



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

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EDITORIAL

March already. Frightening. The years certainly go quicker as I get older. Attend "Salute" if you can in April at The Excel Centre. Have a word or two with Simon at The NWS table.

Somewhere in the World, the Sun is over the yardarm.

Norman Bell

NORFOLK (NNS) -- To conduct ballistic missile defense operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility, the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58) has deployed from Naval Station Norfolk.

In preparation for their deployment, the Laboon crew completed their composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX) with the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group. The crew trained during exercises involving small boat operations, routine flight operations, weapons firing and damage control drills.

Commissioned in 1995, Laboon is the eighth Arleigh Burke-class destroyer and the only US Navy ship named after a Navy chaplain. Father "Jake" Laboon was awarded the Silver Star during World War II for diving off his submarine to rescue a downed aviator while under enemy fire.

For more information, visit the ship's website at <http://www.navy.mil/local/ddg58/>.

An answer has been found to the question of the mystery model in November's AGB. A Smythe, in Essex was able to identify the "William Fawcett", the model was produced to mark 150 years of the P&O S N Company. The Ship was the first to carry the P&O flag. The model was made by R.A.E. Models, Weybridge.

Sea Quiz 39... Answers...

- 1... Again the original copy gives a range of names.... Acorn, Acheron, Anson, Abingdon, Actaeon, Agammemnon, Alamein, Arun, Avon, Amphion, Amazon, Albion, and Albrighton.
- 2... It was the old Revenge, bulged for the purpose of bombarding the Belgian coast in WWI. Some disputed this, but Hood, bulged before Revenge was as an experiment.
- 3... The odd one out's HMS Nigeria, the others were sunk in action.
4. Now here's a full answer for you.... It was HMS Raleigh, a Frigate in 1875 off West Africa with rear Admiral Bedford flying his flag in her.
- 5... These splendid little gunboats were launched sideways.
6. It's Ark Royal of course!

SEA QUIZ 40.

Sometimes the quiz setters in 'The Navy' could be a little cantankerous, and question 6 is a good example of this. Most of you should know it well though!

1. Name the first armoured warship to cross the Atlantic...
2. Who flew his flag in Ferdinand Max, and where?
3. What was the first navy to use modern landing craft in action?
4. How many of them?
5. Who said 'I am always violent! I was born violent!' ..and to whom?
6. Which cruiser had her fore funnel further from the foremast than her second was from the mainmast?

.....
Gord Luck
Rob Morgan

The Portsmouth based frigate HMS KENT was waiting in the Red Sea as the Charles de Gaulle group sailed through Suez from the Mediterranean. The link-up between the two navies is the latest in a series of exercises and joint deployments since the turn of the decade with the goal of creating an Anglo-French expeditionary force next year.



By working with the carrier group Kent will hone the necessary skills needed when the Queen Elizabeth class carriers deploy in the coming decades.

HMS Queen Elizabeth, which was formally named by Her Majesty the Queen in July 2014, is currently being fitted out in Rosyth dockyard before arriving in Portsmouth.



Assembly of HMS Prince of Wales is also well underway. HMS Queen Elizabeth will be handed over to the Royal Navy in 2017 and is expected to enter service by 2020.

With an expected service life of up to 50 years, the QE Class carriers will be highly versatile and powerful defence assets; able to meet the widest range of tasks around the world. They are the largest, most capable and effective surface warships ever constructed in the UK.

Coronel & The Falklands.

In 'The Times' on Saturday 8th November, Allan Mallinson produced a decent two page article on '*The Saddest Naval Action of the War*', a short, but very readable account of the fate of Craddock's Squadron, and of the Squadron which sank it. Mallinson was, I think a cavalryman, and his view of the sea is sometimes a little wistful. He attributes Craddock's destruction to the fact that he didn't want to follow Troubridge into a Court Martial, implying a certain fear of Winston, who was a vigorous if occasionally a gung ho First Lord.

It's a good short piece to read, and the detail's intriguing. It makes a splendid quiz question to ask which WWII Admiral survived the Falklands battle, only to be interned when *Dresden* was scuttled; it was Wilhelm Canaris later head of the Nazi *Abwehr*. Mallinson draws comparisons with Harwood at the Plate in WWII, but the crucial point is Churchill's. After von Spee's cruisers were sunk, there were no German warships at large anywhere in the world. Some brilliant 'what-if' wargames surround the East Asia Squadron, what if some or all the light cruisers had followed *Emden* in raiding? What if the Japanese had encountered von Spee ? Or if he'd closed quickly on Port Stanley and managed to get in some decent hits on the Battlecruisers before they could get up steam? Of course, the German Admiral was in fact heading for home, and probably a similar defeat somewhere in the North Atlantic. Even if he'd made it, Winston's comment would still ring true.

Rob Morgan.

The following article follows on from Rob's notes in December's AGB – Wargame Ships for Next to Nothing.

Canopies or Awnings.

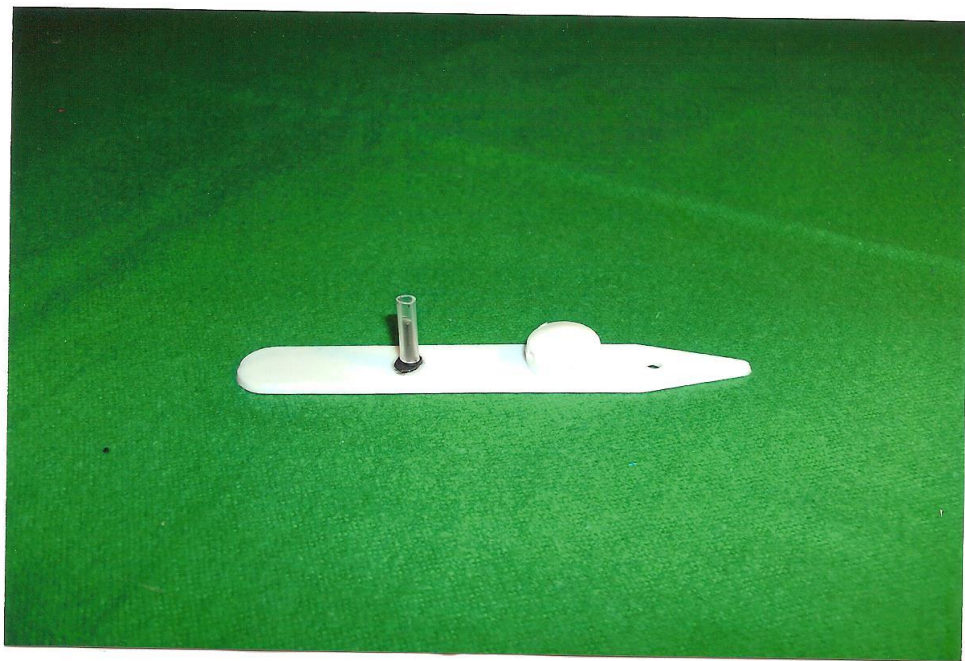
My notes on making dirt cheap monitors from gardening tags and screw covers (with any super-detailing, if you'll pardon the pun, you fancy) has just improved ever-so-slightly.

Last weekend was the centenary Armistice day, and on Tuesday, I cut the poppies off my pullovers, jackets and coats. Like most of us, I end up not with one purchase I transfer diligently, but a good half dozen on most of the things I wear regularly!

This poppy is useful.

If you take a small screwdriver, or dull blade to the join between the black centre and the red paper, it comes away, and you get the paper bits (this is beginning to sound like "Blue Peter", eh?) and the black roundel and a green stem. Look carefully at the stem. If you cut off the long thin curved stem flat against the bell shaped top of the green bit, you acquire a loudspeaker shaped cone... this is 10mm in diameter, and 8mm high; on the flat base there's a small





protruding nipple, and if you are really keen you can cut this away too, but it's not necessary for the purpose.

The purpose is... an awning for the monitor's turrets. Just like the ones you see in all the American Civil War contemporary sepia photos, but can't find on any model in any scale, unless someone's found one I've missed!.

The cone fits neatly over the screw cover, with the green nipple dropping through it, and cemented or super-glued in place you have an awning for your gun turret. It really does look good. As you see in the photographs it enhances the basic model quite a lot, though these two examples are unpainted and undetailed as yet. Incidentally, the two versions shown are just the basic, the long hull could take three turrets and then become as over-burdened as say *Roanoke* was. The 2mm hole well forwards provides lots of options, but that's your choice.

There are plenty of poppies around for awnings, since the British Legion hasn't collected its many boxes yet, for the most part, so dropping a few bob in the tin, you can pick up enough for your fleet. Patriotic too, of course.

Just an idea, but it does have potential in the 1/600th monitors too, it will fit over 'Peter Pig's *USS Keokuk's* gun houses, and *USS Monitor's* but might be regarded as a little too small for the bigger turreted ships.

Rob Morgan.

November 2014.

USS Roanoke 1863.

According to Tony Gibbons in his *'Warships and Naval Battles of the Civil War'* this Monitor was....'a poor seaboard', drew too much water, and the firing of her six heavy guns, combined with the weight of her three turrets caused her hull to sag. 'Not a success' says Gibbons. True enough, but every ACW tabletop fleet I've encountered, and my thirty plus years old set up's a typical example, contains the three turreted Monitor. Usually as flagship leading an almost invincible Monitor Squadron against a doomed, lonely Confederate ram!

Why? Well, probably because she had three centre-line turrets, and effectively, Gibbons mentions this, was the fore runner of the modern turreted battleship; the only three turreted vessel built for the Federals (she was I believe originally intended to carry four turrets) and was, arguably, the most powerful warship afloat in her time.

USS Roanoke spent the war from 1863 onwards as harbour defence ship at Hampton Roads, having at the outset, before conversion, escaped destruction at the hands of the mighty CSS Virginia. In many ways Roanoke was a 'fleet-in-being' all on her own! Some 6,000 tons, 260'+ long, the Monitor could, according to Gibbons make six knots, and carried a substantial crew of 350 officers and men. There are a few decent models of USS Roanoke around, the 1/1200th Navwar, basic but useful; the small, attractive 'Tumbling Dice' 1/2400th sea-based, and the elegant and rather expensive Thoroughbred in 1/600th, which is truly a collector's model. There are or were other models around once upon a time.





The photographs show a much older version, not around now- long gone, and my reason for writing this note. It's an old 'Fleetline' 1/1200th, and the three models shown in the first photograph are two 'Fleetline' kits; the USS Roanoke and the USS Monadnock, and at the rear, another 'golden oldie' it's a 'Lizard's Grin' 1/1200th scale USS Casco. Not a standard model, but one which has been adapted to carry a largish plastic globe, and I think represents a balloon carrying Casco (probably one of the few tasks this useless class of warships could have carried out, but I've no idea if this is authentic? It might be of course).

I bought them in Brittany at a toy fair. The only recognisable naval items lost among a pile of 'toy soldiers' and plastic bric-a-brac. Cost me a Euro each. Unfortunately, as you can see from the second photo of the Roanoke, the original owner seems to have assembled the model using great blobs of some sort of early super-glue and didn't bother to trim up or file off the flash, especially on the ship's boats. I do have the odd 'Fleetline' model, bought back in the seventies (whatever happened to that company?) and if I'm right, the ship's boats on this model must have been separate pieces, to be cemented in on small sprues, and the hefty funnel was a separate piece too. Were the turrets individual mouldings though? I'm not sure if the small hole in the hull forward of the funnel should house a missing pilot house, or short mast or ventilator, which Gibbons colour plate shows. Didn't 'Fleetline' provide assembly notes?

I probably won't use this one in my ACW fleet. Well, as a wargames model, the risk of her breaking her back in action must be immense. Her broadside was powerful, 3x15" Dahlgren SB's, an 11" Dahlgren and 2x150pdr Parrott rifles, and the prospect of a Roanoke v Warrior or Roanoke v Gloire encounter comes to mind. I suppose moored as a harbour defence vessel, maybe supported by rafts or camels, she could be formidable. A Confederate flotilla breaking into harbour's an unlikely scenario though! USS Roanoke survived until the 1880's though not in fleet service, and that's what's likely to happen in this case. I might add a suitable flag and add her to my 'Ruritania' squadrons, or try the odd 'what if' with her and possibly the other two models.

Well, I couldn't leave them on that toy stall in Morlaix could I?

Rob Morgan.

SIGNAL PAD!

Coming in April's AGB: Games Workshop Ships. Lego. The Great Fleet of Veneti. Old Dominion Gameworks General Quarters Fleet Action Imminent – Small Action in The North Sea.

JOINING THE NAVAL WARGAMES SOCIETY

If you have been lent this newsletter and would like to join the Naval Wargames Society, please follow this link to join our Society:

www.navalwargamessociety.org.

Membership secretary: simonjohnstokes@aol.com

NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2014

NWS Northern Fleet – Falkirk East Central Scotland

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Falkirk Wargames Club meets each Monday night at 7pm with a variety of games running each evening. Naval games are popular with 2 or 3 run each month. Campaign games sometimes feature in our monthly weekend sessions. Games tend to be organised week to week making a 3-month forecast here a waste of time. Please get in touch if you'd like to come along.

- Popular periods – Modern (Shipwreck), WW1 and 2 (GQ), WW2 Coastal (Action Stations), and Pre-dreadnought (P Dunn's rules)

Devon and the West Country

Naval Wargames afternoon/evening/all day on a regular basis.

Contact Stuart Barnes Watson to arrange the details.

stuart_barnes_watson@hotmail.com

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