



# HMS Warrior 1860

## Points of interest

### On the jetty:

- Warrior was the first iron-hulled warship.
- She was built at Blackwall in London and was launched in 1860.
- The figurehead shows a Greek warrior.
- It was one of the last to be made – ships now have badges.
- Warrior is 418 feet (127.4m) long and 58 feet (17.6m) wide.
- Warrior's displacement (weight) is 9,210 tons!

### On the upper deck:

- Warrior has 3 masts – the foremast, mainmast and the mizzen.
- Imagine climbing up to furl the sails - sailors worked in bare feet for better grip.
- The ship sailed at night so ropes had to be recognised by touch – hence the phrases “know the ropes”.
- There are two funnels – Warrior was powered by a steam engine as well as sails.
- The funnels could be lowered (and the propeller raised) when the engine was not in use.
- Warrior had a top speed of 17.5 knots (about 20 mph) using both sails and steam.

### **At the very front of the ship.**

#### **Look through the netting to the black metal grills.**

- These are the “heads” (toilets) for the men - imagine using them in a gale!

#### **Look at the brass strips on the deck by the gun.**

- These are “racers”.
- They made it easier to move the gun so it could be fired from various different positions.

### On the main (gun) deck

- Each set of tables and benches is called a “mess”.
- Each “mess” was the living/eating/sleeping/recreation area for 18 men.
- Imagine 18 hairy sailors in this space!
- Sailors slept in hammocks.
- On this deck there are 26 x 68 pound guns and 8 x 110 pound guns.
- Spot the “hearts” and “arrows” on the deck head above the guns.
- These are marks for aiming the guns to fire ahead or astern.

## **At the very front of the ship**

### **This is the Cable Deck.**

- The huge chains are for the anchor.
- Live animals were kept to supplement food – meet “Victoria”!
- The case on the table shows the sailor’s kit and the everyday items in his “ditty box”.

### **The galley (kitchen)**

- Each week, one man from each mess was chosen to be mess cook.
- He had to collect the day’s rations from the issue room and prepare the food.
- The food was put in containers marked with the mess number.
- The cooks in the galley cooked the food for dinner at 12 o’clock.

### **The Capstan**

- The capstan was used for raising the anchor.
- The “stanchions” (metal poles) around the capstan could be lifted out of the way.
- Bars were slotted in place for the sailors to push against to turn the capstan.
- Over 100 sailors were needed to turn the capstan.
- Each of Warrior’s 4 anchors weighs around 5.6 tons.
- It would take 4 to 5 hours to raise the anchor!

### **The Captain’s Cabin**

- Look at the amount of space the Captain had for his quarters. This is his day cabin.
- His night cabin with his cot bed is separate – off the side of the day cabin.
- Look at the quality and style of furniture and decoration.
- Compare this with the sailors’ lot.

### **The cabins for the Commander and Master – on either side of the Captain’s quarters.**

- The Commander was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command on the ship.
- He was responsible for the day to day running of the ship.
- Today he would be called the Executive Officer.
- Today the Master is known as the Navigator.
- He was the expert on sailing and navigation.
- He took sun and star sights to keep track of the ship’s position.
- The Master was responsible for writing up the ship’s log.

**Look down to the Officer’s Wardroom through the glass panel.**

## **Lower Deck**

### **Wardroom**

- The Wardroom was the mess for the ship's other officers.
- Their cabins are around the edge of the Wardroom area.
- The Captain had to be invited before he could come in!
- The dining table was only set like this when the ship was in harbour (or in calm weather).
- The pictures are of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

### **Gunroom**

- The gunroom was where the Sub Lieutenants and Midshipmen lived.
- They were training to become Officers.
- They kept all their belongings in chests like these.
- A journal kept by 14 year old Midshipman Henry Murray was used to help with the restoration of HMS Warrior.
- He had drawn detailed plans of the ship's decks and where everything was.

### **The Issuing Room**

- A sailor from each mess collected the day's ration of food from the Issuing Room.
- Sailors mostly ate "hard tack" – salt meat, dried vegetables and ship's biscuit.
- Breakfast was usually "kye" (cocoa), biscuit or bread and preserves or cheese.
- Dinner was soup or porridge, boiled meat and vegetables, suet pudding and tea or kye.
- The evening meal was usually a cold version of the midday meal.
- The arrows on the boxes showed the stores were government issue.

### **The Marines Flat**

- These large "rooms" on board ship are called "flats".
- Royal Marines were (and still are) the Navy's own soldiers.
- There were about 120 Royal Marines serving on Warrior.
- All their kitbags were stored here.
- Look down on the engine room.

### **The Cable Tier Flat**

- The sailors' daily allowance of "grog" was issued from here.
- This was a mixture of two parts water to one part rum.
- Look at the chains or cables for the anchor.

### **The Seamen's Flat**

- This is the storage area for the sailor's kitbags.
- Every sailor had a numbered kitbag.

## **The Bathroom Flat**

- Boy seamen and the men who worked in the boiler and engine rooms used the baths.
- Things were rather different for the rest of the crew – each mess of 18 men had two buckets of cold water twice a week to wash in! Imagine the state of the water!
- Warrior was the first ship to have washing machines.
- The washing machines were filled with hot water. The clothes were put in, along with scrapings of soap. Turning the handles worked all the machines at the same time.
- Clothes were then put through the mangles to remove the water.
- Warrior's stokers (the men shovelling the coal for the furnaces) had white uniforms!

## **The Cell Flat**

- The cells were used for men who had committed serious crimes.
- Picking oakum (pulling old rope to pieces) was a common punishment.
- Another punishment was to be lashed with the "cat o' nine tails".

## **Stokehold and engine room**

- Warrior has 10 boilers, each with 4 furnaces.
- The men who worked here were Stokers and Trimmers.
- Trimmers brought the coal from the bunkers to the furnaces in trucks that ran on rails.
- Stokers kept the furnaces evenly fed with coal and removed the ash and clinker.
- Conditions were very noisy, hot and dirty – around 110°F, 43°C.

## **The engine room.**

- This engine is an accurate reproduction of the original steam engine.
- It can be seen working at a very slow speed.
- Warrior's engine and boilers were built by Penn's Engineering Works at Greenwich – just a little further down the Thames from the Ironworks where the hull was constructed.
- Warrior's maximum speed under steam was 14.5 knots (about 17mph) and 13 knots (about 15mph) under sail.
- On one occasion, Warrior reached speeds of 17.5 knots (about 20mph).

## **The Handing Room.**

- Gunpowder was passed through here from the powder magazine to the gun deck.
- Great safety precautions were taken to ensure minimal risk.
- The powder magazine was lit by lamps sited by glass portholes outside the room.
- Gunpowder charges were carried in leather cartridge cases.
- Spot the hand!