



CERF

Cotre

1779 - 1780

A 1/48 SCALE MONOGRAPH

Build by Denys

Jean BOUDRIOT & Hubert BERTI

The renewal of the French Navy after the Seven Years' War was responsible for the commission of many new naval constructions, in particular, the building of a series of large cutters, begun in 1779, some measuring 75 feet in length, bearing 14 guns and others measuring 81 feet in length, armed with 18 6-pdr guns. As the prototype of this model, we have chosen *Le Cerf* which was built at Saint Malo according to the shipbuilder Denys's plans and launched on 2 March 1779.

Command of the ship was confided to ship's ensign Varages who sailed the Brittany coast and engaged in the ship's first active combat with two English cutters on 21 June of the

same year. After repairs were completed, the *Cerf* resumed sailing but was struck by lightning on 17 July. We have a detailed account of this fortunately rare occurrence.

After putting in at Lorient, the *Cerf* was put under the command of John Paul Jones, Captain of the U.S. Navy, as part of a division sailing under the American flag - including *Le Bonhomme Richard*, *La Pallas*, *L'Alliance* and *La Vengeance* - that cruised the British coastline.

On 23 August off the Irish coast, the *Cerf* is enlisted to search for the long boat of the *Bonhomme Richard* carrying seven deserters. Foul weather interrupts the search and the disabled *Cerf* abandons its mission.

In his vivid and detailed reports up to February 1780, Varages fully represents the role of a ship of lighter tonnage which was essential to a great military navy for bearing dispatches, as well as for protecting the coastline, coasting vessels and fishing fleets.

COMPOSITION OF THE MONOGRAPH

A 138 page brochure, 24x31 cm format, including:

- Evolution of the brigantine from the Bermuda-rigged sloop to the cutter
- History of the cutter in the French Royal Navy
- List of 27 cutter-rigged ships appearing in the lists of the French navy 1756-1781.
- Commentary and analysis of 14 photographs of models of cutters in the collection of the Musée de la Marine.
- History of the campaigns of the cutter Le Cerf.
- Detailed commentary with all necessary information on the 11 plates at 1:48th scale and on the drawings of details
- Full glossary of superstructure and rigging terms.

COMPOSITION OF THE PLATES at 1/48th

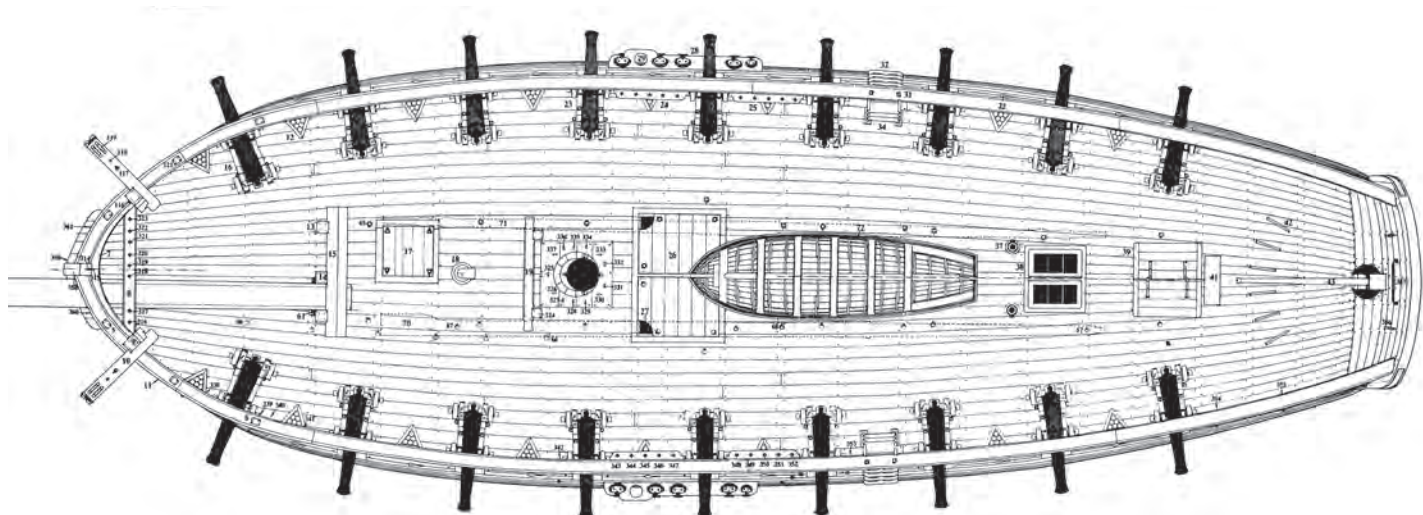
A set of 11 plates on cartographer's paper at 1:48th scale including:

- 1 Definition of the hull, longitudinal drawings, vertical sections of the ribs
- 2 Definition of the hull, drawings of the planking.
- 3 Plan of the deck and profile of the midship frame.
- 4 View of the hull, longitudinal section, front view.
- 5 Plan of the fitted-out deck, rear view.
- 6 Cross-sections
- 7 Fitting (1).
- 8 Fitting (2).
- 9 Mastig elements, mast yards rigging.
- 10 Square sails
- 11 General view of the fore-and-aft sails.

RIGGED MODEL			HULL ALONE		
Length	Width	Height	Length	Width	Height
90	20	120	62	20	20

Centimeters

Extracts from the plans



Extracts from the plans

