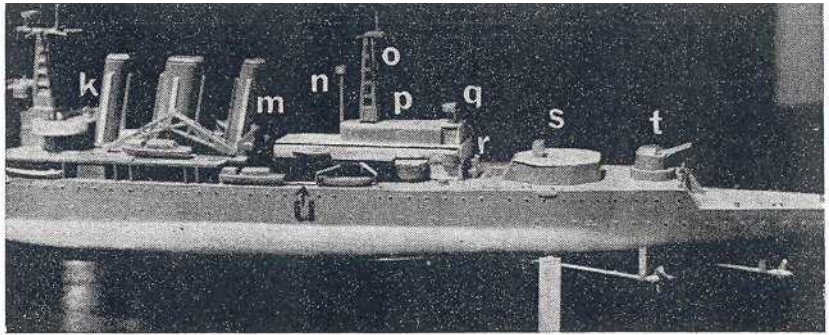
mountings—see the November article—in the after 4 inch positions abreast the after funnel.

The deckhouses, parts 72 and 73, were fitted in the usual positions, but with flat, rather than angled, outer faces. Finally, close-range Mk 63 directors were fitted, one in each lower bridge wing. These can be made from scrap using the director on the after deckhouse in the *Daring* kit as a pattern. This secondary installation was a test arrangement for the close-range AA system fitted in 'Colony' class cruisers as they refitted at this period.

All the remaining constructional details are given in the close-up pictures and drawings on these pages. It only remains to point out that I have omitted the whip aerials from the bridge and funnel tops, as they would not show up against the dark background. I fitted them after the photographs were taken, using the finest strands on a soft broom.

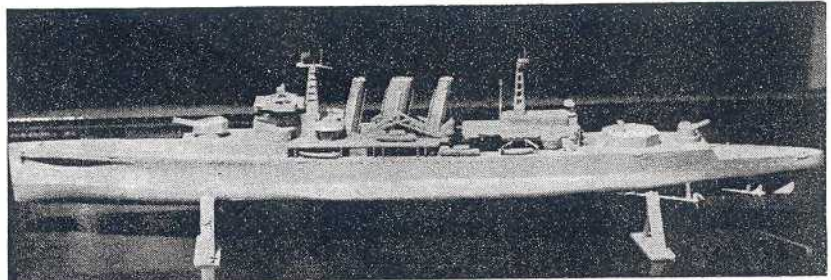
Colour scheme for *Cumberland* would be light grey all over—mixed from 'sky' and Airfix matt grey—with the lattice masts grey up to funnel capping level. Funnel caps and the masts above this level were black, while the topmasts were white. Steel decks were dark green or grey and the motorboats were black with white upperworks. Remaining paint details are as given in the *Suffolk* instruction sheet.

Parts you need from the *Tiger* kit for the *Cumberland* model as illustrated include: 6 inch turret (54), lattice masts (39-49), 3 inch turret (59), director (35), after superstructure top deck modified, and radar aerials (51 and 38). If you have made any of the 'Colony' class cruiser conversions described in *AIRFIX* magazine for October, 1963, these parts will be readily available as spares.



K—Strips of paper, 1mm wide and 23mm long, are cemented to each side of each funnel as 'covers' for aerial wires. M—Plug crane locating holes and site each crane base 2mm further aft. N—Make aircraft homing beacon from pin with paper aerial. Fit on starboard front of upper superstructure. O—Make up mainmast from *Tiger* kit, but omit radar aerial. Cut 2mm from base and cement in position shown. P—Saw or cut off the entire base for the original catapult and hangar structure. Cover the resulting gap with thin card or thick paper—seen at U. Then build up new after structure from balsa wood or styrene card. Q—Radar aerial taken from *Tiger*

kit. R—Engine room ventilators. S—Remove X barrette and cover deck with thick paper. Add deck-house 5mm wide, 3mm deep, 3mm thick, made from scrap plastic. T—3 inch turret from *Tiger* fits in Y barrette. Note boat stowage in this picture. Same both sides but there was a motor boat opposite the small boat abreast the homing beacon. Not shown here, there was also an additional motor boat stowed just ahead of the homing beacon. The seaboats forward, motor cutters in this instance, were slung on girder-type davits under the funnel deck. The davits supplied in the kit for these two boats should therefore be discarded, and the boats can be cemented direct to the deck.



The completed *Cumberland* model ready for painting. Note that the bulwarks abreast the 4 inch gun positions have also been removed. This point was omitted from the constructional photographs to keep them as clear as possible. You can actually

file off these bulwarks before cementing the funnel deck into position. Also not apparent from these pictures is that the aftermost of the two starboard bow anchors is omitted. The hawse pipe is plugged with scrap plastic and filed smooth.

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