



*All Guns Blazing!*  
*Newsletter of the Naval*  
*Wargames Society No. 252 –*  
*OCTOBER 2015*

## EDITORIAL

The anniversary of The Battle of Trafalgar is here again. It only seems like a year since the last one! Does it make you feel like digging out your copy of Avalon Hill's "Wooden Ships and Iron Men", enlarging your "Sails of Glory" fleet etc? Or re-playing all or part of the Battle using miniatures grand or otherwise? If so, what about producing a few words on the action for AGB or Battlefleet?

"Colours" was held at Newbury in September. Only one day not two this year. I could not go, so I am unable to say if it was smaller in size as well as shorter in duration. One thing is certain and that is Naval War Games would have been under represented. When there is a Show near you what about using AGB to call for volunteers to run a sea themed participation game? Simon and regular helpers have done their fair share at London's Excel Centre each year and periodically on-board HMS BELFAST. John Curry and David Manley do a grand job promoting the hobby but like many things – many hands make light work. Can you call it work? Wouldn't it be fun?

Two new Members this month, Richard and Andrew. Slow but continuous growth in NWS Membership.

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

Norman Bell.

[http://www.admiraltytrilogy.com/read/BOI\\_Rpt\\_HMS\\_Sheffield\\_May82.pdf](http://www.admiraltytrilogy.com/read/BOI_Rpt_HMS_Sheffield_May82.pdf)

Website of interest. 25 pages Board of Inquiry – Loss of HMS SHEFFIELD to a non-exploding Exocet Missile.



## History of Repulse

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The HM Submarine Repulse was built by Vickers Ltd. at Barrow-in-Furness. She was launched on 4th November 1967, by Lady Joan Zuckerman, wife of Sir Zolly Zuckerman, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government, only to get stuck on a mudbank on Walney Island opposite the launch site.

HM Submarine Repulse was a nuclear powered submarine, more than 400 feet long and displaced over 7000 tons. She was designed to carry sixteen Type A3 Polaris missiles in addition to conventional torpedo armament.

First commissioned on the 28 September 1968. A two-crew system of manning was used, known as Port and Starboard crews, to achieve the maximum sea days for the hulls. The 1st commission Commanding Officers were Port Crew - Commander JR Wadman and Starboard Crew - Commander AJ Whetstone.

HM Submarine Repulse was the second submarine to come into service as part of the Polaris programme. She was preceded by HM Submarine Resolution and then followed by Renown and Revenge. The history of Polaris shows that with 229 unbroken patrols, it was a total success. Also with a mid-life update of Chevaline in 1982, it remained a credible deterrent throughout its operational life. The chapter came to an end in May 1996 when Repulse completed the final Polaris patrol and the reigns for the national deterrent passed to the Vanguard Class SSBN, equipped with Trident D5 missiles, she was finally decommissioned on the 28th

## **August 1996. Repulse itself was the most successful and reliable of the 10th Submarine Squadron.**

### Technical Data

Pennant Numbers: HMS/M Resolution (S22), HMS/M Repulse (S23).

Yard Numbers: 1074 & 1075

#### Dimensions

(in feet): Length 425 feet, Beam 33 feet, Draught 30 feet.

Displacement: Surface: 4,400 tons, Submerged: 4,900 tons.

Propulsion: Single shaft Pressurised Water Reactor 1 (PWR1) nuclear plant, two geared steam turbines = 15,000 shp Displacement: Surfaced 7,500 tons, Submerged 8,400 tons.

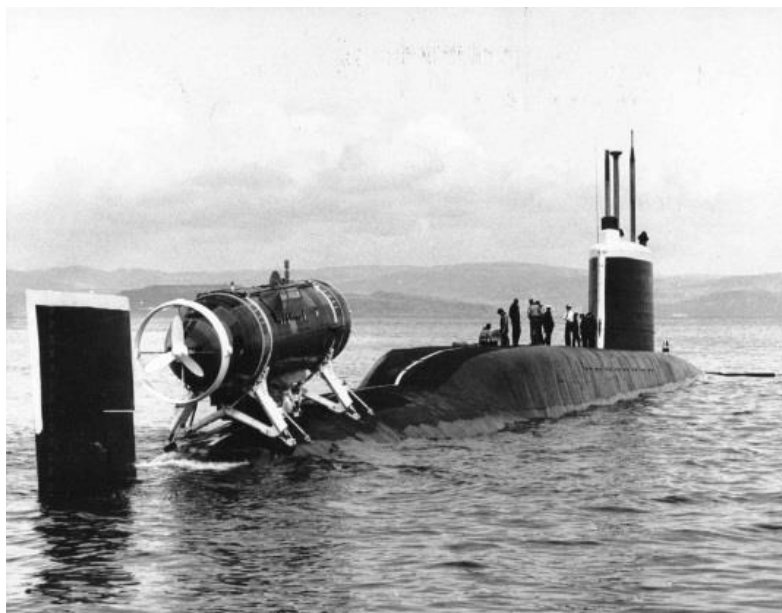
Speed: In excess of 25 knots.

Endurance: Approximately 100,000 nautical miles.

Armaments: Sixteen A3 Polaris UGM-27c two stage SLBM, powered by solid Fuel rocket motors with a range of 2,500 miles. 6 x 21 inch Torpedo Tubes fitted in the ships bow.

Complement: 13 Officers and 137 Ratings.

Notes: The third and fourth boats of the class HMS/M Renown (S26) and HMS/M Revenge (S27) were built at Cammell Lairds at Birkenhead.



June 9th 1979.

The photograph shows HMS Repulse, with the American Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Avalon embarked off the Isle of Arran West Scotland. The Royal Navy and the US Navy achieved the first-ever underwater link-up between two Dived submarines. Men from HMS Odin were ferried to Repulse using Avalon as the shuttle. During the exercise Odin acted as a distressed submarine, lying on the seabed 400ft deep; Repulse, was the mother Submarine from which Avalon

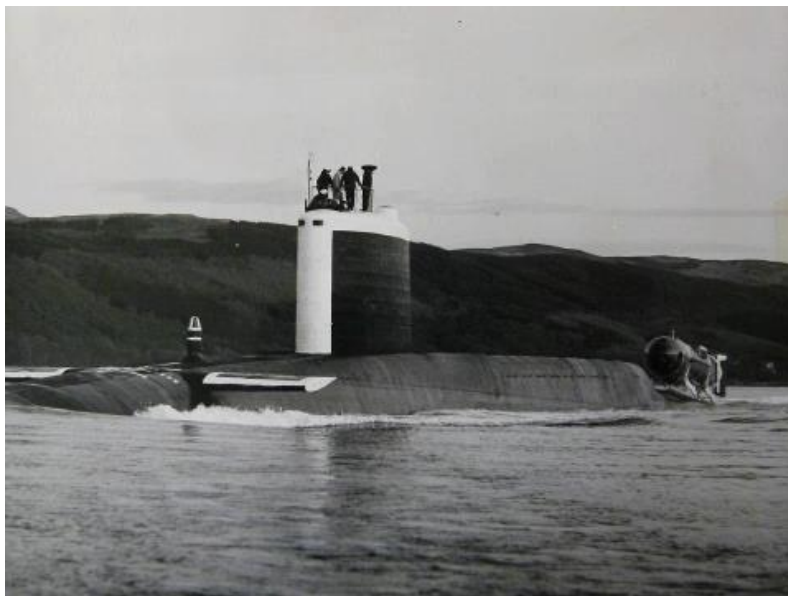
operated. Men from Odin were able to enter Avalon to be transferred to Repulse without even getting their feet wet.

### Historical Data

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At the Nassau conference in December 1962, an agreement was reached between President J.F.Kennedy and Prime Minister Harold McMillan to allow the Royal Navy to purchase the Polaris submarine launched Ballistic Missile System, to compensate for the cancellation of the Skybolt airborne strategic system in 1961. At a stroke, the Royal Navy took over total responsibility for Britain's nuclear deterrent from the Royal Air Force. The development of the Polaris programme placed an enormous strain on the Royal Navy and the industrial economy, but much to the credit of both, the programme came in on time, and more importantly, within budget.

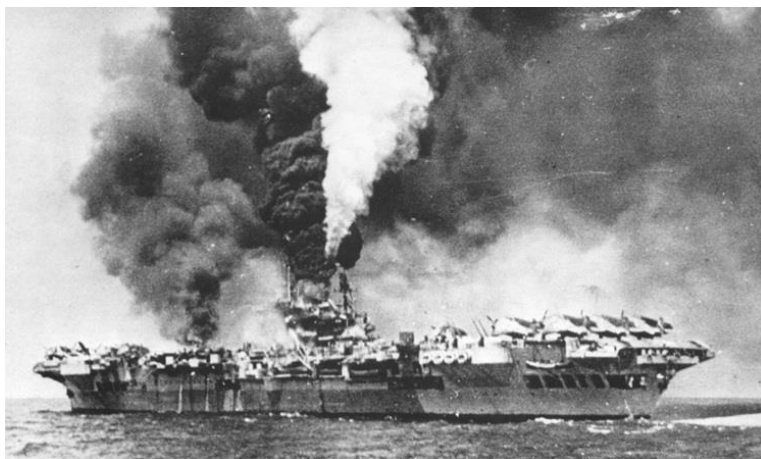
The original plan was for five boats, but the incoming Labour Government cancelled the fifth boat as a political gesture. This decision placed enormous pressures on the Polaris Submarine Force, as it was pledged to have a boat on patrol at all times. Using two crews (Port and Starboard) and tight refit schedules, the "Bombers" carried out their patrols for thirty years without any undue fuss until the introduction of the Vanguard Class Trident Submarines. When the final Polaris patrol was completed in 1996, the four boats had carried out a total of 229 two month patrols between them.



**On the same day that the world was struck by news of a second atomic bomb, the last Victoria Cross of World War 2 was won by a Canadian Royal Navy Reservist.**

Lieutenant Robert Hampton 'Hammy' Gray Thursday, August 9 1945.

Exactly 100 minutes before the attack on Nagasaki, Gray – known as 'Hammy' by friends – was leading a flight of eight Corsair fighter-bombers from carrier HMS Formidable, 750 miles to the northeast. Twenty-seven-year-old Gray was already a veteran of Formidable's raid on the Tirpitz in Norway and numerous fighter-bomber strikes in the Pacific theatre when he attended the pilots' briefing on the carrier that fateful Thursday. Formidable's Commanding Officer, Captain Ruck-Keene, urged his fliers "not to take unnecessary risks" with Japan teetering on surrender. But war was war and strikes this day were planned against airfields around Onagawa Wan, 250 miles north of Tokyo to keep the kamikazes grounded. Formidable knew all too well the threat posed by the Japanese suicide bombers. She had been hit off Okinawa in early May – the aftermath has provided us with some of the iconic imagery of a

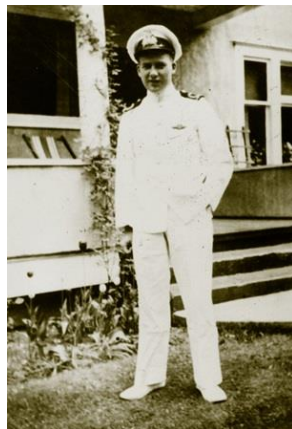


kamikaze attack – before being hurriedly repaired in Australia and sent back to Japan, where her aircraft struck at shipping and land-based targets.

On the morning of August 9, Gray's flight noticed flak guns belching on well-camouflaged shipping in the harbour. They continued on to the airfields – were they found few pickings – but on the run for home, the senior pilot of 1841 Naval Air Squadron was determined to knock out the enemy warships. Racing low over the Honshu hills, Gray led his flight towards a defiant destroyer, intent on dropping his two 500lb bombs on it. His posthumous citation described him running a gauntlet of concentrated fire, ignoring the steel hail, and heading directly for his target, the destroyer Amakusa. Flying at mast height, Gray released the bombs which tumbled into the destroyer, then began to make his break for safety. Still at barely 30 or 40ft 'Hammy' Gray's port wing burst into flames, the aircraft flipped over on to its back and plunged into the bay, disappearing in an instant.

Amakusa quickly sank. Gray's loss was mourned by all on Formidable. "He was liked and respected by all," fellow flier Sub Lieutenant A Hughes recalled. "His death cast a shadow not only on the pilots, but on the whole ship." To Gray's parents, Sub Lieutenant John Blade wrote: "I would have done more for Hammy than any other pilot I served under. He had an unfailing joviality and a sense of proportion which gave me the greatest confidence in his judgment." In the rush of events which followed the Japanese empire's collapse, the exploits of Robert Hampton Gray have largely been overlooked by history. A former medical student from British Columbia, the Canadian volunteered to join the Royal Navy in 1940, earning his wings in the autumn of 1941. He served extensively in North Africa before joining Formidable in the European theatre of operations, twice receiving a mention in dispatches for his heroism. News of his death reached the family home in the appropriately named Canadian town of Nelson, just as Emperor Hirohito declared "the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage" – ushering in peace in the Far East.

It would be another three months before the Canadian was gazetted for his deed. He was, it said, "one of the gallant company of Naval airmen who fought and beat the Japanese from Palembang to Tokyo."



Lieutenant Robert Hampton "Hammy" Gray RNVR VC.

Andrew Carlin has the following info in answer to Rob's question last month.

Warbases makes 2mm and 3mm thick MDF bases of all shapes and sizes. I would be surprised if they did not have a ready-made 2mm thick circular base of 10mm diameter in their range. Even if they don't they do custom bases to any size you want. I know it's not plastic or metal but who can tell once it's painted, and if you are looking for several then MDF is cheap.

Where do your tax dollars go? F35B Lightning II Pilot Helmets cost approx. £260,000 (\$400,000) each. Rockwell Collins has so far built more than 200 of them.

### Sea Quiz 46 Answers....

Well done if you got 2 and 4 right!

1. This pile of metal was recovered from the wreck of Tirpitz, apparently along with 250 tons of ammunition and her motors.
2. Well...it was *HMS Abercrombie*, she was to be named after Sir Ralph Abercromby, victor of Aboukir bay 1801. While Abercrombie was the name of a 74 afloat in 1810, and she was named after a Major General (they have those in the army, by the way) who was CinC North America in 1758. A clerical error!
3. *Diana*, took part in the First Burmese War 1824-26.
4. Another cause for argument....Along with Malaya, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Hindustan, a few oddities like Caledonia and Hibernia cropped up. Africa was given in the answers too, but that's not a country either.
5. It was *HMS Victory*, with 1,075 lost.

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### Sea Quiz 47.

Off we go.....

1. Name 10 British warships beginning with CO....
2. Who was CinC, what his flagship and who his enemy at Navarino?
3. Odd one out? Nigeria, Jamaica, Fiji, Bermuda, and Trinidad.
4. Who made the signal 'Intend attacking at dawn.' Where?
5. In which navy did the carrier Magnificent serve in the 1950's?

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### The Fleet Air Arm Quiz!

A quiz dedicated to the gallant FAA was an occasional 'special' in 'The Navy' back in the 1950's. Mind you not having ever been a flyer of any description I think the questions in these issues were far harder than the regular stuff.

Have a go, this is 1953 by the way...

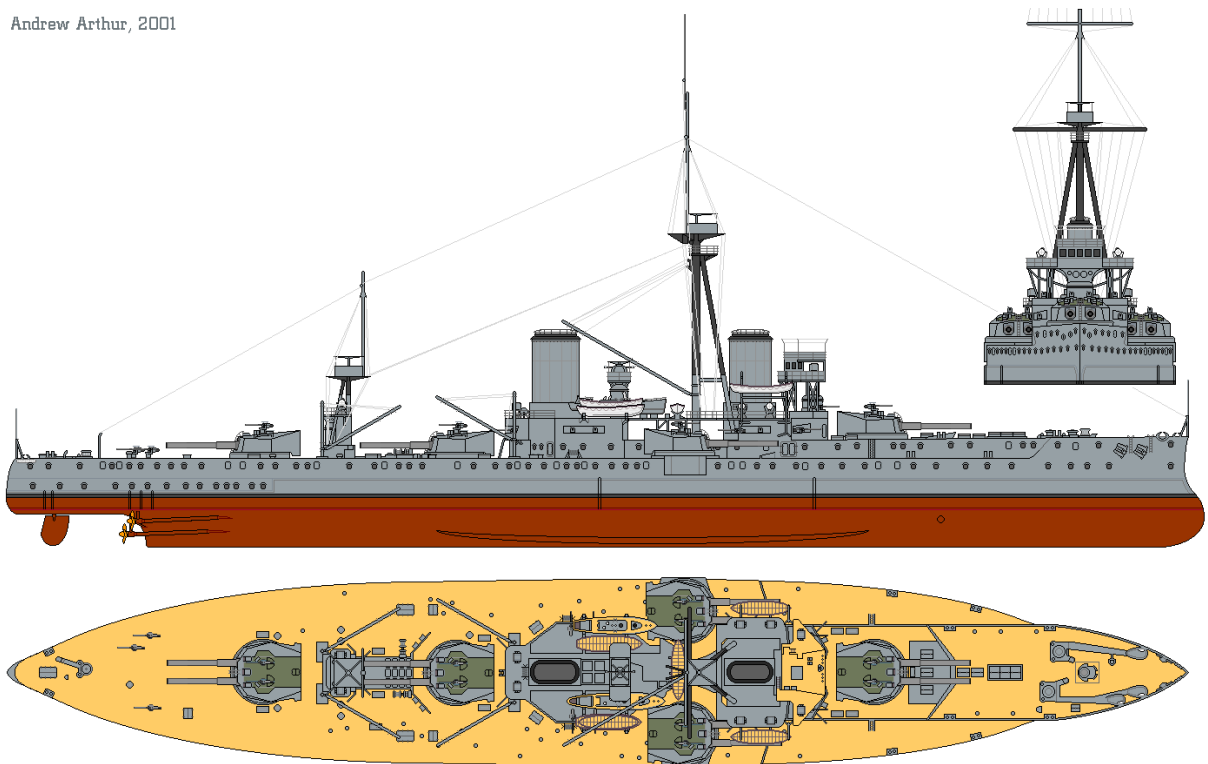
1. What is a Grunau Baby?
2. Where exactly is HMS Fulmar?
3. Name the first RN Carrier with an angled deck.
4. Which carrier (1953) is the cadet training carrier?
5. Which wartime US aircraft is still in front-line service with the FAA?





USS *Texas* in San Jacinto State Park, October 2006. The battleship is painted as it was in 1945 with Measure 21, Navy Blue System Camouflage. The camouflage was intended to make the battleship more difficult to detect from the air.

Andrew Arthur, 2001



HMS DREADNOUGHT – profile drawing by Emoscope available on Wikipedia

Coming in November's AGB: a few words on a hypothetical engagement between HMS DREADNOUGHT and SMS HANNOVER.





Postcard from 1906.

Was the HANNOVER obsolete on the day She was launched? Many would say yes. How would She have fared against the 12 inch guns of the faster HMS DREADNOUGHT? November's AGB contributes to the debate.

[Phil Beeley](#) supplies the following in answer to the "Menelaus" article in September's AGB.

The query regarding Menelaus. See Buxton, "Big Gun Monitors". She was a sister to M 33 which is the lead article in AGB. Once named Melpomene, but renamed when a French ship of that name joined the Free French Forces. ex M31 was then again renamed, this time as Menelaus. She had a single 21in TT on the forecastle, as a torpedo training vessel.

Scrapped Post war.

Interesting class this. In addition to their varied service careers, apparently some of them were converted to Tankers for service on the (then shallow) Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela.

The following article is from P Dunn.

### EARLY DAYS

Present day members of the Naval Wargames Society may be interested in what was going on 48 years ago. The following somewhat amusing description of this can be gleaned by early active member Peter Simpson which appeared in Volume 8 of "BATTLEFLEET" circa 1967.

ENGLANDS's ARMCHAIR ADMIRALS by Peter Simpson (Rear Admiral SONA)

A casual visitor to a certain community centre+ in the South-eastern suburbs of London on most Sundays might think himself in a play school for adults. Down one side of the hall a line of tables displays rows of model ships, all 1-1200/1-1250 scale, piles of books, suitcases with tapes and tape measures, cotton wool, and sandwiches and flasks. Our visitor might see the members huddled around two maps, one at each end of the hall, and wonder why they trouble to hire it merely to leave it clear; worse still he might see 20 grown men later crawling about on hands and knees moving their precious models so many inches--and JUST so many inches, no more--in seemingly pointless patterns. If the caller arrives on an average Sunday, he will see the gallant band standing in the middle of the floor, arguing furiously, surrounded by their models, spitting fire and flame at each other, whilst a few hapless captains nurse their precious flagship, which have been wounded in the battle, --swathed in cotton wool to signify fire and bad damage.

The conversation is esoteric:-

"Rear Admiral---'s Air Attack is invalid! He attacked before his recon plane found us"

"Luck old boy. Remember phase three at the battle of M-----"

"Remember the second day at -----," counters his opponent.

"Your carrier moved too fast. Its only 30 knots"

At this the group will rush to the tables, and consult this or that book.

"Jane's says you can't."

"Brassey's says I can."

"College and Lenton says you're both wrong."

We do finish battles---sometimes.

Naval wargaming makes chess look like Tiddlywinks. There are so many rules they can't all be used at once. Aircraft Carriers, Submarines, Mines, Torpedo Boats, refueling rules and so on. Realism is the order of the day. Every rule is aimed at making the game more realistic to Naval Warfare in the context of the last 50 years. When a situation arises that is obviously unrealistic, the rules have failed, and will have to be revised.

In an average game between SONA\* (South London Navy) and the NLF (North London Fleet), NOT Arabia's National Liberation Front---quite, each side is provided with a map of the theatre of war, complete with coastlines and islands. A mission is given to one or both sides, perhaps landing troops, or running a convoy through enemy waters. An unfriendly neutral acts as umpire, and on his map all forces are shown. When rival squadrons or Fleets meet, the game is transferred to the floor, on correct headings, and fought out to complicated rules. Ships approach each other one move at a time, one inch to a knot, and once in firing range, the game is slowed down to three phases per move. One side moves a phase, then the other, and both sides shoot and loose torpedoes after gunnery is over.

Ranges are carefully measured, gun numbers and calibres is written down on the firing chart, along with the target and whether shells are to be grouped or spread. Consulting another large chart the number of hits scored---if any---is calculated, and yet another table shows the points scored against the ship fired at. On the Umpire's table, charts display every ship and as points are scored, they are noted until the ship is disabled and eventually, at very roughly 1,000 points for a destroyer, and 30,000 plus for a battleship, it sinks, amongst great jubilation on one side and recriminations on the other. The most potent weapon of all, generally not loved, is the AIR ATTACK.

cont over

The C in C is a permanently miserable individual whose nerve shattering duty is to control one of the fleets, and is not only driven to distraction by the goings on of the models on the floor, but by the general strategy, an enemy squadron is unaccounted for—where IS it ??? The First Battle Squadron will have to retire next move to refuel, what can I use for replacements, dare I put Italian ships in the front line and get penalised under the Morale Factor Rule, and so on.

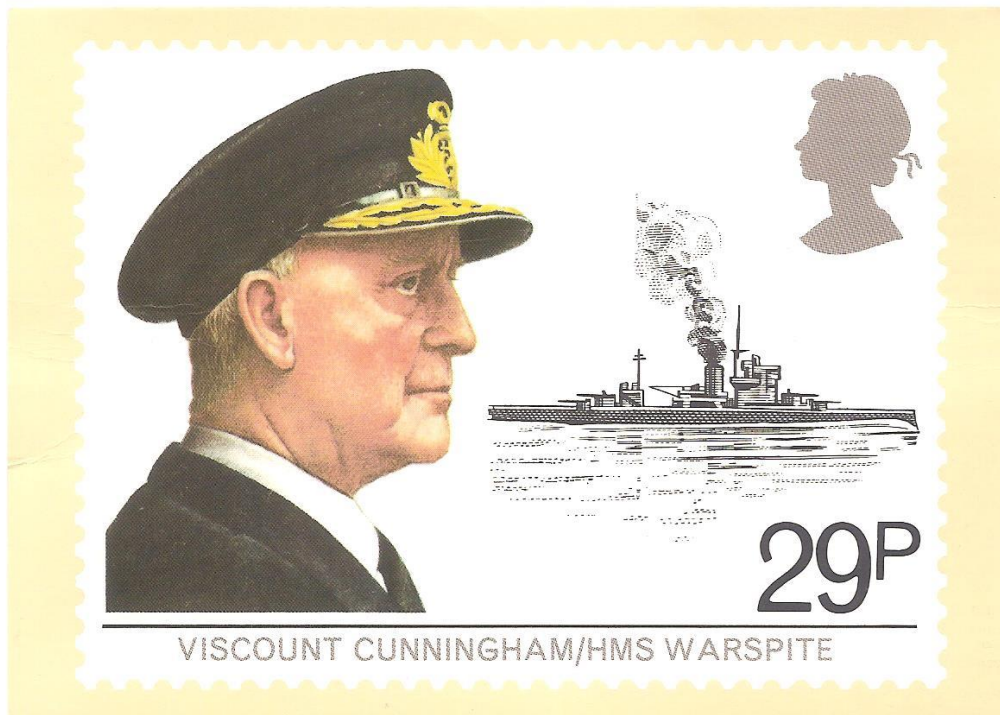
All the anxieties of Jellico, Beatty, Scheer, Raeder, Tovey and Cunningham—to mention a few—are borne by the C in C. Even public opinion must be considered. Every Admiral is a would be C in C in a future game, and the reproach from a lesser Admiral who has lost all his squadron, in the execution of orders, is indeed bitter!

*Note: The original article was considerably longer and some minor text changes have been made here to shorten wording.*

+ This was at Hook, Chessington. Other halls used were at Barnet, Stoke Newington, Croydon, and Mersham. The great majority were at Chessington hall,, pulled down in 2006 and rebuilt with a cafe and no hall, but still a community centre. Games there were from late in 1966 to 1987, later on a small scale, at N.Holmwood.

\* Southern Oceans Naval Alliance was the full title coined by Colin Bishop, (Our Co-founder)

The following reproduction postcard (reproducing a stamp) and Marine Modelling article are from Rob Morgan:



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"Marine Modelling" ... By Bob Sweet.

Our local Oxfam shop's a bit of a book store these days, and among the pile of odd journals which people had donated, all for sale at 10p each, I found two copies of '*Scale Models*', for October 1973 and June 1974. Now, I'd never bought this title, well in the seventies there were plenty of wargame and naval articles in many magazines, from the legendary 'Airfix Mag.' ; '*Battle*' and the rest. There wasn't much of serious interest in either of the two I bought, apart from a single page entitled '*Marine Modelling*' by someone called Bob Sweet. Not really an article, but a model maker's plan, with deck detail, hull sections etc, of warships in 1/600<sup>th</sup> scale.

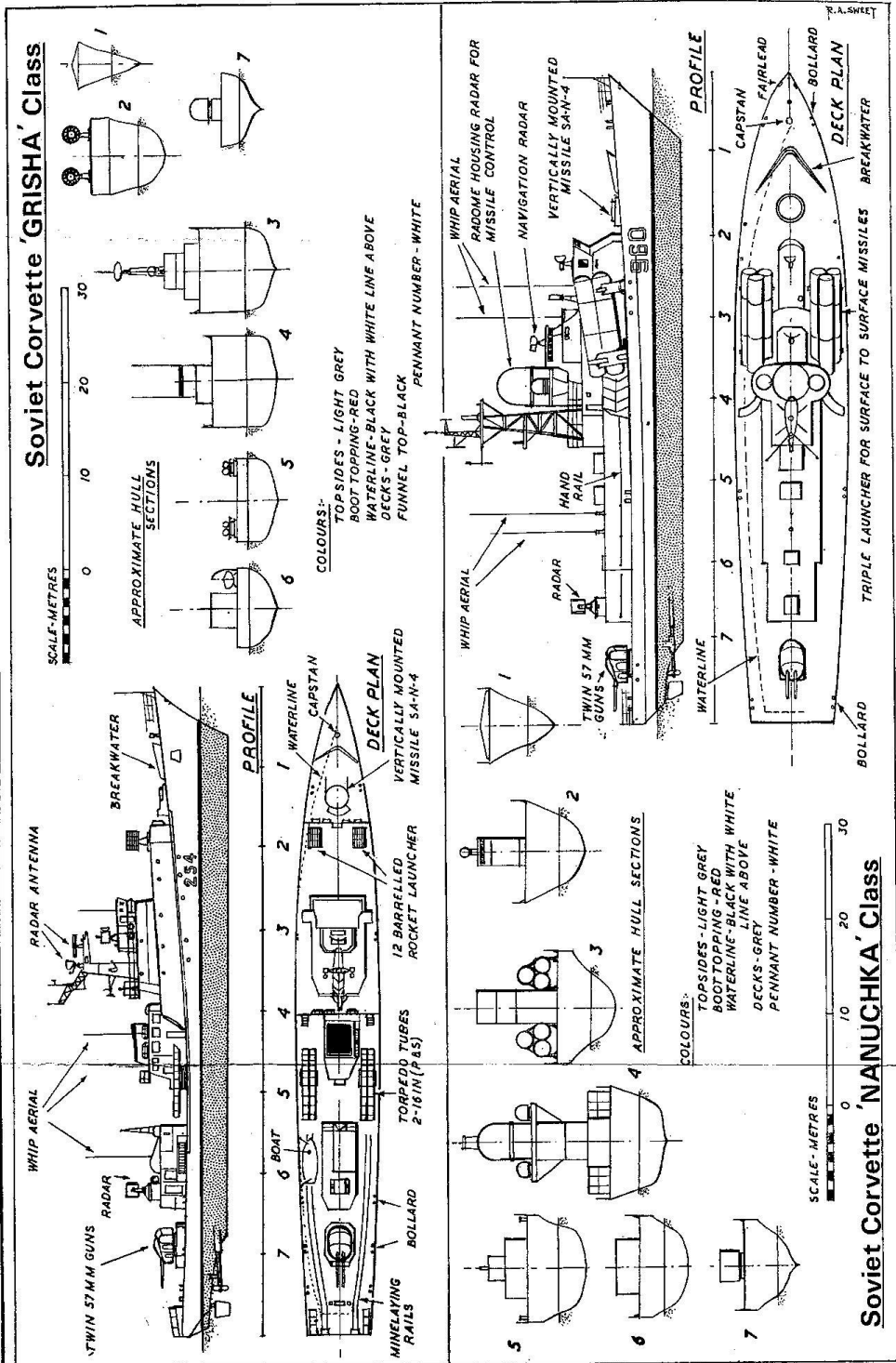
Of course '*Model Boats*' ran Michael London's '*Fighting Fleets*' in 1/1200<sup>th</sup> for donkey's years, and they were excellent. Bob Sweet's 1/600<sup>th</sup> efforts despite no text, were good too. The June 1974 issue covered the Soviet '*Nanuchka*' and '*Grisha*' Corvettes, and the October 1973 issue, the '*Kanin*' destroyers. I went back to the shop. But there weren't any other copies, so that's that. Naturally, it crossed my mind that Bob Sweet *may* have been involved in the early days of the NWS? Or that someone among the membership will have decided that these were worth keeping for the future; mind you 1/600<sup>th</sup>, apart from the Airfix full hull models, hard to cut down to the waterline, this wasn't a serious wargame scale back then. Does anyone know what the series contained? The articles aren't numbered, so there's no way to even guess how many Bob Sweet produced. Was it only Soviet warships? That seems unlikely, but who knows? The '*Model Boats*' articles ranged far and wide, but were these purely modern vessels?

See the next page for Nanuchka and Grisha drawings.

# MARINE modelling

NANUCHKA and GRISHA

by Bob Sweet



**For four decades the distinctively domed 4.5 inch gun – fitted to all Type 42 destroyers, Type 23 and later Type 22 frigates – has been the Royal Navy’s principal weapon against foes on land.**

It has pummelled targets with pinpoint precision from the wind-swept Falklands to the sands of Libya and Iraq. Up to 25 high-explosive shells could leave the barrel every minute, roaring through the heavens at 2,850ft per second – over 1,940mph or over two and half times the speed of sound – towards targets up to 27,700 yards (over 25km or 15½ miles) away.

Over the past decade, however, the Mk 8 Gun has been phased out and replaced by the angular Mk 8 Mod 1 (nicknamed Kryten after the Red Dwarf character with similarly-rigid features). The newer gun is an electrical system with hydraulics only for ramming the round into the breach. The angular shape of the Mod 1 also reduces its radar cross-section.



A photo of Kryten from “Red Dwarf” by Defence Images (LA (Phot) Caroline Davies)



A photo of a Mk 8 Mod 1 4.5 inch Gun from Wikipedia. Yes you can see the similarity but I would never be confused between the two obviously.



## **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](http://www.navalwargamessociety.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