

A Private collector in Hamburg

In 2016, when the photos of the bone ship model were mounted to this website, the accompanying text was very short.

According to further research on the type of this bone ship model, it would appear that the model represents a bomb vessel¹, or bomb ketch. Its primary armament was not cannons (long guns or carronades) – although bomb vessels carried a few cannons for self-defence – but mortars mounted forward near the bow and elevated to a high angle, and projecting their fire in a ballistic arc. Explosive shells (also called *bombs* at the time) or carcasses² were employed rather than solid shot. Bomb vessels were specialized ships designed for bombarding (hence the name) fixed positions on land.

Bomb ketch with 12 cannon and a figurehead, made circa 1810. Size: 48 x 49 cm. The model is rigged without an additional gaff-rigged spanker behind the mainsail. Some re-rigging. With new backboard and recent repairs to top of case. Provenance: The parents of present owner acquired the model during 2006 in the gallery of Annabel Huggett/London; purchased privately in Hampshire from decedents of an English Vice Admiral. Meanwhile, the bone ship model will be at KENDZIA auction, Hamburg on 25 February 2022. Please have a look at [Auktionskatalog - Auktionshaus KENDZIA \(auktion-kendzia.de\)](https://www.auktion-kendzia.de)

¹ [Bomb vessel - Wikipedia](#) 10.2.2022

² A carcass was an early form of [incendiary bomb](#) or [shell](#), intended to set targets on fire. [Carcass \(projectile\) - Wikipedia](#)



Bomb ketch



Bomb ketch



Bomb ketch, bowsprit gear



Bomb ketch, stern



Foremast hatch secured with planks to cover a mortar (?)

Ivory model of bomb ketch HMS *GRANADO*³ in the International Maritime Museum, Hamburg⁴:



HM bomb ketch *GRANADO* with two mortars



HM bomb ketch *GRANADO* **no** spanker

³ HMS *GRANADO* was launched in 1742 in Ipswich, UK

⁴ Page 289 in: Stein, Manfred 2015: Die „Prisoner-of-War“ Schiffsmodele im Internationalen Maritimen Museum, Hamburg (Slg. Peter Tamm), Band II, Holz und Elfenbein, neue Knochenschiffe, Book on demand, printed by epubli GmbH, Berlin, 348 pages.



Wood model⁵ of HM bomb ketch *GRANADO* lifting the planks of the front mortar



Wood model of HM bomb ketch *GRANADO* spanker

⁵ HM Bomb Vessel Granado (CA9015) Historic Scale Wooden Model Ship Kit by Caldercraft Ship Models



Nicholas_Pocock - The_Battle of Copenhagen, 2 April 1801

The bomb vessels are shown in the lower left corner of the painting. The mortars fire over the English and Danish lines to destroy Copenhagen.