

1:350

HMVS Cerberus monitor
1870

CERBERUS

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ МОНИТОР
1870 г.

The model shows Cerberus on completion in 1870

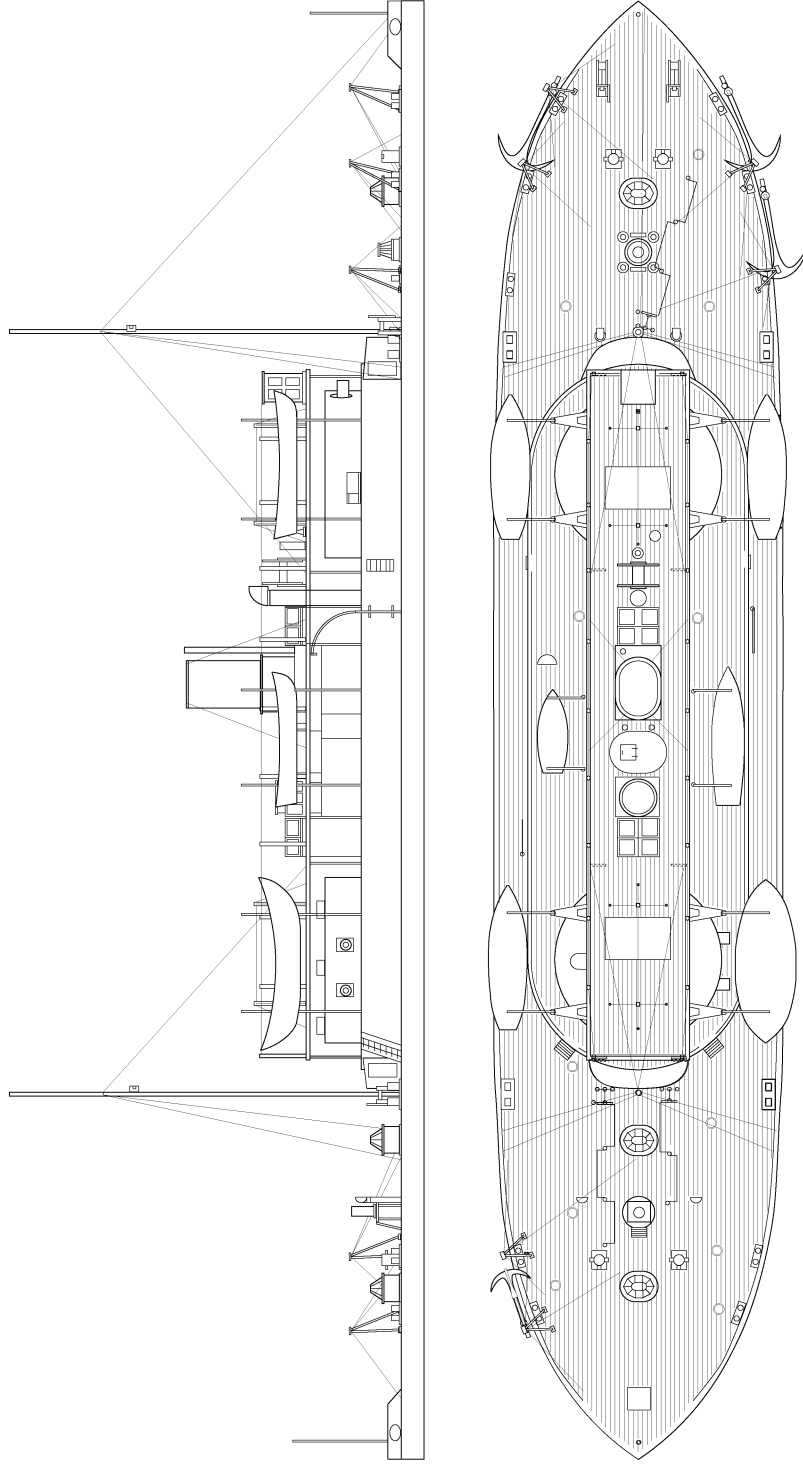
Length, m	67.5
Width, m	13.5
Draught, m	4.5
Displacement, tons	3 340
Armament	4 x 10 inch rifled muzzle-loading guns
Speed	
trial, knots	9.75
top achieved, knots	12.4
Crew	
full	150
maintenance	.83

HMVS Cerberus (Breastwork Monitor) was laid down in 1867, launched in 1868 and completed in 1869. She was designed by Sir Edward Reed, chief designer of the Royal Navy, by the order of the government of the state of Victoria in Australia.

The building of Cerberus marked a radical change from conventional warship design. After hundreds of years, wind was to give way to steam propulsion. Cerberus was the first British warship powered purely by steam. Dispensing with masts and rigging gave an uninterrupted field of fire as well as keeping the manning levels low for a small colonial navy. The weakness of the American monitors was overcome through the use of an armored central superstructure on which were mounted two armored steam driven turrets. The Cerberus class of warship embodied the basic design principles on which all warships were based until HMS Dreadnought in 1906.

The Cerberus was fitted with a temporary sailing rig for the journey to Australia. This was the longest journey ever undertaken by a monitor. En route she became the first warship to pass through the Suez Canal. Cerberus arrived in Port Phillip Bay in 1871 and never left. Major modifications occurred in 1879 when a military mast was added and in 1888 when the flying deck was shortened. Her military service was unremarkable, never firing her guns in anger. In 1901 she became HMAS Cerberus and in 1921 was renamed HMAS Platypus II. During WWI Cerberus served as a port guard ship and as an ammunition store ship. Cerberus was scuttled as a breakwater in Port Phillip Bay in 1926 and placed on the Register of the National Estate in 1986.

Amazingly, the first British monitor is one of only three remaining monitors on earth. She is the only one with her turrets and guns. A campaign is currently underway to Save the Cerberus. To lessen the weight on the central superstructure the four 10 inch RML guns are to be removed in early 2005.



Save the Cerberus

3514

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