



# SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

## Show and Tell Information Form

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**Ship's Name: USS GRAYSON (DD 435)**

Model Builder: Frank Dengler:

### 1. Ship's History

a. Type/Class: Destroyer / GLEAVES (DD 423).

b. Namesake: RADM Cary Travers Grayson, MC, USN (1878-1938) who was President Woodrow Wilson's physician when he was severely ill and remained in his White House bedroom circa 1919-1920 after a strenuous tour attempting to win public support for Congressional approval of U. S. participation in the League of Nations (a precursor of the United Nations) he proposed as a forum for negotiation to solve issues and avert war.

c. Shipbuilder & Location: Charleston Naval Shipyard, Charleston, SC

d. Date Commissioned/In-Service: 14 February 1941

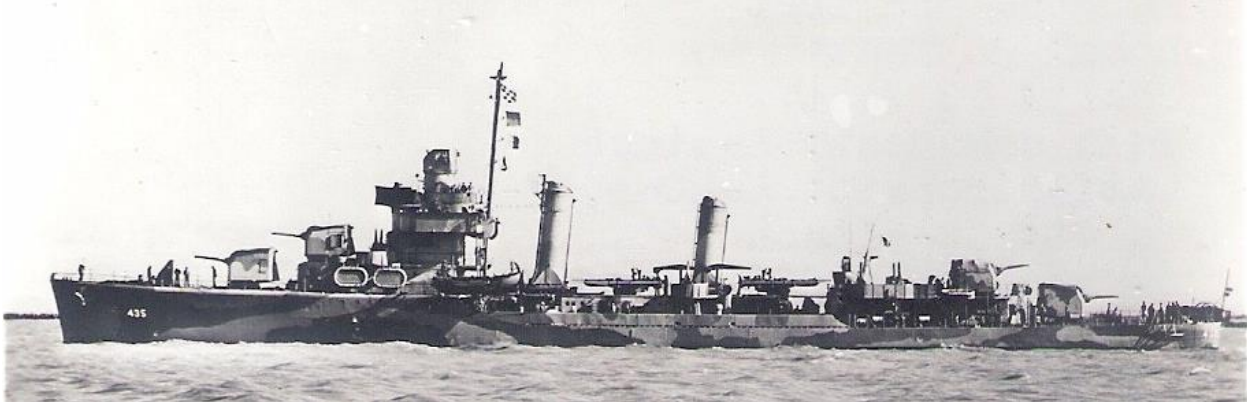
e. Characteristics: Displacement: 1,630 tons standard, 2395 tons full load, Length: 348' 3", Beam: 36' 1", Draft: 13' 2", Armament: 4 x Mark (Mk) 30 single 5"/38 gun mounts controlled by a Mk 37 Gunfire Control system (GFCS), 9 x 20mm/70 (0.79") guns in Mk 2 or 4 single mounts, 2 x Mk 14 quintuple torpedo tube mount for Mk 15 torpedoes controlled by 1 x Mk 27 director, Mk 9 and Mk 14 depth charges launched by 6 x Mk 6 "K-Gun" projectors and 2 x Mk 9 depth charge roller racks, Propulsion: 4 Babcock & Wilcox boilers, 2 Westinghouse geared steam turbines, 50000 shaft horse power, 2 propeller shafts, Speed: 37.4 kts, Range: 6,500 nm, Complement: 16 officers, 260 enlisted

f. Operations: GRAYSON served as flagship of Destroyer Squadron 11 on Neutrality Patrol and convoy duty in the Atlantic from August 1941 until screening the carrier USS HORNET (CV 8) to the Pacific in May 1942. The ship escorted HORNET during its launch of 16 B-25 bombers led by LTC James Doolittle, USAAF, to attack Japan on 18 April 1942. GRAYSON subsequently escorted USS ENTERPRISE (CV 6) and HORNET during the U. S. Marine Corps. landing on Guadalcanal 7 August 1942. GRAYSON shot down 2 Japanese aircraft attacking ENTERPRISE 24 August 1942 and damaged a 3rd. GRAYSON was reassigned to escort USS SARATOGA (CV 3) and severely damaged the Japanese submarine I-9 on 25 August 1942. GRAYSON, with USS GWIN (DD 433) and tug USS SEMINOLE (AT 65), located the tug USS VIREO (AT 144) and the fuel and ammunition barges she was towing to Guadalcanal after aircraft from the Japanese carrier IJN ZUIKAKU sank VIREO's escort USS MEREDITH (DD 434) 15 October 1942. The ships picked up MEREDITH's survivors, escorted SEMINOLE, and GRAYSON towed VIREO to Espiritu Santo. GRAYSON sank 4 Japanese landing craft evacuating troops from Kolombangara on night patrols 30 September to 3 October 1943. GRAYSON's 1942 exploits are described in "Condition Red" by the ship's Commanding Officer CDR Frederick J. Bell, USN who retired as a Rear Admiral. GRAYSON provided gunfire support for the assault on Pityliu Island in the Admiralties 30 March 1944, directed Combat Air Patrol (CAP) for landings at Tanahmerah Bay, New Guinea 22 - 24 April 1944, and provided gunfire support for assaults on Biak Island 27 May 1944 and Noemfoor Island 2 July 1944. GRAYSON joined Task Force 38 and screened carriers during strikes on the Palau Islands in September 1944 and strikes on Okinawa and the Philippines in October 1944. GRAYSON rescued 194 men from the torpedoed USS HOUSTON (CL 81) 15 October 1944 and escorted the damaged cruiser to Ulithi Atoll, Caroline Islands. GRAYSON served as a radar picket against "Kamikazes" and other aircraft from November 1944 until May 1945. GRAYSON underwent a refit to enhance its anti-aircraft capability from June to August 1945 and was in Pearl Harbor, HI in route to further combat when the Japanese surrendered.

g. Fate: Scrapped by Sothern Scrap Materials, Kenner, LA circa 1975 from whom Frank Dengler purchased GRAYSON's compass binnacle.

h. Awards / Accomplishments: Navy Unit Commendation for Service in Task Force 38, American Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 13 Battle Stars, World War II Victory Medal.

Merited the subsequently created Combat Action Ribbon that did not exist during World War II. GRAYSON was the only one of the ships assigned to Destroyer Division 22 in 1942 to survive World War II.



GRAYSON 9 June 1942 Shortly After the "Doolittle Raid"

Note the canvas vs. metal top of 5"/38 gun Mount 33 atop the after deckhouse to save top weight since the forward superstructure and Mark 37 Gun Director gave the ship a tendency to roll in addition to extending the Director's line of sight.

## 2. Model

a. Materials: "Scratch built" wooden hull, plastic and wood superstructure, cast resin gun mounts and directors photo-etched brass watertight doors

b. Scale: 1:192

c. Era & Configuration Depicted: 9 June 1942 shortly after the "Doolittle Raid" in Measure 12 "Dapple" Camouflage intended to blend in with varied colors of a rough sea and gray overcast sky.

d. Model Construction Period: ≈6 months

e. Techniques: Hand-made prototype 5"/38 gun mount, Mark 37 Director, 26' motor whaleboat, rafts, bitts, chocks, and other parts. Covered the prototypes with Room Temperature Vulcanizing (RTV) silicone. Extracted the prototypes leaving molds. Filled the molds with 2-part Epoxy resin to make duplicate parts.

f. Issues & Solutions: Frank Dengler built a pine, balsa, and cast metal model of GRAYSON circa 1968 based in part on the photo above in a book his mother had given him for his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1961. This photo of GRAYSON's port side is currently posted at <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/pix1/0543503.jpg>. He assumed there were 26' motor whaleboats hung from davits both port and starboard as in later FLETCHER (DD 445) Class destroyers. In fact, photos of GRAYSON from the National Archives and Records Service (NARA) collected for the current model indicated there was a 20mm gun mount on the starboard side opposite the single motor whaleboat to port. These photos also enabled the second model to accurately depict the ships' starboard camouflage pattern.



### Model of Destroyer USS GRAYSTON (DD 435) Under Construction

Solid wood hull (red lead already applied below waterline), stacks, and forward superstructure to the 02 level. Pilot house, aft superstructure fabricated from white sheet plastic with open water tight doors revealing painted interior bulkheads and decks as well as bridge equipment and giving a more realistic impression than solid block components. Cast resin components, e.g. rafts (with K&S photo-etched brass "decks") and forward 5"/38 gun mounts, are yellowish in color.



### Model of Destroyer USS GRAYSTON (DD 435) Completed

Deck tread pads were duplicated from MS PowerPoint black rectangles superimposed on deck gray strips and glued in place. The canvas top on 5"/38 Gun Mount 53 on the 01 level of the after superstructure was created by carving down a cast resin "no knuckle" mount and leaving ridges to simulate supporting strakes. Destroyers typically had "double knuckle" mounts with an additional support strake at the rear of the gun port to resist crushing by boarding seas.