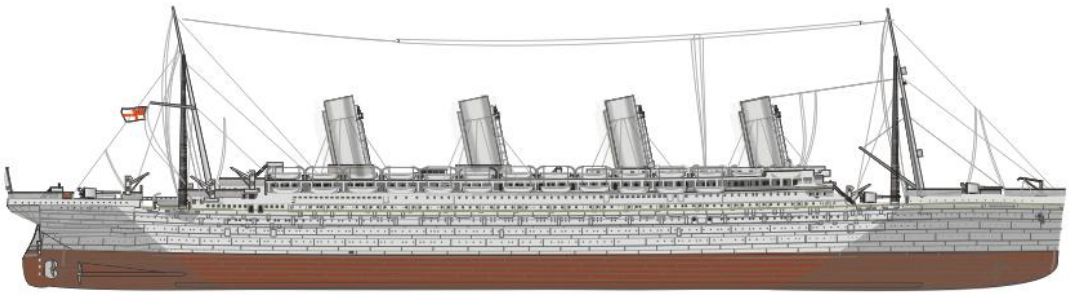
A new model of HMT Olympic

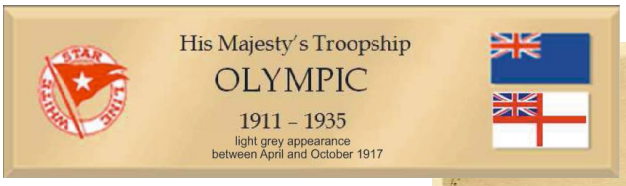
It was late August that I was browsing the internet and came across an image of HMT Olympic that I had never seen before. It was assumed Olympic wore only three warpaints, the first being black and grey, during 1915 and dazzle schemes between 1917 and 1918. But this image, posted up at Deviantart in Juli 2016, that showed Olympic being painted
grey;



With the help of Ralph Currell and Robert Read, it was established that the photograph must have been taken between April and October 1917. After having been fitted with the 6 inch guns and before being painted in dazzle. A rare find.

We decided to add another model to the series by altering the dazzle model of Olympic into her light grey appearance.

The model can be build using the instruction manual of the dazzled models




Olympic in her grey appearance between April and October 1917

So enjoy your build of this free model. Of HMT Olympic.
And show us your results!

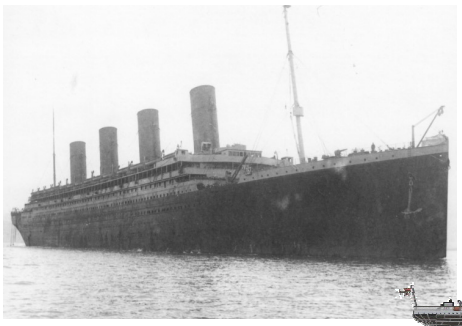
With regards,

Jerry Vondeling

October 11th 2016

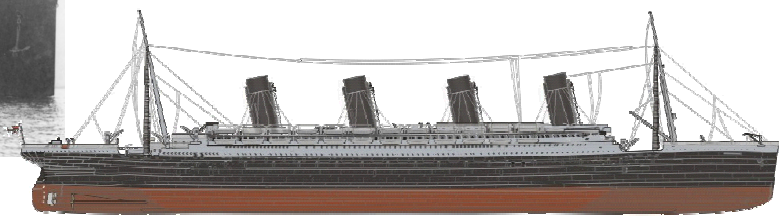
Original image credit:
http://121199.deviantart.com/art/Old-Reliable-in-WWI-622132760

The R.M.S. Olympic, Titanic's older sister, was build 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.



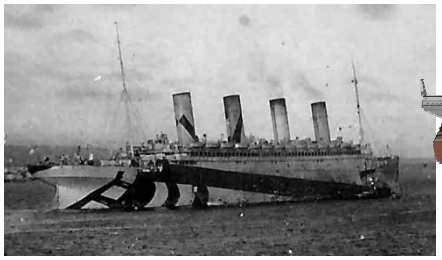
Olympic in her early war dress during 1915

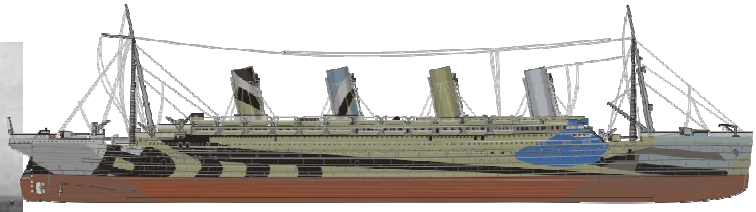
The Olympic was used as His Majesty's Troopship carrying soldiers to the front. In the early war years she transported troops in her White Star livery, but shortly after she was painted in her first war dress, simply painted black and grey.



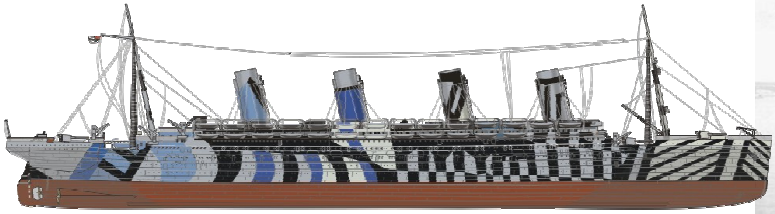
Just a couple of years later the dazzle schemes were introduced. It consisted of a complex pattern of geometric shapes in contrasting colors, interrupting and intersecting each other. Dazzle was not intended to camouflage or conceal the ship but it made it difficult for the enemy to estimate its type, 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.

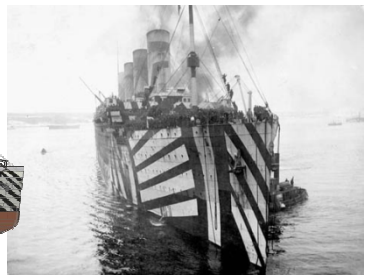
These dazzle schemes is what the H.M.T. Olympic is known best for. During the war the Olympic was painted in two different dazzle schemes.





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



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. This year 2010 I had finished redesigning the Titanic into her older sister, the Olympic. Because she looked just like Titanic in her White Star livery, I decided to design the paper model to depict her in her dazzle paint schemes. Since she was painted in two different schemes during the war, I had designed two models. Both models can be build using this manual.

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 trough 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 and dazzle needs to be added to the foremast.
Add a small gaff to the main mast of the Olympic if you are building the mid 1918 model.
a gaff was added to the main mast during the later war years, this was probably used for signaling flags.

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.*

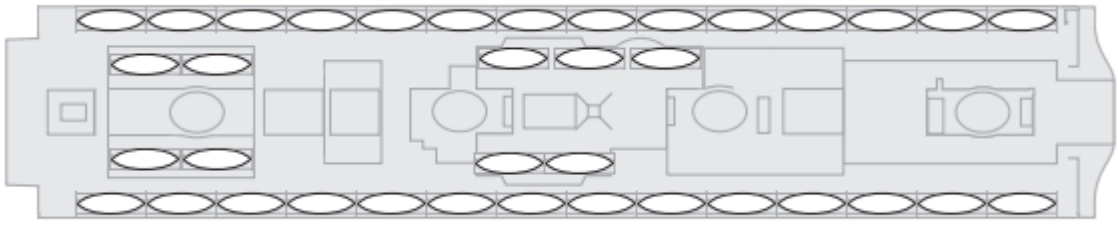


Fig. 1, placing the lifeboats on the boat deck

Note; Try to match the color of the lifeboat with the color on the hull beneath it, as they were painted in the several colors so they would not disrupt the dazzle scheme.

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, next the portside gun. (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 C 82 and 83, fold part C 83 to double thickness and cut out the barrels, build the gun housing and glue the barrel on the grey area in front.



fig2; this is what the gun should look like when it is build.

Note; when all guns are build, try to match its color with the color on the hull when placing them on your model.

Optional; for upscale models you can use the guns which are in the green area, they are more detailed, you can follow the drawing on the parts sheet as a "building manual"

Place two guns on the aft deck, one on the port and one on the starboard side of the ship. Also place two pairs at the bow as shown on the scheme below.

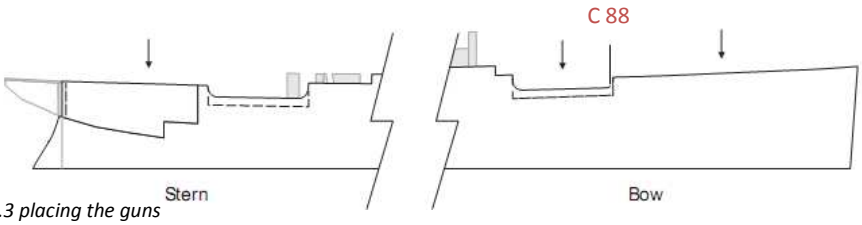


fig.3 placing the guns

Optional; for upscale models, cut out part C 88, fold and glue to double thickness and cut out. Place part 88 at the center of the forward well deck, behind the mast, where the line is on the scheme above. (also see fig. 4)

34; cut out the part holding parts C 84, 85, 86 and 87. Fold to triple thickness or glue on heavy card, making them thicker then parts B 6 – 10. Cut out parts C 84 – 87 and glue them on the decks as shown on fig. 4 below. (Glue part C86 to the stern of the ship)

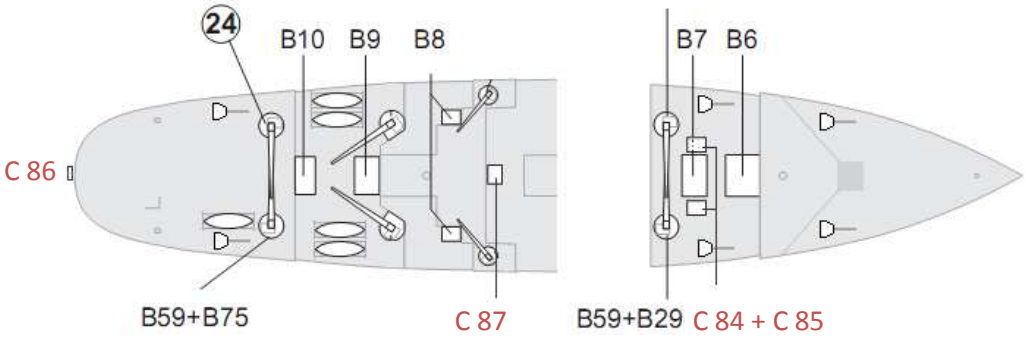


fig. 4, the placing of the guns, additional lifeboats and deck housing

When all parts are glued to the model apply some rigging and other wanted details. For the mid 1918 model; Include a line from the gaff from the main mast to the deck to your rigging and glue the white ensign, or st. George ensign to this line (one of the parts C 89)

Enjoy building your model and show us your results!

Jerry N.J. Vondeling, April 2010



My 1:1200 Olympic prototype, finished April 15th, 2010



Optional name plaques for the Olympic models.