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# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 249 – July 2015

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#### EDITORIAL

Much to my surprise, the refurbishment of No Man's Fort has been completed. (See AGB January 2015 for my comment/prediction that it would not happen). I just wish I could afford to stay there. The third Fort "Horse Sands Fort" will be refurbished also. Well done to Mike Clare, the man behind it all.



Passengers arrive by boat at No Man's Fort, which sits in the Solent a mile from Portsmouth and 1.4 miles from the Isle of Wight

Despite the huge forts being originally commissioned in a hurry, by the time they were built, the threat of Napoleonic invasion had subsided. They became known as Palmerston's Follies, a name that has stuck even though they were manned during The Great War and WW2 (although, thankfully, there was never a shot fired from any of them in anger). Of the four, three are located scattered across the Solent from Portsmouth (the fourth is nearer the Isle of Wight) and are all owned by entrepreneur Mike Clare (the man behind Dreams bed shops).

The smallest, Spitbank Fort, was a "Hog Roast and Disco" venue. And back in the now dim distant past, I did have a couple of good evenings there. It was re-vamped and re-opened in 2012 as a luxurious property for private rentals, fast becoming one of the most unusual (and exclusive) venues in the UK. No Man's Fort looks set to follow in Spitbank Fort's footsteps.

<http://www.amazingvenues.co.uk/solent-forts/>

Norman Bell

Web site of interest:

<http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/our-organisation/the-fighting-arms/fleet-air-arm/historic-flight/historic-flight>

### Royal Navy Historic Flight

The Royal Navy Historic Flight is a Royal Naval unit established in 1972 as a living memorial to all those who have served in the Royal Naval Air Service and Fleet Air Arm since the birth of naval aviation in 1909.

The Flight operates historic naval aircraft, namely Swordfish, Sea Fury and a Sea Hawk, attending air displays throughout the United Kingdom which also provides something of a 'shop window' on the Fleet Air Arm. The current display aircraft collection consists of; Swordfish MkI W5856, Swordfish MkII LS326, Swordfish MkIII NF389, Sea Fury FB.11 VR930 and Sea Hawk FGA.6 WV908.

#### Sea Quiz 43...Answers.

A decent mixed bunch of questions in this round. I amended number 4 from it's original format, it came from the October 1955 issue and was posed differently, and not in the actual quiz section.

1. The Corvette served in the Royal Indian Navy as '*Sind*'.
2. It was the Carrier *USS Forrestal*.
3. Oddly enough it was Stoker!
4. Well it was the visit of a Russian Squadron to the UK. Yes in 1913 it was Imperial Russian and in 1955 it was Soviet... but!
5. This was the 'Dark' Class of Patrol/ Torpedo Boats, of which '*Dark Agressor*' was the first.

Around the Soviet visit, the journal published some intriguing letters which provided some odd facts, including the composition of the two Squadrons...In 1955 there were 2 '*Sverdlov*' Cruisers and 4 Destroyers berthed, but in 1913, the Tsar sent 4 Battleships, 6 Cruisers and a Destroyer flotilla- much more impressive!

Rob Morgan.

## SEA QUIZ 44.

Most of this month's questions come from 1956 issues of 'The Navy' .....

1. What was the last Class of Battleship to be painted Black, White and Buff in service?
2. Which former Dreadnought 'assumed the Victorian livery' while serving as a training ship after WWI?
3. Which pre-WWI Battleship was condemned and scrapped in March 1956 amid protests?
4. Which warship was scuttled on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1924, and where?
5. In the 1880's, only one British armoured warship did not have power to her capstan. Which?

A little more complex this time brethren, and one or two answers did bring forth comment and debate.

Rob Morgan.

### An Icebreaker.

Mick Yarrow's 1/3000<sup>th</sup> Liner models are attractive, but Liners are not generally of great use in a wargame. However, the model of '*Avila Star*', 3104 in the range priced ( May 2015) at 80p is sturdy, flash-free 50mm long metal and has some significant use on the table top. There were five sister liners in all, '*Almeda Star*', '*Andalucia Star*', '*Arandora Star*' and '*Avelona Star*' being the others, serving as DEMS vessels. The Blue Star Class of liners suffered very badly in the War! However, this two funnelled model has a distinguishing feature, a high and substantial superstructure, which makes it look not unlike the '*Kapitan Sorokin*' class of Soviet Icebreakers; there were two, '*Kapitan Nikolayev*' being the other. A 1/1200<sup>th</sup> scale icebreaker has its value, and I decided to convert the unlucky '*Avila Star*' to serve with the Red Banner Northern Fleet. Not a lot of work either. I cut away both funnels, filed flat the row of ship's boats on the upper superstructure and forward of the bridge. Immediately behind the bridge I drilled and inserted an 8mm pin with head on as a mast, and a second slightly shorter 4mm from the rear of the superstructure. There's an odd deck feature right aft, 5mm wide across the stern, and I filed that off, and added an 8mm by 6mm rectangular flight deck for the 2 helicopters most of the Soviet Icebreakers seemed to carry. To get the deck flat, you'll need to file a little off the aft deckhouse. Add a sliver of circular sprue at the

after edge of the superstructure right over the flight deck, for a flying control position.

I found two very small 1/700<sup>th</sup> ‘Sea Wave’ derricks and cemented them forward of the bridge, and went hunting for a piece of plastic sprue 5mm by 3mm and slightly ‘flat’ to represent the single funnel, this I cemented exactly between the original funnel positions, and that was it. I didn’t have a 1/1200<sup>th</sup> scale helicopter to add aft, but that’s not a serious problem. Black hull, white superstructure and funnel with a red band and hammer and sickle. That’s it. Useful to escort your subs and smaller warships through the ice. John Moore’s “*Warships of the Soviet Navy*” (1981) from which I took the idea, doesn’t suggest an armament for this class of Icebreakers, but presumably the helicopters were, and something light for a/a purposes could be added in time of war?

Rob Morgan.

## **Experts uncover 38 shades of grey as they restore Royal Navy’s last Jutland survivor**

Experts working on the restoration of cruiser HMS CAROLINE have sliced through her history to reveal the exact paint scheme she ‘wore’ at the Battle of Jutland 99 years ago. Their research sheds fresh light on how the ships of the Grand Fleet looked – particularly as there’s no colour photography from the era to fall back on.

CAROLINE spent 85 years of her Royal Navy career as the headquarters for Naval reservists in Belfast. Before that, however, she was one of the greyhounds of the Fleet, scouting ahead of the capital ships on the hunt for the enemy. She was one of more than 150 British warships which locked horns with the Kaiser’s High Seas Fleet in the North Sea at Jutland, when she charged at the German lines on at least one occasion to unleash torpedoes.

Thanks to what has been found on HMS CAROLINE, experts have been able to review the entire colour history of the ship over 100 years. The ship is being returned to her Jutland glory in a £14m revamp which will be completed in time for the battle’s centenary. With no colour photography available from the earlier years of the ship’s life, it looked impossible to determine the warship’s true livery a century ago. That was until expert Jeff Maytom discovered paint samples close to CAROLINE’s bridge. The research shows the cruiser has enjoyed many paint schemes through her life (at least 38 layers) anywhere from a beige-cream to a rather dark grey at her launch in 1914.

## F35 Joint Strike Fighter

Since the dawn of powered flight, aircraft have been an integral part of the Royal Navy. Fixed-wing aircraft helped deliver some of the Navy's greatest 20th Century triumphs, from knocking out the Italian Fleet at Taranto and crippling the Bismarck, to playing an instrumental role in the re-taking of the Falklands in 1982.



Before the end of this decade, the F35 Lightning II will provide the ultimate punch of the Royal Navy's Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carriers. The F35 – also known as the Joint Strike Fighter or Lightning II – is an Anglo-American joint effort, designed by the best and brightest in the two nations' aircraft industries.

Specs: 15,000 lb payload, 450 nm combat radius, Speed mach 1.6.





Three Nimitz-class aircraft carriers USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), and USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) are pierside at Naval Air Station North Island. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Daniel M. Young/Released

## Roman Warship Names.

### A Note by Rob Morgan.

Casson's excellent book on *'Ships and Seamanship in the Ancient World'* contains hundreds of references to books and articles and documents which will be of value to the ancient naval wargamer. Even though I haven't really considered modelling a Roman fleet since buying a couple of those old 1/1200<sup>th</sup> models without oar banks over thirty years ago, his comments on the names of Imperial warships are worth consideration. It's a little surprising that only 80 names have survived of these oared vessels, and most of them from the fleets based at Ravenna and the Bay of Naples. I named two of my few galleys *'Romulus'*, *'Remus'* and another *'Horatius'* all very heroic, but the Romans seem to have missed these names out!

As Casson says, they didn't distinguish between ship types, Liburnians, Triremes and Quadriremes could have similar names, and sometimes the same name in the same fleet! At Misenum a Trireme and a Liburnian were both named *'Neptunus'*, and *'Minerva'* was the name of a Quadrireme, Trireme and Liburnian! Some are obvious choices which wargamers will probably have used; *'Mars'*, *'Appollo'*, *'Mercurius'*, *'Taurus'* (the last of these a Liburnian), *'Cupido'*, *'Hercules'*, *'Triton'* and *'Aquila'* for example.

He gives a decent list for the fleet at Misenum, enough to provide for a good wargame flotilla. Quadriremes *'Venus'*, *'Minerva'* and *'Dacicus'*. Triremes, *'Augustus'*, *'Fides'*, *'Fortuna'*, *'Liber Pater'*, *'Pax'*, *'Pietas'*, *'Providentia'*,

'*Salamina*', '*Salus*', '*Taurus*', '*Tigris*', '*Venus*' '*Vesta*' and '*Virtus*'; and Liburnians '*Virtus*', '*Jupiter*' and '*Neptunus*' and '*Minerva*'. Over twenty ships in all. At Alexandria were based '*Draco*', '*Fides*', '*Lupa*'. '*Neptunus*', '*Mercurius*' and '*Taurus*' all Liburnians. A Liburnian called '*Capricornus*' was based in Syria, and another existed named '*Satura*'. For the Moesian Squadron, Casson names five Liburnians, '*Armata*', '*Sagita*', '*Augustus*', '*Sphinx*' and '*Triptolemus*'.

He provides a host of other names, most without any fleet or ship type. '*Silvanus*', '*Styra*', '*Castor*', '*Pollux*', '*Diomedes*', '*Perseus*', '*Danae*', '*Juventus*', '*Radians*', '*Pinnata*', '*Victoria*', '*Triumphus*', '*Crocodilus*', '*Lupa*' '*Murena*' ( that's a sort of fish!) '*Taurus Ruber*' ( Red Bull), '*Gryps*', '*Clypeus*', '*Quadriga*', '*Concordia*', '*Clementia*', '*Spes*', and '*Annona*'. This last name means 'grain-supply', and might be suitably given to a merchant ship as well as a warship.

Interestingly, Casson provides three names for Trihemiola, maintained by Rhodians in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century AD, permitted by the Romans perhaps because of their value against pirates. These are '*Euandria Sebasta*', '*Eirena Sebasta*' and '*Polias*'. Other Roman names include '*Oceanus*', '*Danuvius*', '*Eufrates*' '*Tigris*', '*Nilus*', '*Padus*', '*Tiberis*' and '*Rhenus*' for the great rivers of the Empire. Then '*Parthicus*', '*Phryx*', a Liburnian named '*Varvarina*', and '*Luciferus*'. Though of rulers' names, Casson finds only '*Augustus*' which seems surprising. While he also records Roman warships named '*Ammon*' and '*Isis*' after Egyptian deities.

Many merchant ship names are given in this volume, most seem linked to the Nile or to Alexandria and the Empire's vital grain trade. '*Syracusia*', '*Alexandris*', '*Isis*' '*Dioscuri*', '*Asklepios*' he says were cherished, and presumably common names. The Greek pantheon was also recorded, '*Hermes*', '*Artemis*', '*Poseidon*', '*Nike*' and '*Demeter*', for example. Along with more typical merchant names, such as '*Tyche*' (Lady Luck) and traditional, if that's the right word, Egyptian deities and sacred objects and animals '*Ibis*', '*Aigyptos*', '*Serapis*' and cults, '*Pythios*' and '*Smintheus*'. Casson usefully lists the common use of '*Maria*', 'several examples' he says, from the earliest part of the Christian era. With others that, like so many merchant ship names of later centuries, fit no pattern or categorization, '*Fortuna Redux*', '*Pontos*', '*Felix Itala*', '*Chresmos*', '*Thalia*' and '*Halion Griphos*'. Enough names there to equip a decent sized convoy, and some will fit pirate ships, too.

Finally, a reference in Casson's book took me to Torr's '*Ancient Ships*' published in 1964 in Chicago by Argonaut, it's a very scholarly work and suggests this of Greek Warships, and possibly Roman too.... "A purple flag was generally the signal for going into action." This writer also suggests that a distinguishing flag was carried by all ships of a fleet, and that a 'distinctive flag' was carried by the Admiral or commander's ship, as well as flags for signalling.

“Ships & Shipping in Medieval Manuscripts”.....Joe Flatman. British Library 2009. Hardback.

There are four sections in this 160 page, glossy volume; starting with a useful Glossary, it's sumptuously illustrated, but the chapters are oddly titled I think, and the illustrations not collected in a way usual with matters at sea, this book is really an art monograph, but is well worth thumbing through to find the many and useful illustrations, rather than try to follow the complex text.

This book is worth time examining, and deals generally with four ship types, 'Viking', cogs, hulks and carracks; but none of the ships of the east, nor indeed the galley! Some illustrations, like that on page 33 of William the Conqueror stepping from a Carrack are delightful, and little known; the Bayeux Tapestry vessels and numerous Viking replicas are also considered of course. On page 71, Henry III of England sails to France in a ship with a magnificent ornate painted sail, not it seems as rare as some once thought, says Flatman...while on page 77 is a splendid c1340AD vessel in use as a troop ship, followed by a full colour illustration of a fleet attacking a city-most of the illustrations are in colour incidentally. It is a handsome book.

I found some interest in the illustration on page 79 of two knights, mounted on rowed boats, jousting, quite possible of course, but I've never seen it wargamed. While the Pilgrim vessel shown on page 86 has some value for the wargamer I think, and the Beauchamp Pageant's ships, better known to readers, appear on pages 86-88. The Edward IV period Crusader 'floating attack' on page 97 is a delight to examine, handguns and all, while many others are well known the odd 'state barge' on page 113 is a very valuable illustration, and one I'll model when I get the chance, might be valuable in a raid. Another useful attack on a city from the sea is found on page 125, and with effort the detail of two galleys can be determined on page 131.

More than a few of these plates are of working aboard ship, or of the discharge of cargo, but there is some attraction in the rest. Flatman provides a short list of further reading, most well are known to NWS members, Friel, Ewe, Rose, McGrail and Unger are among them.

Not a book to buy, but worth a look

Rob Morgan.





Historic England



www.OrdnanceSociety.org.uk

### Conference Booking Form

The conference fee is £65 and discounted concession of £55.00\*

An early bird rate of £55 and discounted concession of £45\* per head if you book before the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2015.

Conference fees includes a delegate booklet, refreshments and lunch for 2 days. The conference booklet will include a free entry form for Sundays behind the scenes guide tour of Fort Nelson.

Book online at Eventbrite or complete the form below.

Name..... (OS member no.....)

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Tel: (daytime).....

Email.....

Confirmation and registration details will be sent by email.

If you prefer confirmation by post, please indicate.

Please book ..... ticket(s) @ £65 and/or ..... ticket(s) @ £55 (concession rate\*)

Or early bird rate of £55 and discounted concession of £45\* per head if you book before the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2015

Cheques should be payable to Ordnance society

*\*To qualify for the discounted concession rate you must be on an award-bearing course, have an English Heritage ??? Card number, or be listed on a Protected Wreck Licence (if indicated you consent for the Ordnance Society to check with English Heritage) at the time of the conference and supply the name of the course and the college below, English Heritage ??card number, the name of the Protected Wreck*

**Please advise dietary needs or special access requirements:**

Send your completed form & payment to:

**Ordnance Society, Hawthorne Cottage, Moorfield Road,  
Leeds, LS12 3SE**

### Guns from the Sea ticketing now open

Sponsored by Historic England

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard  
with

A special guided tour of the Royal Armouries collection at Fort Nelson on  
Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Guns from the Sea presents the latest finds and research about ordnance from shipwrecks. Papers will present new and significant ordnance shipwreck finds from around the world, with presenters travelling from as far away as America and Australia. The talks range in subject matter from early Venetian gun founders to the industrialist gun makers of Wales and the Spanish Navy. Specialist papers will present innovative 3D recording techniques and new thoughts on conservation techniques.

Confirmed Speakers include world renowned ordnance specialists:

- Kay Smith,
- Ruth Brown,
- Nicholas Hall,
- Nico Brink,
- Gianni Ridella
- Alexandra Hildred

Papers to be presented include:

- Recent bronze ordnance discoveries from three shipwrecks off Biscaya, SV Pavao and Vis harbour, Croatia.
- Forensic archaeology and the gun carriages of Pepys London. Gun carriages and ordnance from the wreck of the London, 1695.
- La Real Fábrica de Artillería de La Cavada (1622-1835). Supplying guns to the Spanish Navy.
- Ordnance of the Sun King: Louis XIV era brass marine guns.

**Ticketing (<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guns-from-the-sea-tickets>)**

The conference price is £65 and discounted concession of £55.00 for 2 days including lunch. The early bird rates are £55.00 and £45 per head if you book before the end of July 2015.

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'Airfix' Revisited.....by Rob Morgan.

A fascinating article in this week's 'Times' says that Hornby, the company which now owns the Airfix range is planning to make available kits and models from its classic archive ranges to modellers ( and, obviously, wargamers) who commit to buy their favourite models through Kitstarter a crowdfunding platform.

The article suggests that most of the modellers who write in asking for the re-introduction of old models ask for 1/72<sup>nd</sup> wartime aircraft, but obviously there are a number of warship kits which would improve our potential activities as naval wargamers. I would be very happy to see the re-introduction of the small versions of '*Santa Maria*', of '*Golden Hind*' and '*Revenge*'. In the early sixties these came as waterline models, no determinate scale, roughly 1/300<sup>th</sup> or 1/400<sup>th</sup> – it's open to debate. But they featured in most of the early wargames books; it crosses my mind that the old '*HMS Shannon*' would be of some use too.

Or what about the 1/1200<sup>th</sup> waterline WWII warships, from the 'Hunt the Bismarck' range, never fully completed as a range of course. I suspect many would ask for the twin pack of '*Cossack's*', from which so many 'Tribals' can be made. They were issued as part of a 'gift set' at one stage. Undoubtedly the 'wants' list of most of us will never be fulfilled as far as Airfix warship models are concerned, but clearly and acting collectively, as a Society we could have some influence on the availability of plastic construction kits of warships suitable for war gaming. Time perhaps, for us to put pen to paper.

I'll take a dozen '*Santa Maria's*', four packs of '*Cossacks*' and a couple of '*Shannons*' please!

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## Airfix adopts new model for old kits

Nic Fildes  
Technology & Communications Editor

Crowdfunding platforms are often used to finance outlandish products, say an underwater jet pack or a toy gun that kills insects using salt, but the owner of Airfix believes they can be adapted for the more traditional hobby of building model aircraft.

Hornby, the modelmaker that owns Airfix, has launched KitStarter, a crowdfunding platform that will allow enthusiasts to commit to buy models from its archive, some of which have not been available for 50 years.

Airfix, which traces its roots to the late 1930s, has an extensive back catalogue and archive of models that are out of production but remain in demand by collectors. The company regularly gets requests to reintroduce older models and it believes that KitStarter will make their production viable.

Although wartime aircraft make up the bulk of requests, Hornby said that kits featuring garden birds and historical figures such as Oliver Cromwell



Model enthusiasts will help to decide which vintage kits from the Airfix archives are put back into limited production

would be reintroduced if enough people committed to buy them.

Thomas Budden, an avid aircraft modeller from Cornwall, said: "There is a desire that Airfix should go back to the early, rare kits and re-release them. As long as they keep a close eye on the quality of the mouldings and don't just

re-release the old kits without any tweaks to bring them up to a decent contemporary standard, then they will do really well."

Richard Ames, chief executive of Hornby, said that KitStarter could open the market to new fans. "This initiative is one of a number where we are work-

ing hard to build closer links with our consumers," he said. "Many of these people are loyal enthusiasts who have been fans of Airfix for a long time."

"We are also confident that KitStarter will help us to reach a new generation of model enthusiasts that we can attract into the hobby."

## **SIGNAL PAD!**

Naval Wargames Show 2015.

Try and get to the NWS NAVAL WARGAMES SHOW July 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Explosion Museum, Gosport. It's always good to match names with faces. Previous experience leads to say that a great time will be had by all.

# **Naval Gaming Convention**

**NAVCON is exclusively dedicated to NAVAL wargaming encompassing miniatures, board games, card games, and more of all Eras - from Ancients, to Modern.**

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Friday, October 2   | 7pm - 12am |
| Saturday, October 3 | 8am - 12am |
| Sunday, October 4   | 9am - 5pm  |

**Gaming events available on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday!**

**Admission: \$20 - Adult (18 or Older), \$12 - Students and Active Military**

## **Convention Locations**

| October 2-3   | October 4   |
|---|---|
| <b>Salvation Army Community Center</b><br>8853 S. Howell<br>Oak Creek, Wisconsin                            | <b>Holiday Inn Express &amp; Suites</b><br>1400 W. Zellman Ct.<br>Milwaukee, WI 53221 |
| Within walking distance of Starbucks, Panera, Dairy Queen, Quizno's, Papa John's, Chipotle, and McDonald's. | Hotel provides discounted rates for NAVCON attendees.                                 |
| <a href="#">View map</a>  | <a href="#">View map</a>  |

### **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.navalwargamesociety.org](http://www.navalwargamesociety.org).

Membership secretary: [simonjohnstokes@aol.com](mailto:simonjohnstokes@aol.com)

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## **NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2014**

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### **NWS Northern Fleet – Falkirk East Central Scotland**

Kenny Thomson, 12 Craigs Way, Rumford Grange, Rumford, Stirlingshire, FK2 0EU

Tel: 01324 714248

e-mail: [kenny.thomson@hotmail.com](mailto:kenny.thomson@hotmail.com) - Website: <http://falkirkwargamesclub.org.uk/>

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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)

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### **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](mailto:stuart_barnes_watson@hotmail.com)

3 Clovelly Apartments, Oxford Park, Ilfracombe, DEVON, EX34 9JS

Tel: 01271 866637