

GREAT BRITAIN

Technical Specifications

Armor: 2

Hull: 6

Speed: 6 (30kts)

Engine: 750 HP forced draught (ES=6)

Coal: 150 tons

Endurance: 25 days

Altitude: High

Tonnage: 600 tons

Price: 77,370

Crew:

Bridge: C,H,T,S,O

Deck: 3 + 6

Maneuver: 6

Gunners: 10

Marines: 2 + 18

Armament:

1 4.7" QF, in forward armored turret

1 6-pdr HRC in ventral mount

2 6-pdr HRC in forward wing mounts

2 6-pdr HRC in stern wing mounts

1 6-pdr HRC in stern mount

2 5 barrel Nordenfelts in broadside mounts

6 Spike droppers

1 Maxim machinegun

Tribal-Class Gunboat

In late 1887, already sensing that there was trouble brewing with the Oenotrian empire to the south of the British possessions on Mars, the British Army officer Sir Evelyn Wood requested the department of Aeronaval construction at the Parhoon shipyards to propose a gunboat that would meet the army's need for a "close support" gunboat.

The army staff on Mars was concerned that the Oenotrians would be able to bring great weight of numbers against the regular regiments and colonial troops stationed in the colonies, and memories were fresh of the Sudan campaign, where despite the superior firepower of the British regiments, the Sudanese were able to close to hand to hand on several occasions, such as the battle of Tamai, where after horrific hand to hand fighting the 42nd (Black Watch) and 65th (1st Btn York & Lancasters) were able to reform a square broken by a sudden rush from cover.

The requirement was for a gunboat which could deliver a great weight of rapid fire from multiple weapons, preferably Hotchkiss rotating cannons with high speed and secondary loads of spike droppers, and also be able to be used to transport a reasonable compliment of Royal Marines for raiding and

interdiction of enemy supplies.

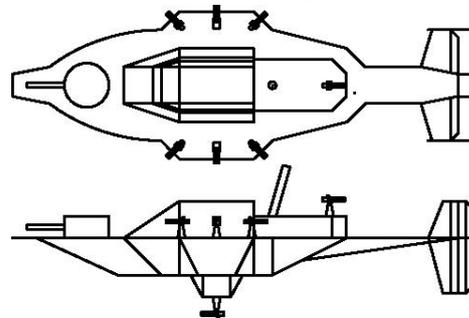
The Result was HMS Maori launched in September 1888.

The Royal Navy had shown great concern that with only 6-pdr HRC, the class would be under-gunned so the final design incorporated the new 4.7" QF in a forward armored turret, the RN insisting on this as the gunboat would be operating at low altitude.

After the outbreak of hostilities, the first two ships in the class, HMS Maori & HMS Gurkha, proved themselves invaluable in action. HMS Maori was instrumental in crushing a massive Oenotrian assault on number 1 Column (Sir E.Wood) repeatedly strafing the Oenotrian infantry causing severe loss.

When Oenotrian sky galleons attempted to intervene, HMS Maori and its escort HMS Aphid engaged, destroying 3 and capturing 2. The 6 6-pdr HRC and the 4.7" QF proved able to pour a devastating hail of fire into the Martian ships. Despite the fine combat record of all ships in the class there is some concern the type may be under gunned against European armored opponents.

The crews however have the utmost confidence in the type with several major aerial victories against the Oenotrian navy, and its appearance over the battlefield causes even the most hardened Oenotrian troops to start looking for cover.



DEPLOYMENT OF SHIPS IN CLASS

<i>Ship</i>	<i>Launched</i>	<i>Current Station</i>
<i>Maori</i>	1888	<i>Syrtis Major</i>
<i>Gurkha</i>	1888	<i>Avenel</i>
<i>Sikh</i>	1889	<i>Moeris Lacus</i>
<i>Mohican</i>	1889	<i>Syrtis Major</i>
<i>Pathan</i>	1889	<i>Building</i>