



# SAN DIEGO SHIP MODELERS GUILD

## Show and Tell Information Form

**Ship's Name: USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887)**

**Model Builder: Frank Dengler**

### 1. Ship's History

a. Type / Class: Destroyer / GEARING (DD-710)

b. Namesake: LCDR Harry Brinkley Bass, USN who received two Navy Crosses for Bombing Squadron (VB) 2 strikes flown from USS LEXINGTON (CV 2) on Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea and helping to sink the Japanese carrier SHŌHŌ (Happy Phoenix) during the Battle of the Coral Sea. He received a Silver Star for service in Fighting Squadron (VF) 29 covering landings on French Morocco from USS SANTEE (CVE-29). As commander of VF-74 flying from USS KASAAN BAY (CVE-69) he covered landings on Southern France until killed in action 20 Aug 44, receiving a Distinguished Flying Cross and Purple Heart posthumously

c. Shipbuilder & Location: Consolidate Steel, Orange, TX

d. Date Commissioned/In-Service: 1 Oct 45

e. Characteristics:

1945: Displacement 3,460 tons full load, Length: 390' 6", Beam: 40' 10", Draft: 18' 6", Armament: 6 x Mark (Mk) 12 5"/38 guns in 3 x Mk 38 twin mounts controlled by a Mk 37 Gunfire Control system (GFCs), 16 x 40 mm/56 (1.57") guns (2 x Mk 1 twins, 3 x Mk 2 quads) controlled by 5 x Mk 51 GFCs, 10 x 20mm/70 (0.79") guns in 5 x Mk 20 twin mounts, 1 x Mk 14 quintuple torpedo tube mount for Mk 15 torpedoes controlled by 2 x Mk 27 directors, 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, Engineering: 60,000 SHP; 4 B&W 565 psi, 850° F boilers, 2 GE Geared Turbines, 2 screws, Speed, 36.8 Knots, Range 4,500 NM at 20 kts. (14 ft. insert in the previous DD-445/692 Class hull design for fuel tanks in DD-710 Class ships), Crew 350.

Circa 1954: Motivated by "stopping power" deficiencies against Kamikaze aircraft in 1944-45 and lack of radio proximity Variable Time (VT) fuses, 40mm and 20mm guns and their Mk 51 GFCs were replaced by 2 single Mk 34 3"/50 gun mounts outboard of the tripod mast controlled by 2 Mk 63 GFCs and 2 twin Mk 33 3"/50 gun mounts aft controlled by a Mk 56 GFCs. A towed Fanfare system was installed to decoy homing torpedoes away from the ship. The 11,8800 yd. range disadvantage to 18,200 yd. maximum range 5"/38's against 30,000 yd. range Russian designed 130mm artillery used by North Korean and later North Vietnamese Army (NVA) coastal batteries was not addressed.

1962: Motivated by Russian submarine force enhancement, BRINKLEY BASS underwent Fleet Rehabilitation & Modernization 1 (FRAM 1) reconfiguration to enhance anti-submarine warfare (ASW) capability with two Mk 32 triple torpedo tube mounts forward, an 8 rail Mk 112 Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) launcher amidships, and a flight deck and hanger for QH-50D Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopters (DASH) aft, all capable of launching Mk 46 ASW homing torpedoes, an AN/SQS-23 sonar, and an AN/SPS-40B air search radar for DASH and ASW aircraft control.

1965: Motivated by NVA and Viet Cong (VC) floating mine and small arms attacks, destroyers destined to operate in Vietnamese coastal areas and rivers were fitted with two M2 "Ma Deuce" .50 caliber machine guns during Western Pacific (WESTPAC) deployments.

1968: Motivated by Russian and Chinese cruise missile developments demonstrated by the sinking of the Israeli destroyer INS EILAT (K40) off Port Said, 21 Oct 67 by Russian built Egyptian KOMAR patrol boats using Russian SS-N-2 STYX cruise missiles with a range of ≈21 nm, BRINKLEY BASS received AN/WLR-1 and AN/ULQ-6 systems atop the DASH hanger to detect and jam cruise missile seekers. However, these electronics, along with the ship's Mk 37 GFCs, two remaining Mk 38 twin 5"/38 gun mounts, and AN/SPS-10 and AN/SPS-40 search radars offered only limited Anti-Aircraft Warfare (AAW) capability against jet fighter/bombers and cruise missiles and no capability to destroy aircraft, ships, patrol craft, shore batteries, and submarines launching missiles from likely standoff ranges.

f. Operations: BRINKLEY BASS deployed 18 times to WESTPAC from San Diego 1946-63 and Long Beach 1964-71. The ship deployed for Korean War service 1950-53 that included engagements with coastal artillery resulting in 1 crewman killed and 9 wounded 20 May 51 and 3 wounded 25 Mar 53. BRINKLEY BASS deployed for service in the Gulf of Tonkin and Vietnamese waterways 1965-71 providing gunfire support for troops and patrol craft engaging enemy troops, structures, trenches, tunnels, bridges, storage areas, and watercraft, screening carriers and cruisers, and rescuing downed pilots. On 4 Feb 66 BRINKLEY BASS collided with the destroyer USS WADDELL (DDG-24) after underway replenishment from USS SACRAMENTO (AOE 1). Repair involved grafting the bow from USS TINGEY (DD 539), already damaged by a collision with USS VAMMEN (DE 644), on BRINKLEY BASS's hull. During the 1968-69 cruise, BRINKLEY

BASS carried a van topside to collect electronic intelligence, used Rocket Assisted Projectiles (RAP) and manual computer updates to extend firing ranges, operated with the battleship USS NEW JERSEY (BB 62), Patrol Boat River (PBR) units in the Bassac River, and NASTY Class boats inserting Sea Air and Land (SEAL) teams, and flew TV equipped "Snoopy" DASH variants for reconnaissance and targeting. TV showing upturned faces of NVA soldiers indicated one "Snoopy" was heard before being seen and shot down. In September 1968 while operating on Positive Identification Radar Advisory Zone (PIRAZ) station, BRINKLEY BASS "loaded to the trays" anticipating engagement of approaching fighter/bombers but did not fire since USS LONG BEACH (CGN 9) shot down a MIG-21 with a RIM-8 Talos missile and the other aircraft retreated. In 1969 after returning from Vietnam, BRINKLEY BASS received two Zuni chaff rocket launchers outboard of the ASROC Control Station to decoy cruise missiles away from the ship and other equipment under the Ships' Anti-Missile Integrated Defense (SAMID) program. The ship conducted detection and response tests involving chaff and relatively new 5"/38 projectiles with infra-red (IR) fuses and participated in a Midshipman cruise during which cruise missile attacks were simulated against NEW JERSEY. These events suggested more was needed for effective missile defense. BRINKLEY BASS was assigned to train Tacoma, WA reservists from 1 Jul 72 until decommissioned 3 Dec 73 and transferred to Brazil. The destroyer was renamed for Brazilian LT Antônio Carlos de Mariz e Barros, killed in 1866 aboard the ironclad TAMANDARÉ in the war Brazil and Argentina fought to lift Paraguay's blockade of the Paraná and Paraguay Rivers. MARIZ E BARROS (D 26), participated in training, rescue, and diplomatic operations, including United International Anti-Submarine Warfare. (UNITAS) exercises involving U. S. Navy units.

g. Fate: MARIZ E BARROS, ex-BRINKLEY BASS, was sunk as a target in the South Atlantic 19 Dec 2000.

h. Awards: Combat Action Ribbon, Navy "E" Ribbon (1970), Occupation Service Medal (Japan), China Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal with 7 Battle Stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Taiwan Straits, Quemoy and Matsu Islands), Vietnam Service Medal with 9 Battle Stars, Korean Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation. The Navy Sea Service Deployment Medal was not included because it is only authorized retroactively to 15 Aug 74.



BRINKLEY BASS "as built" with a quad 40mm gun mount replacing aft torpedo tubes of the original design to combat Kamikaze aircraft threats late in World War II. Oct 1945 photo from 1st Commanding Officer CDR Philip Wallace Winston, USN



BRINKLEY BASS in the mid-1950s with tripod mast for heavier radars and 3"/50 gun mounts replacing 40mm and 20mm AAW batteries from <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/pix1/0588712.jpg>



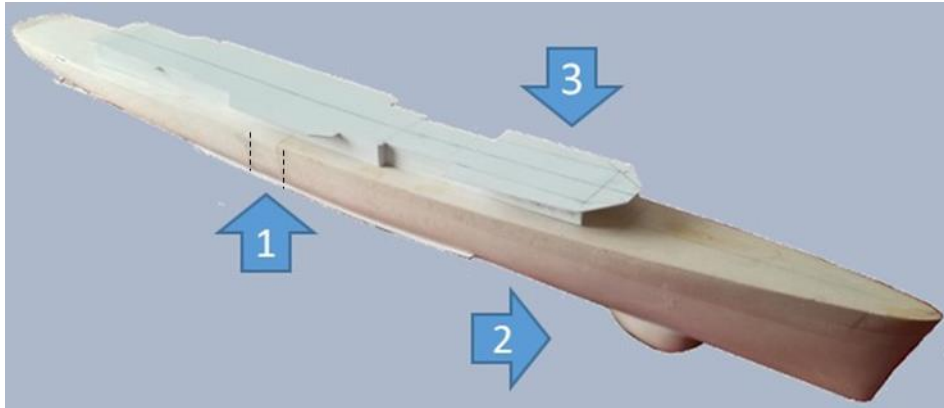
USS BRINKLEY BASS after FRAM I reconfiguration headed for the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam in 1968. Photo from ship's 1968-69 Cruise Book posted at <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/pix1/0588702.jpg>

## 2. Model Fabrication

- a. Materials: The wooden hull was adapted from the Bluejacket Shipcrafters USS KIDD (DD 661) kit by inserting a 14/16" fore and aft block faired into the hull forward of the after stack to replicate the 14 ft. fuel tank section inserted in DD-445/692 Class hulls to increase the DD-710 Class steaming range. Two 4-bladed props and two rudders used by DD 692 and DD 710 Classes replace the two 3-bladed props and one rudder used by DD-445 Class destroyers like KIDD. Other parts were made of sheet plastic, cast resin, and brass,
- b. Scale: 1:192 (1/16" = 1')
- c. Era of Configuration Depicted: Circa 1968
- d. Model Construction Period: ≈8 months; cannibalizing an earlier version built on a Marine Model GEARING hull with less sheer.
- e. Techniques: Plans from "Sumner-Gearing-Class Destroyers: Their Design, Weapons, and Equipment" by Robert F. Sumrall were photo-copied and enlarged to 1:192 scale drawings. Photographs of the ship and other GEARING Class destroyers were collected from Internet sources, e.g. <http://www.navsource.org/archives/05/887.htm>, for configuration reference. The superstructure was fabricated

from plastic sheet so open water-tight doors, portholes and DASH hanger door would give the impression of a habitable ship. The open doors were dusted with lead shavings to bring out photo-etched details. A plaque engraved by David Chung's Shop in the 3rd Street Navy Exchange, 619-235-8075, with a summary of the ship's history was attached to the wooden base, along with Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club patch, so viewers would understand the historical significance of the ship and its crew. A glass case from University Glass, 5255 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105, 619-280-3688 protects the model.

f. Issues & Solutions: MS PowerPoint images replicating deck tread patterns, blast protection around the ASROC launcher, and flight deck markings were printed on white 25% cotton fiber paper and attached with white glue. The ensign and signal flags representing the ship's call sign were printed on typing paper, reversed, and printed on the opposite side.



BRINKLEY BASS model showing (1) Shaped wooden DD-445/692 Class hull with insert to extend it the equivalent of 14 ft. to make DD-710 hull, (2) Shaped block representing AN/ASQS-23 Sonar, (3) Initial superstructure & bilge keels fabricated from plastic sheeting.



Model of USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887) Circa 1968 from Starboard Bow Showing Label Plate



Model of USS BRINKLEY BASS (DD 887) from Starboard Quarter Showing QH-50D DASH Drone on Flight Deck

Footnote: Model builder CDR Frank Dengler, USN, (Ret.), served as Gunnery Officer, Officer of the Deck, and Combat Information Center Watch Officer aboard BRINKLY BASS in 1968-69 as an ENS and LT(jg). Motivated by BRINKLEY BASS sensor and weapon limitations, Frank wrote "The Silent Vote" in the February 1971 U. S. Naval Institute Proceedings and became involved in installation, training, testing, modification, and/or tactics for multiple AAW, ASW, and surface warfare systems.