



SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

Ship's Name: USS ENGLAND (DE 635)

Model Builder: Frank Dengler

1. Ship's History

a. Type/Class: Destroyer Escort / BUCKLEY (DE 51)



b. Namesake: Ensign John Charles England, USNR. He was born 11 Dec 20 in Harris, MO. He graduated from Alhambra, CA High School in 1938 and Pasadena City College, Pasadena, CA in 1940. He attended Naval Reserve Midshipman's School, New York, NY and was commissioned 6 Jun 41. After completing Naval Radio School, Norton Heights, CT, ENS England was assigned to the battleship USS OKLAHOMA (BB 37) 3 Sep 41. He was awaiting the arrival of his wife and three-week-old daughter in Hawaii when Japanese aircraft and midget submarines struck naval forces at Pearl Harbor 7 December 1941. Hit by several torpedoes, OKLAHOMA capsized. ENS England made 3 trips helping men out of the ship, but didn't return from his 4th attempt; 1 of 429 lost aboard OKLAHOMA. 75 years after the attack, his remains were identified and buried in Colorado Springs, CO near those of his parents.

c. Shipbuilder & Location: Bethlehem Steel Shipbuilding Corporation, San Francisco, CA

d. Date Commissioned/In-Service: 10 December 1943

e. Characteristics: Displacement: 1,740 tons, Length: 306 ft, Beam: 36.75 ft, Draft: 10.5 ft, Propulsion: 2 x Bureau Express D type boilers, 2 x General Electric turbines, 12,000 shp, 2 screws, 1 rudder, speed 24 kts, Armament: 3 x Mark 22 3"/50, 1 x Mark 2 1.1"/75 quad, 10 x Mark 4 20mm/70 gun mounts, 1 x Mark 15 triple mount for 21" torpedoes, 1 x Mark 10 Hedgehog Spigot Mortar (24 65 lb contact fused depth charges thrown ≈250-280 yds ahead), 8 x Mark 6 Depth Charge Mortars or "K-guns" (300 lb hydrostatically fused depth charges thrown ≈60-90 yds to the side), 2 x Mark 9 Depth Charge Tracks (600 lb hydrostatically fused depth charges dropped astern), Sonar: QGB, Radar: SA Air Search, SL Surface Search, Crew: ≈15 officers, ≈200 enlisted.

f. Operations:

In Feb - Mar 1944 ENGLAND steamed to Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides Islands (now Vanuatu) via Pearl Harbor, HI, Funafuti Atoll, Tuvalu Islands, and Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands. ENGLAND escorted convoys between Espiritu Santo, Guadalcanal, Nouméa, New Caledonia, and the Marshall Islands in the Southwestern Pacific.

On 13 May 44 U. S. Navy intelligence analysts decrypted a message indicating the Japanese submarine I-16 would deliver rice to troops at Buin on the SE end of Bougainville Island in the Northern Solomons (now Papua New Guinea). ENGLAND, GEORGE (DE 697), and RABY (DE 698) departed Tulagi, under CDR Hamilton Haines, USN, Commander Escort Division 39, to intercept I-16. ENGLAND detected I-16 18 May 44, hit it on its 2nd and 5th Hedgehog mortar attacks, and sank it at 5° 10'S/158° 29'E.

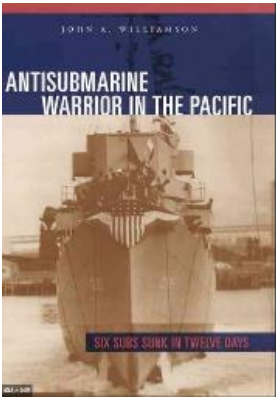
On 21 May 44, U. S. Navy intelligence analysts decrypted a message indicating Japanese RADM Noboru Owada, IJN, Commander Submarine Squadron 7, was deploying submarines at 30 nm intervals from 01° 30'N/150° 30'E to 00° 30'N/148° 30'E, north of New Guinea, to intercept U. S. aircraft carriers approaching from 135°T. ENGLAND, GEORGE, and RABY were sent to engage them.

GEORGE detected the submarine RO-106 with radar on the mid-watch 22 May 44. It dove and GEORGE's Hedgehog attack missed. ENGLAND sank RO-106 with its 2nd Hedgehog attack.

RABY detected RO-104 with radar at 0600 23 May 44. It dove and RABY made four Hedgehog attacks. GEORGE made five Hedgehog attacks. By 0810 none of these attacks had scored at hit. ENGLAND missed with one Hedgehog attack but scored 10 or 12 hits with a 2nd Hedgehog attack and RO-104 went down.

At 0120 24 May 44 GEORGE detected RO-116 on radar. The submarine dove and ENGLAND destroyed it with its initial Hedgehog attack at 0214.

Escort carrier HOGGATT BAY (CVE 75) with destroyers HAZELWOOD (DD 531), HEERMANN (DD 532), HOEL (DD 533), and Mc CORD (DD 534) arrived 26 May 44 to relieve the DEs so they could get fuel, stores, and ammunition. While headed for Manus Island, Admiralty Islands at 2303 26 May 44, RABY's radar detected RO-108. ENGLAND scored four to six Hedgehog hits on its first attack.



Naval History and Heritage Command Japanese Submarine Casualties in World War II			
Date	Submarine	Credited	Position
9 May 44	I-16 (CO Takeuchi)	ENGLAND	05-10 S, 158-17 E
22 May 44	RO-106 (CO Uda)	ENGLAND	01-40 N, 150-31 E
23 May 44	RO-104 (CO Izubuchi)	ENGLAND	01-26 N, 149-20 E
23 May 44	RO-116 (CO Okabe)	ENGLAND	00-53 N, 149-14 E
26 May 44	RO-108 (CO Obari)	ENGLAND	00-32 S, 148-35 E
31 May 44	RO-105 (CO Inoue)	ENGLAND (*)	00-47 N, 149-56 E
(*) Assisted by GEORGE (DE-697), RABY (DE-698), HAZELWOOD (DD-531) & MCCORD (DD-534)			

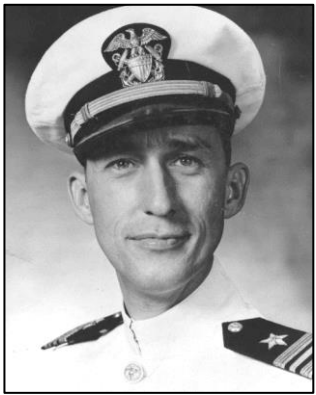
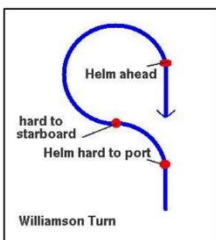


Figure 1 – “Anti-Submarine Warrior in the Pacific”, Japanese Submarines Sunk by ENGLAND, LCDR John A. Williamson, USNR

Replenished at Manus, ENGLAND, GEORGE, RABY, and SPANGLER (DE 696) got underway 28 May 44 to rejoin the hunt. HAZELWOOD's radar detected RO-105 at 0156 30 May 44, but HAZELWOOD's depth charge attack missed. GEORGE, RABY, and HAZELWOOD made 16 attacks over the next 25 hours but made no hits. GEORGE and RABY detected RO-105 when it came up for air at 0310 on 31 May 44, but the skillfully conned submarine maneuvered between the two destroyer escorts before submerging so neither DE could fire without risking hits on the other. When RO-105 dove GEORGE, RABY, and SPANGLER each made attacks on the submarine, but they all missed. Finally the frustrated CDR Haines radioed, "Oh, hell! Go ahead, ENGLAND," and ENGLAND proceeded to score 6 to 10 Hedgehog hits, sinking the elusive RO-105.

ENGLAND's destruction of 6 submarines, for which the ship received a Presidential Unit Citation (PUC), was never equaled. The only other DEs to receive PUCs for individual ship actions in World War II were USS FROST (DE 144) that participated in sinking 5 German U-boats and USS BRONSTEIN (DE 189) that participated in the sinking of 4 German U-boats. Their anti-submarine actions occurred over greater time periods than ENGLAND's. The Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Ernest J. King, USN, was so impressed he pledged, "There'll always be an ENGLAND in the United States Navy." Although the guided missile cruiser USS ENGLAND (CG 22) served from 7 Dec 63 to 21 Jan 94, there is currently no ship honoring ENS John C. England, USNR, and DE 635 in the U. S. Fleet. I requested the Acting Secretary of the Navy, name one of the DDG-51 Class destroyers pending construction ENGLAND.

As indicated in his book, “Antisubmarine Warrior in the Pacific” LCDR John Alexander Williamson, USNR, of Birmingham, AL, served aboard the destroyer USS LIVERMORE (DD 429) in the Atlantic starting in March 41. After a brief stint on armed guard duty aboard merchant ships, he reported to the Submarine Chaser Training Center (SCTC), Miami, FL in April 42. There, although he would have preferred service in a combatant, he gained experience conducting attacks against real and simulated submarines enabling him to anticipate and lead submarine evasive maneuvers when serving as ENGLAND's Executive Officer conning the ship through 6 successful anti-submarine attacks. He became ENGLAND's Commanding Officer in August 1944.



During his time at SCTC, LCDR Williamson also originated the “Williamson Turn” still used to recover people who have fallen overboard. As depicted in the graphic, the “Williamson Turn” involves: (1) Dropping a life preserver and, if available, a float light &/or buoyant smoke grenade, (2) Turning with full rudder towards the side from which the person fell overboard, (3) When the ship's heading reaches 60° from the original course, shifting the rudder to full over in the opposite direction, (4) When the ship's heading is within 20° of the reciprocal of the original course, putting the rudder amidships to retrace the original course looking for the person overboard.

After the intense anti-submarine operations in May 44, ENGLAND resumed escort duties in the Southwest Pacific. Following a 24 Sep to 15 Oct 44 trip to Sydney, Australia, ENGLAND's convoys began working farther north to include destinations in Hollandia, on the northern coast of New Guinea, Leyte, Philippine Islands, and Ulithi Atoll, in the Caroline Islands east of the Philippines. ENGLAND departed Ulithi 23 Mar 45 for the invasion of Okinawa.

ENGLAND shot down a Mitsubishi G4M “Betty” bomber 28 Apr 45. On 9 May 45, while patrolling a station north of Kerama Retto about 20 mi southwest of Okinawa, ENGLAND was attacked by three Aichi Type 99 “Val” dive bombers. Despite the ship's anti-aircraft fire, one hit ENGLAND's starboard side below the bridge. The explosion and fire killed 37 crewmen and wounded 25 more. Damage control kept the ship afloat, but it was badly damaged and had to be towed to Kerama Retto. Repairs there and by USS DIXIE (AD 14) in the Philippines enabled ENGLAND to steam to Philadelphia, PA via Pearl Harbor, HI and San Diego, CA. No one in route did much to acknowledge ENGLAND's accomplishments and losses.

g. Fate On 16 Jul 45 ENGLAND arrived at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard (PNSY) for battle damage repair and conversion to a high speed transport (APD 41) for the invasion of Japan. This conversion was canceled when Japan surrendered 2 Sep 45. ENGLAND was decommissioned 15 Oct 45 at PNSY. On 26 Nov 46 ENGLAND was sold to Northern Metals Corporation, Philadelphia, PA for scrap.

h. Awards: Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 10 Battle Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon

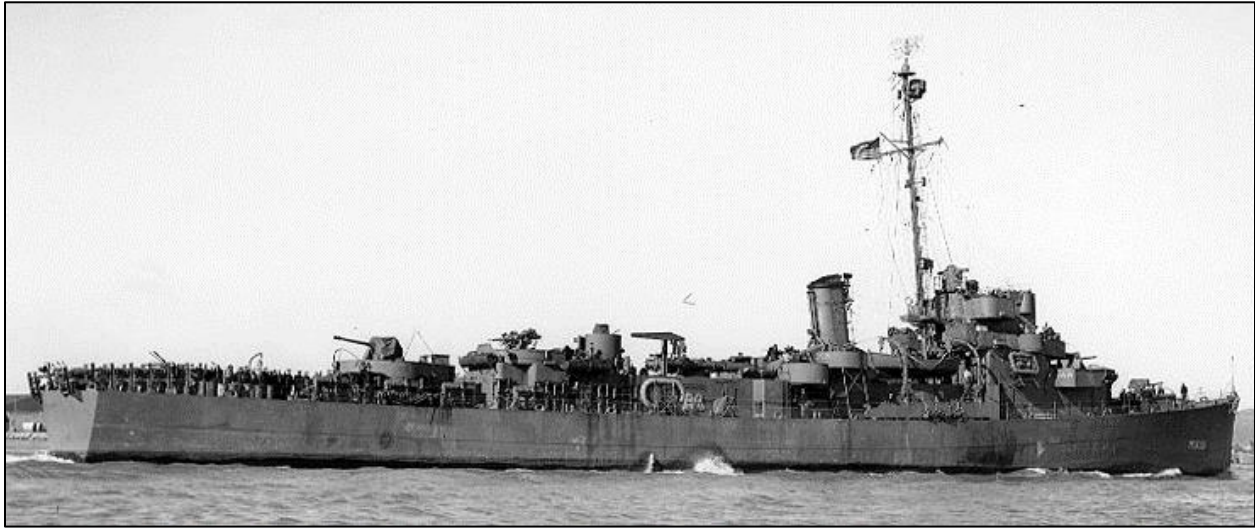


Figure 2: Starboard Quarter View of USS ENGLAND (DE 635) 9 Feb 44

Note (1) The starboard quarter life-raft was “round ended” rather than rectangular like the ship’s other life-rafts, possibly because it was recycled, like the triple torpedo tubes, from World War I era WICKES/CLEMSON Class destroyers.

Note (2) Some sources indicate ENGLAND had a twin 40mm gun mount, but this photo and others clearly show a 1.1”/75 quad gun mount was actually installed in a tub on the 01 level aft.

Note (3) The 9 Feb 44 photo indicates ENGLAND was painted in Measure 21 Camouflage, with 5N Navy Blue/Gray vertical surfaces and darker 20B Deck Blue/Gray. Other camouflage options involved contrasting colors or lighter gray. Snyder & Short Enterprises and Floating Drydock samples below indicate 5N Blue and 20B Deck Blue were very similar. World War II era paints tended to change color rapidly when exposed to ultra-violet light.

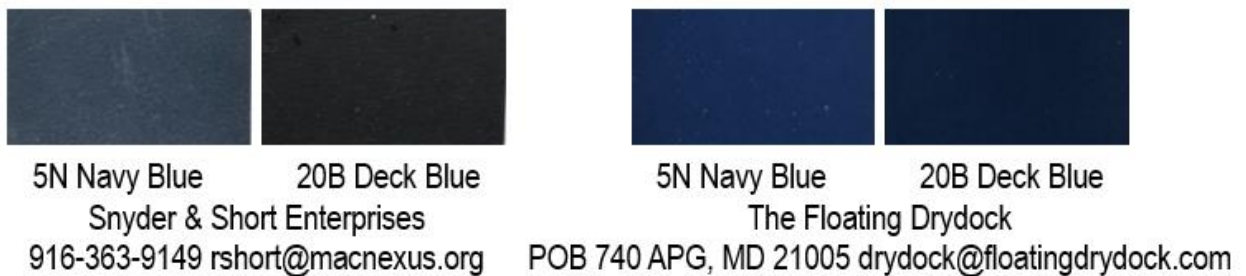


Figure 3 Measure 21 Camouflage Color Samples

Note (4) The letters “DE” were painted before hull numbers to differentiate destroyer escorts from destroyers, e.g. ENGLAND (DE 635) vs. USS EARLE (DD-635). However, “DE” was deleted after ships were in service as indicated in the photo of ENGLAND at <http://www.navy.mil/photos/06/images/635/0663502.jpg> . Although hull numbers were typically painted aft of screw guards on destroyers, they weren’t normally painted aft on DEs. Press transfer Woodland® 45° USA Gothic White Letters, MG740 at <https://woodlandscenics.woodlandscenics.com/show/item/MG740> and Woodland® 45° USA Gothic White Numbers, MG747 at <https://woodlandscenics.woodlandscenics.com/show/item/MG747> both in 1/16", 3/32", 1/8", 3/16", 1/4", 5/16" heights were used to make the DE635 hull markings on the model.

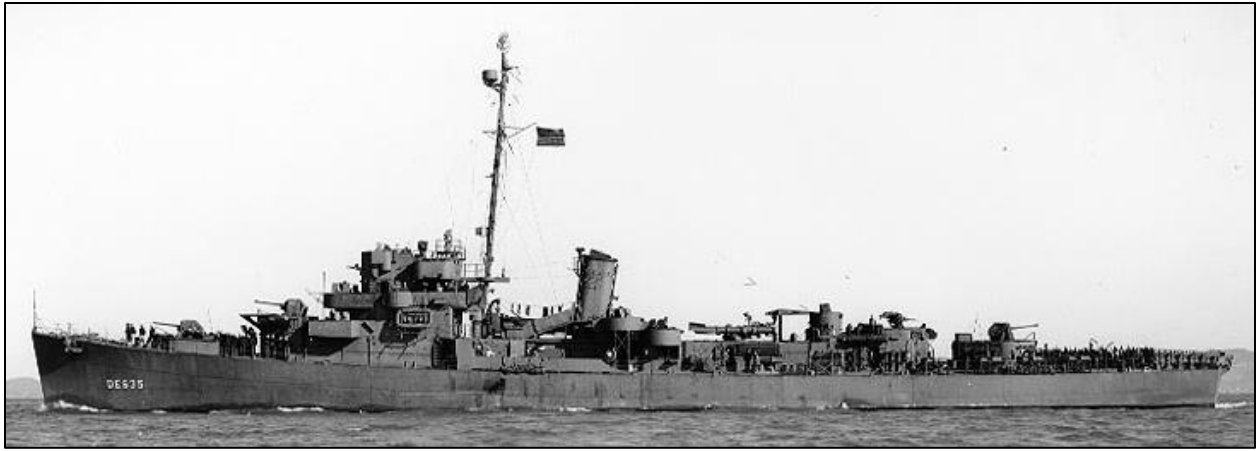


Figure 4: Port Beam View of USS ENGLAND (DE 635) 9 Feb 44

Note (5) Although diagonal lines above crew members on the fantail could be 20mm gun barrels, the men prevent visual confirmation that the thwart ships tub and two 20mm mounts were installed 9 Feb 44.

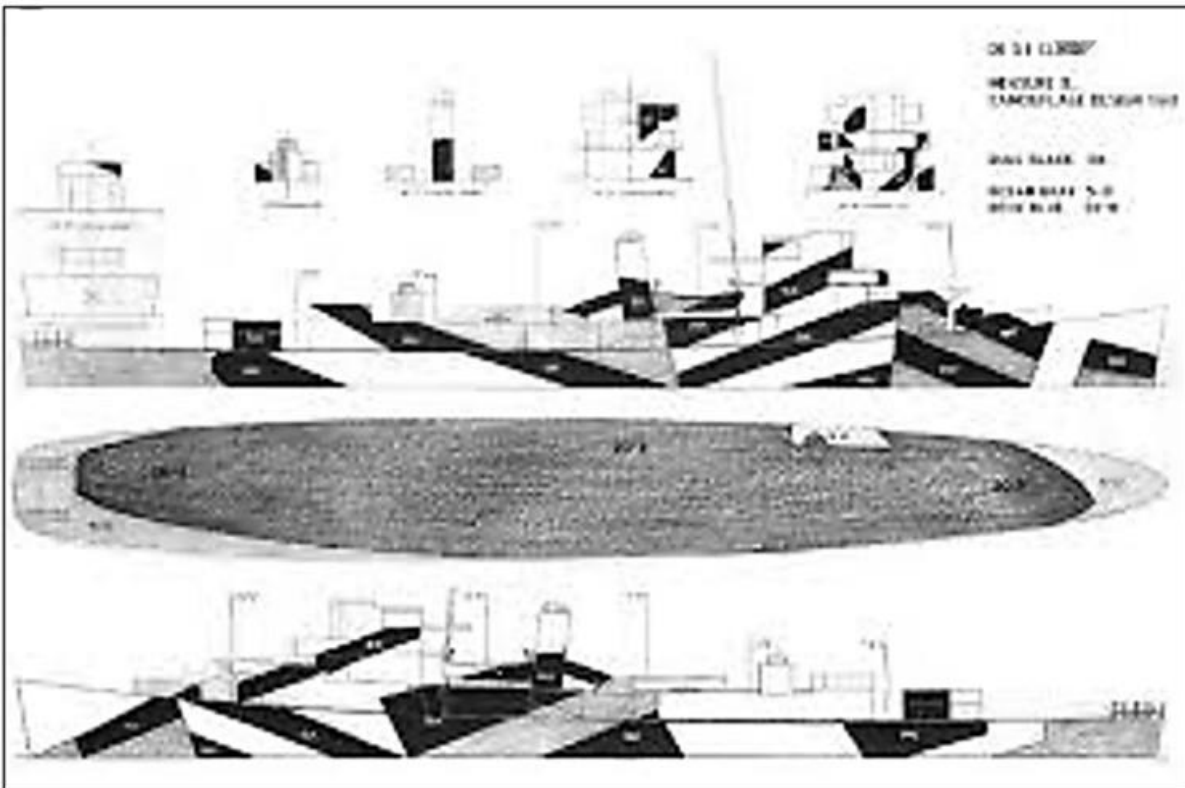


Figure 5: National Archives & Records Administration (NARA) 80-G-162036 and 80-G-162037 Measure 32/16D patterns for DE-51 Class ships. The dark color is Black. The medium color is Ocean Gray (5-O). The light color is Haze Gray (5-H) for Measure 31 or Light Gray (5-L) for Measure 32.

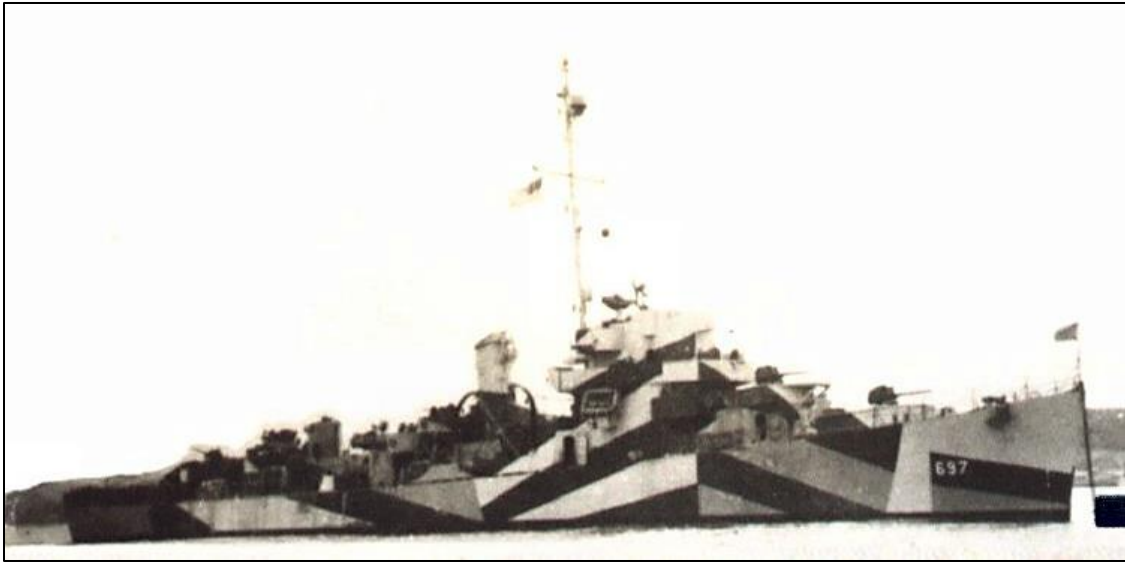


Figure 6 USS GEORGE (DE 697) in 1944 at Manus Islands in Measure 32/16D from <http://www.navsource.org/archives/06/697.htm>

Note (6) According to usndazzle.com ENGLAND was painted in Measure 32/16D “Dazzle” Camouflage. On page 182 of his book “Antisubmarine Warrior in the Pacific” LCDR Williamson says, when flying back to his ship from Ulithi in early Jan 45, he realized its multi-color camouflage would attract the attention of Japanese pilots. He therefore had the ship repainted in Measure 21 blue. This probably means ENGLAND was painted in multi-color Measure 32 “Dazzle” Camouflage like GEORGE during May 44 anti-submarine operations.

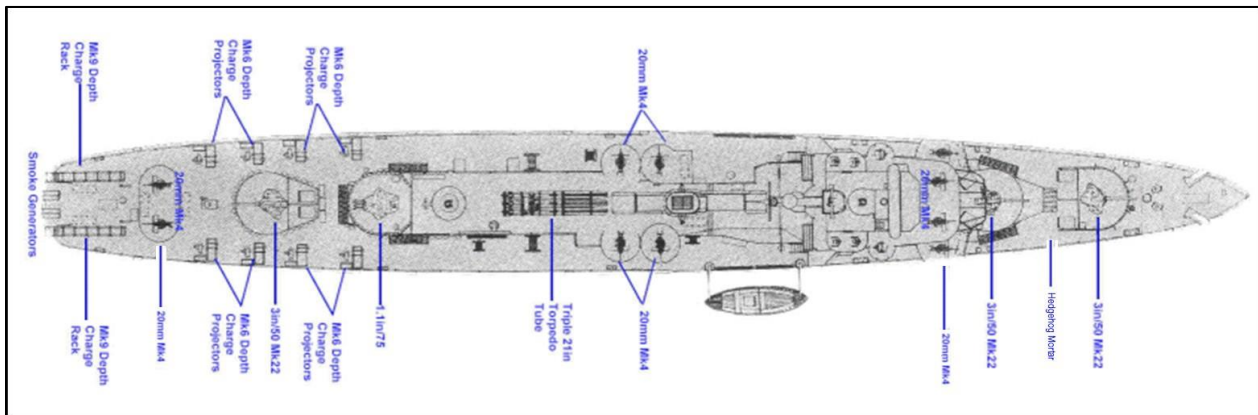


Figure 7: Plan View of USS ENGLAND (DE 635) from <http://de635.usseotland.org/>.
Ordnance locations are annotated in blue font.

2. Model

a. Materials: Revell kit, Gold Medal Models photo etched brass, Shapeways.com 3”/50 and 20mm gun mounts and Hedgehog Anti-Submarine Mortar mount

Scratch Built: Main deck, chocks, bits, lifeline stanchions, chain pipe covers, 1.1”/75 gun mount, starboard quarter “round ended” life-raft, aft life-raft racks, gun directors, bridge platforms, signal flag bags, bilge keels, aft 20mm gun tub, torpedo tube mount, smoke generators, depth charges, aft floater net rack, optical rangefinder, ready service ammunition lockers, lookout bearing and elevation devices, line reels, hatch aft of Mount 33, cylindrical blower vent 01 level aft of superstructure, SL Surface Search Radar, mast (other than SA Air Search Radar and yardarm antennas which are photo etched)

Significantly Modified: 26 ft Motor Whaleboat (MWB), stack (ladder, cap, antenna out-riggers), gun tubs, hull stem, aft Mk 51 Director tub, searchlights, line reels, superstructure doors, ports, ladders, outer deck half bulkheads, davits, and plastic/copper tube mast (later replaced with an aluminum tube and brass wire version).

b. Scale: 1:240

c. Era & Configuration Depicted: 9 Feb 44

d. Model Construction Period: ≈7 months

e. Techniques: The Revell kit for USS BUCKLEY (DE 51), also sold as USS BLESSMAN (DE 69) and HMS BLIGH (K467), is a good basic representation of BUCKLEY Class destroyer escorts. These kits originally sold for about \$5, but are currently listed, when available, on eBay.com starting at roughly \$50 plus shipping and on oldmodelkits.com for roughly \$150 plus shipping. The assembled kit shown on the box is nicely painted in Measure 22 camouflage with a 5N blue/gray stripe up to the low point of the main deck sheer to blend with



Figure 8: One Variation of Revell's BUCKLEY Boxes

the ocean and Haze Gray above that to blend with an overcast sky. However, the kit's rounded stem hull, lack of a sonar transducer, sloped rather than vertical surfaces to facilitate release from plastic injection molds, and inaccuracies in guns, torpedo tubes, bridge, gun directors, depth charge mortars, MWB, and other parts leave room for improvement.



Figure 9: Model of ENGLAND Under Construction Circa October 2019

f. Issues & Solutions:

Lack of display space and desire to inform viewers of ENGLAND's significance required displaying the model in a shadow box lined with a map derived using MS PowerPoint from an illustration in "Anti-Submarine Warrior in the Pacific", enlarged to 19.5" wide and printed on glossy poster paper at Staples Inc., indicating locations of anti-submarine actions, a label with an operational summary, a photo of the ship, the ship's ribbons, and a World War II poster showing sailors loading depth charges on K-guns. Electronic copies of the map are available upon request.



Figure 10 – Model USS ENGLAND (DE 635) Beam View (Photos were lightened to show details.)



Figure 11 – Model USS ENGLAND (DE 635) Starboard Quarter Close-up

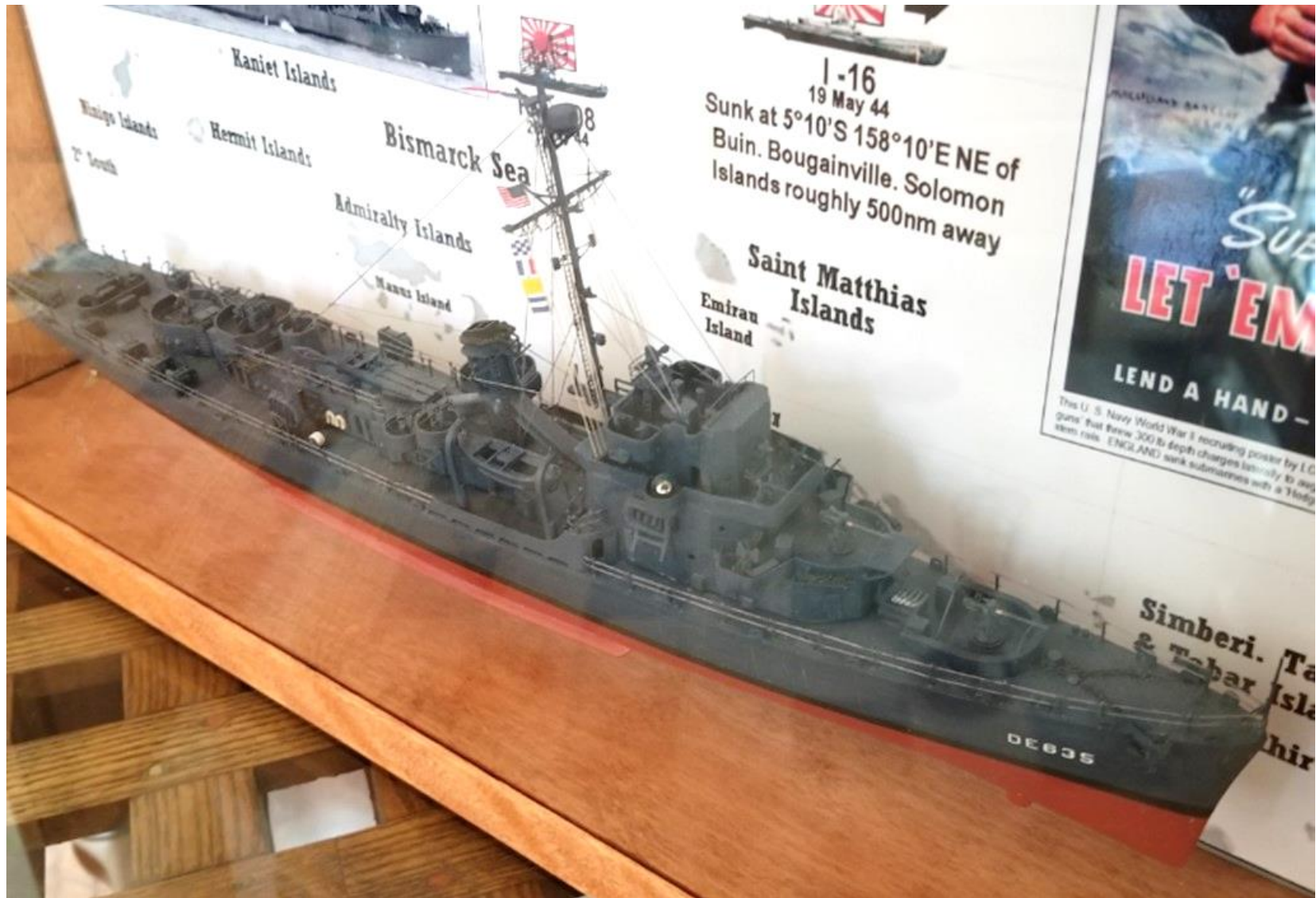


Figure 12 – Model USS ENGLAND (DE 635) Starboard Bow Close-up