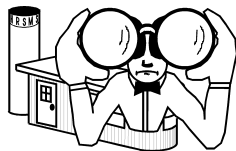


From The Bridge



I like to spend a lot of time in my shop. I have many projects going at once and the thinking is I will never get bored because I can switch from one to another as need be. Truth is, I have a lot of unfinished projects in my shop. I hope that all of you are spending every waking and unoccupied moment in your shops as well. I like the idea of making sawdust or swarf. But we do need to finish a project from time to time. I say this knowing full well how difficult it is to get in the shop at times. But we need to get in there if we want to get something done.

We should have a Show and Tell item each month from everyone in this group—something related to our charter. It could be an anecdote about a book you've read, a part you just built, or a solution you worked out for a difficult-to-model part. (Heck, the complicate stuff is good too!!) For some of us, it could simply be an admission that we found the shop hidden somewhere on our estate or that the wife finally gave back the key. One or two of us could make a nice story about how we took a Bobcat© or fire hose to the shop. Well, maybe fire hose isn't the right metaphor.

A lot of what we do as a group is live vicariously through each other. That's fine with me, but I would prefer that we used another's story to ignite the fire inside that makes us go home and make sawdust.

John

NAUTICAL TERM

Bowsprit The spar in the stem of a vessel to which the headsails are fastened and the foremast stayed. The Dutch were using them before the British, so naturally enough, the term came from Holland, *boegspriet*.

Submitted By: Tim Wood

MEETING NOTICE

Date: Saturday May 10, 2008

Place: Mariners' Museum

Time: 1400 Hours

Mystery Photo



Mystery Photo #262: One thing that is for certain, if the Mystery Photo is of a somewhat famous vessel you get a lot of responses. Seven written replies came by my desk and a verbal one received several weeks ago. Eight is a good number. Unfortunately, only seven replies will find their way to the column. That's because I have them in hand. Number 8 sort of escapes me at the moment. I know I received it, I just can't remember who said it or what exactly they said. If you want it in the column, please put it in writing.

Tim Wood, Charles Landrum, Rob Napier, Greg Harrington, Bobs Comet and Krumpen, and Dave Baker all identified the vessel as a *Bismarck*-class battleship resting comfortably at anchor in a Norwegian Fjord. Everyone was certain that the image was of *Tirpitz* except Comet who only believed it was because *Tirpitz* spent most of her time in the Fjords, Baker who was almost certain, and Bob Krumpen who didn't specify. Being certain was not good enough for the first four however; they actually found the image on the Internet using various and quite possibly proprietary search methods.

Tim's reply came first and he says "The mystery photo shows *Tirpitz* in her Barbrudalen anchorage (Norway). The ship to her left in the background is the heavy cruiser *Lützow*. In the background the mountain Sakkobadne can also be seen." Wow, I thought, he's good! Then I found that his remarks almost matched the photo captions found on-line. Nevertheless, he is first and he is right! After that, he appended a 12 -1/2 page table of *Tirpitz*' operational history and physical characteristics also gleaned from the web site. See Tim if you want a copy.

Charles's reply echoes Tim's unwritten comment: "Too easy," he said, "the Fjord was the give away. This is the German battleship TIRPITZ anchored in the Kåfjord March 1943. She spent the war in the Fjords, trapped by the Royal Navy and ultimately was sunk there in 1944." He also attached a copy of the Mystery Photo and another image from the unnamed web site he found.

For Rob and Greg it went differently. Rob knew with one look that we had a World War Two (WWII) German vessel somewhere in Norway. He said "that was the easy part." The hard part was trying to determine whether the vessel was a "cruiser or a battleship." And we discover that one of the things that I find fascinating and helpful in ship recognition really bothers Rob. "It is annoying that all these big German gunboats have similar profiles. That single funnel close abaft

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Mystery Photo

the main superstructure, a taller mast further aft, frequently four major gun turrets, cruiser sterns, maybe a cap on the funnel, sort of hemispherical items that I suppose are gun directors for secondary or tertiary batteries, and more.” What the exercise really forces him to do is look more closely at the defining features

the shape of her bow, the "cut of her jib", etc. But something about the stern of this vessel and the camouflage said "German" to me. The steep, icy, terrain said "Norway". Those two together add up to 'Tirpitz' as fast as 1 and 1 add up to 2. But like any proper math equation, a proof is required.” Ah, yes, many a German stern has caught my eye as well...



of these ships. After a while he sort of comes around to my way of thinking: “I learned a lot about German battleships and cruisers, much of which is actually interesting. Mainly I learn that they changed a lot, but subtly.”

With data in hand he launched his web search. There he found “a series of Web sites managed by a fellow named John Asmussen. The best parts [of the sites] are color illustrations of paint schemes for each ship. These are really detailed for each camouflage morph for each ship. The drawings are by Eric Leon or John Asmussen. These guys have spent a lot of time studying these ships.” Trying to match the camo design required the review of “several hundred images” until he spied one with “the exact camo job...and [matching] physical aspects.” In other words, a nice way to spend an evening.

“The ship is the battleship *Tirpitz*, the date for that camo scheme is July to September 1942. *Tirpitz* was operating in Norway at the time. There are aerial shots of her in fjords with snowy mountains around, but I did not find the exact image in the Mystery Photo.”

“The Web site that brought me the answer is: http://www.bismarck-class.dk/tirpitz/tirpitz_menu.html.”

Greg’s response was really fun to read. He went out and identified the vessel using what the image offered—and had fun to boot! Here is most of his reply:

“I can’t, as many of you can, identify a warship from

“I found images of Tirpitz that matched the shape of our photo, but the camouflage scheme was different. Figuring she didn't necessarily sport the same paint job throughout the war, I searched on underterred, this time doing a standard Google search (not images) for 'German battleship camouflage'. Thus, I found a site on "Kriegsmarine Camouflage". Toward the bottom is a chart for Tirpitz, with an image titled "July 1942-March 1943, Operation Knight Move". That gave me a date range and the clue "Knight's Move" to help narrow down the time and place.

Switching to a Google search for 'Tirpitz', I found a very comprehensive site on this ship. This site also

has a page for paint schemes, with much more detailed images. Paint schemes H and I are very similar, but the darker turret tops of scheme I are very evident in our mystery photo. The date range given (September 1942 - July 1943) is somewhat different than the first site. The chart at the top adds the note "Operation 'Rösselsprung' + Dark Turret Tops" next to a symbol for paint scheme I. 'Rösselsprung' translates to 'Knight's Move', which agrees with the earlier site. The history and gallery pages for 'Rösselsprung' associate the operation with the city of Bogen on the Ofotfjord. The ship is making steam. Is it preparing to get underway? There is a smaller ship that blends in with background and almost disappears. Did you see it? Is this a sign of a fleet gathering for

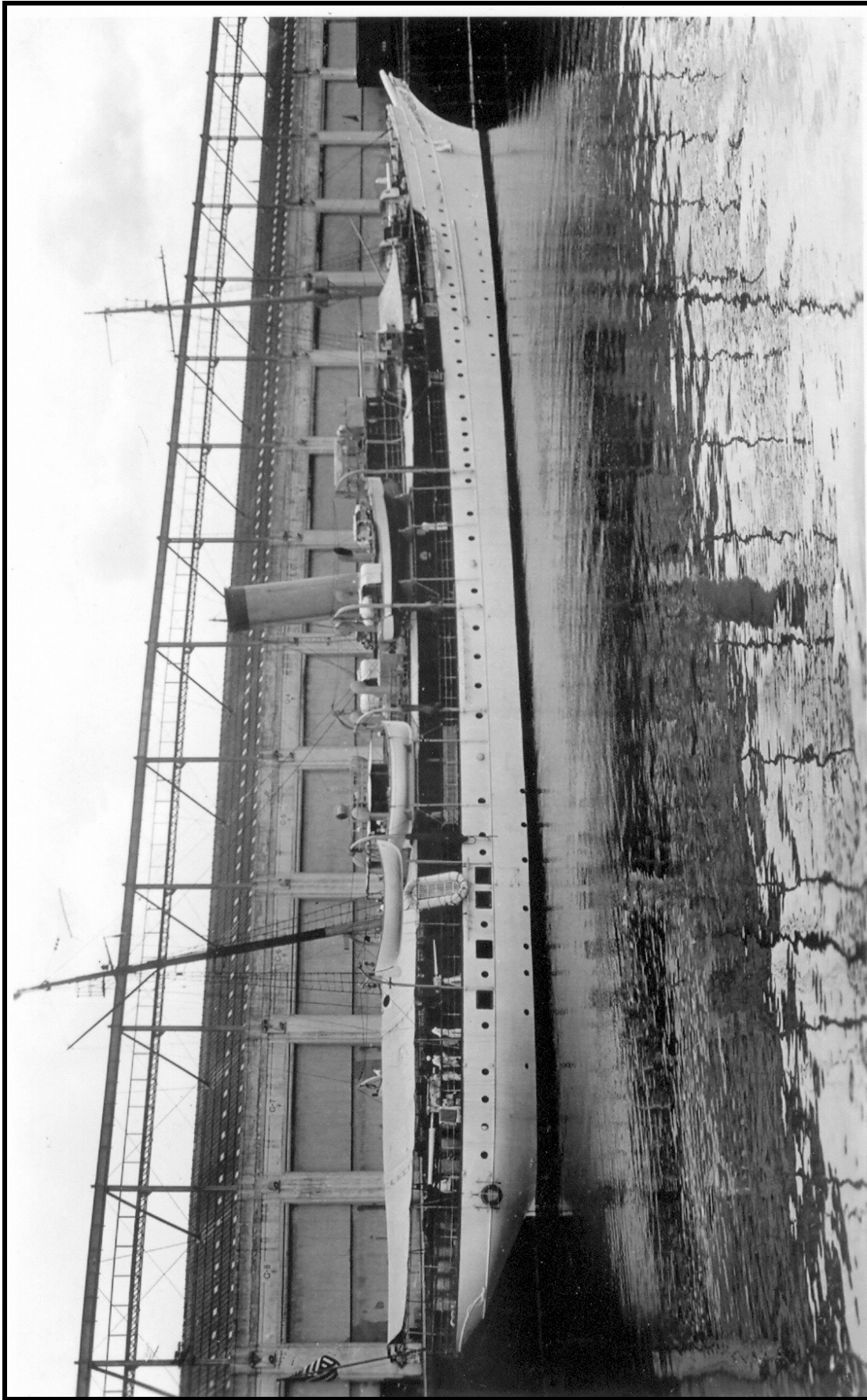
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THE ANSWER

The answer to Mystery Photo 262:

German Battleship *Tirpitz*

"Bad cooking is responsible for more trouble at sea than all other things put together". -- Thomas Fleming Day



Mystery Photo
Contact John Cheevers by mail, e-mail or
telephone if you know what it is.
jfcheevers@verizon.net

NOTABLE EVENTS

MAY

- 10 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation "An Illustrated Revisit to Making
SCULPY Figures" by Bob Comet

JUNE

- 14 **HRSMS** Monthly Meeting: Mariners' Museum
Presentation "Tools for the Beginning Ship Modeler"
by John Cheevers
-

MINUTES



Hampton Roads Ship Model Society
Monthly Meeting
April 10, 2008
Mariners Museum

At 1415 hours the meeting was called to order by the Clerk, Tom Saunders, acting on behalf of the Skipper and Mate in their absence. There were no corrections to the minutes, however Alan Frazer noted there are some odd characters contained in the printed version of the Logbook. The editor explained that there was an issue at the printer that would be addressed. Bob Comet asked if there was interest in more chantey articles. Bob was assured by all that the articles would be welcomed. When Eric Harfst was asked to give the Purser's report, he apologized for his short speech accepting the Founders' Award. Eric then gave the Purser's report, detailing the particulars of the banquet and other planned events. Eric bemoaned the woeful rate of dues collection. Greg Harrington gave the Webmaster's report and gave the circumstances surrounding the failure of the site hosting our web account.

Old Business: Tom asked if there was anything related to the fall picnic that needed to be discussed. It was noted that the picnic was being held on a regular meeting day. After some light-hearted discussion, a motion was made and passed to hold a brief business meeting before the commencement of the festivities. The International Plastic Model Society (IPMS) Conference was the next item on the agenda. Charles Landrum was not in attendance so discussion on our participation in the event was deferred. Alan Frazer was asked report on his findings related to a model exhibition in Portsmouth. Alan related conversations he had with the director of the Portsmouth Childrens' Museum. Dean Sword said that the earliest date available at Portsmouth Galleries would be in 2010. A motion was made and passed to pursue a 2010 exhibition date with the Portsmouth Galleries and have Dean Sword be the point of contact.

New Business: There was no new business.

Show & Tell: Allan Frazer had nothing to show but told of the tribulations of installing the deck rail on his Walthers plastic tugboat kit. Bob Comet showed a plastic model of an *Arleigh Burke* from a kit by Panda, and a thickness sander from Micro Mark. Greg Harrington showed progress on his Portuguese small craft, noting the addition of the decks and paint. Graham Horne showed a plane from Woodcraft and a bicycle cam-lock used to make a drill press clamp. Tim Wood showed the book *Atlantic: The Last Great Race of Princes*, by Scott Cookman.

The meeting was adjourned to a presentation on the life of August Crabtree, by guest speaker Vincent Scott.

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Mystery Photo

Operation 'Rösselsprung'? Can we place the date to the very day that operation began? I was about to wrap up my identification with this, since the images shown do not include the anchorage and do nothing to confirm or refute the location.

But there is a then-and-now section with a page does show the anchorage at Bogen, and it is clearly not the site of our mystery photo.

So on I search. Fortunately, this site alone has so many images; the answer was close at hand. A page on the Kåjord shows terrain that is a much closer match. One photo in particular, although taken from a different altitude and azimuth, shows outcroppings and ice formations suspiciously similar to those in our mystery photo. So going back to the then-and-now section of the site, we find a page for the Kåjord, including our mystery photo! The caption reads "Another photo of Tirpitz in her Barbrudalen anchorage. Notice the heavy cruiser Lützow in the background to the left. In the background the mountain Sakkobadne can also be seen."

Answer: German battleship 'Tirpitz' and heavy cruiser 'Lützow', Kåjord, Norway, 1943."

There you have it. There were those who just knew and those who went and found out. Either way they all chose *Tirpitz* or the class as our Mystery Photo.

John Cheevers

WATCH, QUARTER AND STATION BILL



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