

In Memory of Frank Lynn

by Larry Pulka #7406.

I met Frank at the Florida IWCS meeting some years ago. We hit it off from the start. Frank and I would swap war stories, his on WWII, and mine on Viet Nam. This story begins several years later.

In February and March, 2008 my model ships were the main attraction at the Art museum in Canton, Ohio. The wife and I then opened our museum, Blue Water Majesty Museum, in May of 2008. As always, being between commissions, I was looking for a project I could do. About this time I received a package from Frank Lynn. The package contained a note from Frank and a chunk of teak wood. Frank's note stated that the piece of teak wood was from the deck of the battleship Oregon. How Frank acquired that piece of wood is a mystery to me but he further stated, that he knew I would put it to good use. I had my next project.



Before I build a model, I do extensive research on it and then order a copy of the set of original blue prints from the Navy. My research revealed

that the Oregon was the first Battleship with 13 inch guns and therefore could shoot over the horizon. An unheard of deed in 1896 when it was built.

The Oregon has been credited with many battles the most memorable being the battle in Havana harbour during the Spanish American war. The Oregon, single handedly, ended the Spanish American war by sinking the 11 ship Spanish Armada as they tried to flee Havana harbour. In 1956 the Oregon was sold to the Japanese as scrap metal. The Japanese would not accept the Oregon with it's 4 inch thick decks of teak until they were stripped. At this point I can only assume that Frank knew someone who helped strip those

A close up of the teak decking.



Full view of model with piece of teak in front of it.

decks.

The model is made in the plank on bulkhead construction with the planking being cherry and then painted over to simulate metal. All the pieces that are black were made from ebony. All else that is painted was constructed from poplar. The decks are made from the piece of teak wood Frank sent me. In the photo showing the full model there is a chunk of wood in front of the model. This piece of teak is what is left over from the wood Frank had sent.

Frank is gone now but his memory lives on in the model of the battleship Oregon. The model is located in our museum at Blue Water Majesty Museum at 2810 Columbus Rd. N.E., Canton, Ohio. (330-452-4330).

