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# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 268 – February 2017

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*We've now been confirmed a table at Salute 2017 (22nd April), looks like there's still going to be a couple of slots left for free entry into the show for NWS members so please drop me a line if you want to come along and help out running the game. The game, in keeping with the show theme this year of the Russian Revolution, is a river gunboat participation game based on actions that took place on the Dvina in North Russia in 1919.*

Thanks

Simon Stokes

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

#### 'Send a (new) Gunboat!'

The 'Peter Pig' 1/600<sup>th</sup> model of *USS Fuschia* was always one of the most attractive and useful small warships in the range. Its suitability ranged from an 1840's gunboat, through the Crimea and Colonial encounters to the ACW and well beyond to WWI, it could also convert easily into a paddle steamer. My last historical conversion was into a Spanish 'capture' used by the US Navy in China waters during the 1930's-not to mention a very early steamship in 1/450<sup>th</sup> scale to accompany a few of the 'Peter Pig' Pirate warships. The model will be sorely missed.

However, the 'new' *USS Fuschia* has almost as many potential uses. I looked the little gunboat up in Gibbons' *Warships and Naval Battles of the Civil War*, she's on page 76. She was a 240 ton former tug, 98 feet long and armed with a 20pdr and 2x24pdrs, augmented by extra 24pdrs towards the end of the war. She was essentially a 'patrol boat' and though in action against shore targets, was never in any major encounter. Typical gunboat, and useful vessel.

The model, no 17 in the 'Hammerin' Iron' range, costs £4.50, consisting of just two metal pieces, hull-completely moulded 50mm long 10mm wide, and a funnel with ventilators. Easy to fit, but of course for variety, the funnel, which is 15mm high, can be replaced with a taller funnel from the 'Pig' range. There are two sets of davit holes just aft of the funnel and need a pair of ships boats from 'Pig' to complete the model. The guns, one on the foredeck and one aft are moulded as part of the hull, and unfortunately, where later conversion is



considered this can be a problem- but watch this space. However, for her intended role as a Yankee gunboat, superb! Gibbons shows her with a simple pole mast forward of the small bridge, and a 20mm pin drilled in and cemented in this position looks good.

No more work required to prepare the little ship for her labours up the Rappahannock River.

Sound value, more options for her follow.

Rob Morgan.

“Overlord 2017”. Abingdon Wargames Club presents its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual show, Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Fitzharry’s School, Northcourt Road, Abingdon, Berkshire, OX14 1NP. £3 Adults, £1 children.

Urban myth or did it really happen? A Stoker on HMS LION had his leg blown off at Jutland. In the sick bay, despite his pain, he demanded that his lost leg be brought to him. When it was, he recovered a roll of bank notes that were tucked in his sock.



An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the Gunslingers of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 105 launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). The Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group, is conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nathan T. Beard (Released) 161224-N-QI061-033



1942. A Douglas SBD-5 Dauntless of VB-16 preparing to launch from USS Lexington, on a strike in the Central Pacific.

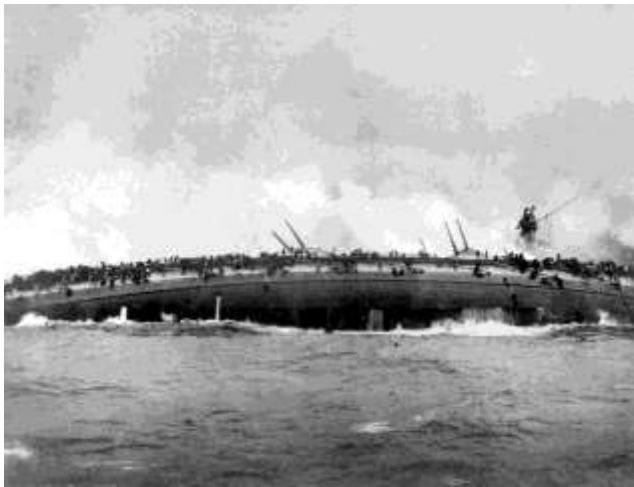
### Naval Wargames Weekend 2017

This event will be taking place in 2017 on the 8th & 9th of July from 10 am to 5 pm. The venue will be the same as usual, the Conference Room at Explosion! Museum in Gosport.

Unfortunately, this year the museum are not willing to host us for nothing so there will be an entry fee. This will be £5 for one day or £7.50 for both.

In return for this, not only do you get two days of naval wargaming, but free entry to the museum (normally £11). We are also planning, thanks to Nick Hewitt, to have a guided tour of the reserve collection (2 buildings not normally open to the public) on each afternoon.

Could anyone wishing/willing to put on a game for the weekend please send details (nature of game, space required, which day(s)) to Dave Sharp (dave(underscore)sharp(at) talktalk(dot)net).



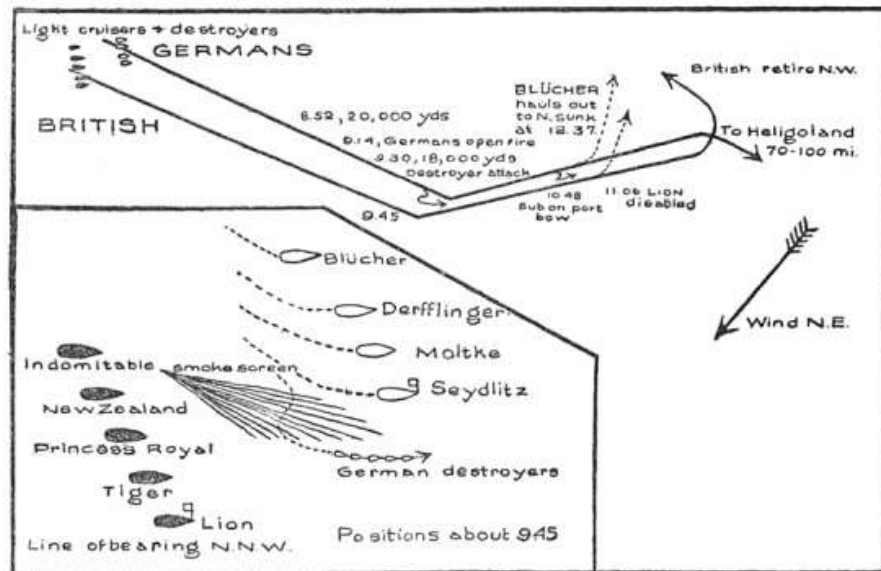
SMS BLUCHER rolls over.



Left to Right: Derfflinger, Moltke and Seydlitz.

Pictures from Wikipedia.

24<sup>th</sup> January 1915 saw a clash of Battle-cruisers near the Dogger Bank in the North Sea. Code breaking and intelligence meant that the RN sprung a trap and were waiting with superior forces. Poor signals between the Royal Navy ships on the day, allowed a possible major victory to slip away.



Scout Bomber Douglas (SBD DAUNTLESS)

### SEA QUIZ 58.

A couple of not so easy ones this month, but believe it or not, they seem to have got 'em all, back then in the fifties!

1. In WWII which Allied navy was known as 'the curly navy'?
2. Where *exactly* was 'E-Boat Alley'?
3. In WWII, which group of ships were known as 'Mr.Middleton's Light Horse'?
4. In WWI, what were known a 'V Class Battleships'?
5. What was 'crab fat'?

Best of luck.  
Rob Morgan



### “Scale Models”... a small surprise!

The other day, the Oxfam shop provided me with a bargain. Issues 1,2 and 3 of ‘Scale Models’ magazine, published as long ago as October 1969. In immaculate condition too, only pennies involved. I’m no great fan of the larger scale models which so often feature in the pages of publications like this, but these three reminded me that there’s often something valuable for the wargamer and small scale modeller hidden away.

Take issue 2, it contained plans and details for a small steam pinnace, Hotchkiss and Maxim armed c.1900; and issue 3 had a superb ( and then highly unusual) article on the Soviet ‘Kynda’ destroyers but in the most unusual scale of 1/500<sup>th</sup>; since the plans were provided by a Hungarian reader I wondered if that odd ( at least to me) scale was popular in the East?

The same magazine had the RIKO 1970 catalogue included as a large pull out, and in that I found mention ( no price given!) of....

*A62...1/50<sup>th</sup> Japanese classic battleship ‘Nippon Maru’.*

The line drawing’s shown here, but I haven’t ever heard of this kit, and I was wargaming as early as 1969, and can recall RIKO on sale in several model shops. It would have been big of course, but with a lot of potential! Anyone remember this model?

There’s another gem hidden in these pages. I suspect a lot more of the NWS membership will remember the series of model ship plans and notes which



turned up in 'Model Boats' in the 80's, about thirty of them in all. Ranging historically from Egyptian boats to the *'Monitor and Virginia'*. Well, issues 1,2 and 3 of 'Scale Models' contained what is undoubtedly the fore-runner of this series, attributed to R.A.Sweet. Simple black and white line drawings, plans might be too grand a term, with a few notes alongside. No descriptive article.

No. 1 had an English ship of c.1485., from the Beauchamp Pageant- with the note.... "*Cannon not known to have been carried in English ships before 1460*".Hm???

Number 2 had drawings of two ships. A 13<sup>th</sup> century ship of the Cinque Ports, from the Dover seal, and an English ship of 1426, based on the Duke of Bedford's Seal. While number 3 had a Viking ship c.900AD, and a 'Roman Galley c.50AD'. Scales of these five drawings varied enormously, as was often the case then. The 1485 ship about 1/300<sup>th</sup>, I'd say. The thought crossed my mind, that forty, almost fifty years on from the publication of these drawings, though there are Viking ships, and Roman galleys in many, many manufacturers lists, the 1426 ship, and above all, the Cinque Ports, sturdy castled vessel are still missing from the wargames ranges. In the case of the latter, the 'Nef' ( to use the broadest of names) I don't know of any example anywhere in 1/300<sup>th</sup>, 1/600<sup>th</sup>, or even 1/1200<sup>th</sup> scales?

Something of a gap, I think.

Rob Morgan.

### Submarine Models.

I was writing up a note on the wargames behind Len Deighton's 1970's Cold War under the sea novel 'Spy Story', which has some exceptional chapter headings, the best of all being....

"ALL TIME IS GAME TIME"

Brilliant, eh? If you don't know the book, it's worth reading. Well, it's not as though the Cold War ever ended, is it? So, I was looking for a photo or two to back the note up, and my eye fell on this group.

I bought a pack of plastic subs, you can't call them waterline, in the 'Pound Shop', 12 in all, 4 of 3 types (anyone got any suggestions as to what they are?) The models come in three parts, hull, sail and a tiny propeller, which I lost en masse at the start! Each is approximately 30-35mm long, and looks well enough for the purposes of a wargame.

But then I've never wargamed with subs in the 'deep Arctic' way, but it does have some appeal the idea of a vast table with only the North Cape in a corner, and a load of pack ice.

The big Typhoon, about six inches long in 1/1200th is my pride and joy, but I've no idea what to do with it on a table top!

Rob Morgan.



It would have been better if I had included the following Quiz from Rob in December's AGB:

Christmas Sea Quiz.....

The splendid journal 'The Navy' rarely hung up the tinsel for a Bumper Xmas Edition, sad to say, but things were a bit different in the 1950's, memories of rationing and a lack of central heating probably!

Still, back in those days,' I saw three ships' could have referred to a decent sized RN Flotilla. A few grumbles arose concerning the answer to question 10, as you may guess (of you know the answer) and there were a few more about the use of the term



‘loyal’ in question 2 as well! By the way, does anyone know if there’s a tradition of Christmas trees aboard warships?  
Compliments of the Season, and off we go.....

Rob Morgan.

Ding! Dong! How many Bells was that???

1. What’s the earliest naval victory recorded in the Dartmouth RN College Gunroom?
2. The Royal Marines only battle honour?
3. Name Benbow’s three *loyal* warships off Santa Marta in 1702.
4. What was the ‘Moonlight Battle’?
5. Stayner’s Flagship ‘Speaker’ was renamed as what?
6. What was her eventual fate?
7. Who commanded HMS Glatton at Copenhagen 1801?
8. Nelson’s only 50 gun ship at The Nile 1798?
9. According to the Royal Proclamation of 1677, what was the minimum age required for appointment as a Naval Lieutenant?
10. What (unfortunate) ‘distinction’ did Lord Dartmouth attain in 1688?

You do not have to wait to next month for the Answers as they are below.

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## A Long Term Naval Campaign?

I was packing up a pile of old copies of the “Korean Journal of Self Defence Studies” earlier and thumbing through them I came upon an article written in the late 90’s about the prospect of naval war in the South China Seas, largely around the Spratly and Paracel Island groups ( Islands? Well, nothing of the sort really, more like a bunch of reefs and shoals and ill-defined outcrops) and the potential for not only China, Vietnam and the Philippines being involved, but Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia and the US Navies being drawn in, due to the critical position of this stretch of ocean to world trade. There were two or three more ‘top-up’ articles in following years, and one or two readers may recall an article in ‘SOTCW’s’ “JOURNAL” a while back on the potential and reasons behind PLAN aircraft carrier development, it was entitled ‘Coming Soon...Sun-Yat-Sen’, modesty forbids me from naming the writer.

I looked up my old research and a few more articles and notes on these amazingly volatile waters, in ‘Geographical’ and ‘The Times’ among others, and this seems to provide not only a ‘next war’ scenario ideal for the solo player in many ways, but has potential to drift back into the second half of the last century and indeed well before that into the 1800’s.

The 1920’s saw Japanese and French disputes and stand offs, before the Japanese garrisoned the Spratly’s, but in pursuit of guano rather than oil! Things really took off after Mao’s victory, and the steady growth of Chinese naval power, and by 1974 there was a serious naval encounter between the PLAN and Vietnamese warships at the Shanhui Island. Disputes grew over the Spratly’s the Paracels, Pratas Island ( claimend by Taiwan) and Scarborough Reef. China attacked the Vietnamese at Jihan South Reef (Gac Ma) in 1988, and the Vietnamese lost some 64 marines. In 1999, the Philippine Navy drove the old US built LST *Sierra Madre* ashore on the reefs, as a small but useful base for light craft. There was a barely avoided PLAN v Philippines encounter at sea in 2012.

In recent years, Vietnam and China have again come close to war at sea off these reefs and shoals, and the US Navy has taken an interest, sending the Destroyer *USS Lassen* and later the *USS William P Lawrence* to steam close to Chinese ‘bases’ and establish rights in international waters. Short sharp encounters are getting more frequent, and where possible the PLAN has

specifically established artificially built bases for helicopters and for anti-submarine aircraft. There's huge wargame potential, air and sea, and the occasional attack on an island, short and sharp before any serious reaction can take place.

The photograph is of two 1980's 1/1200<sup>th</sup> scale Chinese warships from my small PLAN collection, dusted down ready to provoke the little grey cells into devising a wargames scenario for the South China Sea.

The two warships are- in the foreground a '*Jiang Hu*' class Frigate built in the late 70's and armed with 4xSS-N-2 missiles and 4x100mm guns; escorted by a '*Jiangnan*' class Frigate of the 1960's armed with 3x100mm guns, a range of anti-submarine weaponry and usefully equipped as a minelayer. Old ships now, but the PLAN have come a long way since their circumnavigation in 2002! One good reason for looking at the late 80's as time of conflict is that there were still many veteran WWII and Cold War era warships around in that part of the world. The Philippines Navy in 'Conway's' for 1982 looks like it's about to assemble off Normandy, and the same goes more or less, for Malaysia. Brunei however had some useful fast attack craft.

Rob Morgan.





'An Awkward Engine'....an article on Napoleonic gunnery!

The August 2016 issue of *'The Mariner's Mirror'* ( Society for Nautical Research: Vol 102:3) arrived, containing a superb, well illustrated article by Martin Bibbings, it's sub-titled "Captain Philip Broke's troublesome relationship with the carronade." It deals with the correspondence of Broke, who was Captain of HMS Shannon, the Royal Navy Frigate which spectacularly defeated USS Chesapeake in 1813, largely by skilled use of this type of weapon. The carronade was an awesomely destructive gun, and from its first being mounted aboard HMS Romney (50) in 1779, 'how to maximise its potential' seems to have engaged a number of the best minds in the fleet.

Philip Broke was in the forefront of the carronade's development as a weapon at sea, and Bibbings' examines his notes on mounting, both inboard, outboard and also centrally, as well as the problems of recoil and matters of the ironwork and breechings. He goes on to deal with the problem of windage, which it seems caused some significant difficulty at sea, and of double-shotting and oblique firing. A fascinating article!

The twenty odd page examination, clearly diagrammed, ends with an account of the carronade in action, literally Broke's legendary action off Massachusetts in June 1813. The Shannon mounted 16x32pdr, 2x9pdr and 3x12pdr boat carronades in all, as well as 28 long 18pdrs, and they effectively disposed of the Yankee Frigate in just eleven minutes. Broke's victory and his legacy are well known, and this is a valuable article on a powerful weapon, his wounds in the battle meant he never put to sea again. This final section will be of significant interest to any Napoleonic period wargamer, no doubt of it.

I'm reminded of that old (1960's) Airfix model of HMS Shannon, water-line and very attractive, at an attractive price too( Two shillings!).... Anyone else recall it?.....I wonder what became of the moulds?

Rob Morgan.



Three carronades, Pendennis Castle, Falmouth.

## Christmas Sea Quiz Answers.....

Here they are, no real surprises, but Dartmouth's unfortunate 'distinction' caused some discontent, and a brief dialogue on the subject of what a 'distinction' meant in naval terms. Ho hum. Mind you I thought loyal as a term was self-evident, if you refuse to fight or avoid action that's usually referred to by another critical term. Anyway.....

1. Alfred's sea fight 'THE DANES-897AD'.
2. Gibraltar 1704. Of course!
3. HMS's Breda, Ruby and Falmouth remained with Benbow.
4. The Battle off Cape St. Vincent. January 8<sup>th</sup> 1780.
5. After the Restoration 'Speaker' became 'Mary'.
6. 'Mary' foundered in the Great Storm of 1703.
7. It was William Bligh, formerly of the 'Bounty.'
8. HMS Leander.50.
9. Twenty years of age to become a Lieutenant.
10. Dartmouth was, '*The last naval commander to fail to prevent a seaborne invasion of Britain.*' (OK...'The Navy's exact words, so discuss as you wish!)

No prizes unfortunately, owing to defence cutbacks, but pour yourself a tot, a large one, if you got more than six right.

Rob Morgan.



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## Remembrance Service

*for Admiral the Honourable John Byng,  
Admiral of the Blue 1704-57, 14 March 2017*

Members are invited to attend a Remembrance Service on 14 March 2017 at All Saints Church, Southill, Biggleswade, Beds SG18 9LL. The service will be led by Rt Rev. Richard Atkinson OBE, MA, and will be supported by the Byng/Torrington family and many dignitaries. If you wish to attend, please contact Nico Rodenburg at [rodenburg@btinternet.com](mailto:rodenburg@btinternet.com)

The fourth son of George Byng, Viscount Torrington, gave many years of loyal service to the Royal Navy and was ordered to attempt to relieve the British Garrison at Port Mahon, Minorca. The French were threatening to take Port Mahon, and Byng, who was serving in the Channel at the time, was volunteered at short notice to counter the threat. He protested that in five days he had insufficient time to prepare his ships and recruit enough men. He was also ordered to land some of his Marines in order to embark troops to relieve the garrison. Byng protested to Admiralty that his force

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was woefully underprepared, but was nevertheless ordered to sail.

Byng tried unsuccessfully to establish contact with the garrison on Minorca (15,000 French troops had landed before he arrived), and the following day fought an inconsequential battle with the French fleet. Four days later, having not sighted the French fleet nor made contact with the garrison he returned to Gibraltar for repairs and for stores. However, before he could sail again he was relieved of his command and ordered to return to England where he was arrested and placed in custody. He was court martialled for 'NOT DOING HIS UTMOST' – recently made a capital offence – and shot on the deck of his own ship, *The Monarch* on 14 March 1757 at noon. Ironically, the ship previously called *The Monarque* was taken from the French in a previous battle.

Many believe that he was the scapegoat for the king and the Royal Navy, who had already lost Minorca, before Byng was engaged to disrupt the French. Even those who had to find him guilty, under the law of 'not doing his best' pleaded with the king and government to overturn the verdict they had to find due to the law at the time.

In *Candide* Voltaire wrote 'The English shoot an Admiral to encourage the others' – words which are still in common use age today.

The Admiral Byng Campaign, established by his descendants and supporters are seeking justice and they are seeking exoneration not a pardon. (Exoneration is officially freeing someone from blame; pardon denotes guilt in the first place)

Tulip Saddiq MP will hand in a petition to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Right Honourable Michael Fallon MP, on the anniversary of the time and date of Admiral Byng's execution at noon on 14 March 2017.

Nico Rodenburg  
Admiral Byng Campaign

### Pour Encourager les Autres....

Poor old Byng. Didn't deserve to fall foul of a bunch of politicians. This note was in 'Topmasts' February 2017, the SNR newsletter, and I suggest is a worthy project, though two hundred and fifty years late, for our Society to support. Has anyone ever wargamed the Battle of Menorca?

Rob Morgan.

February 2017.

### HMS Caroline.

There's a note in the same issue on the surviving 'C'Class Cruiser. It says this..

*'She served at the Battle of Jutland, the only major naval action of (the) First World War.'* Hm? One worth discussion, arguably?

Rob Morgan.

### Lecture in May.....

These days a trip to London is a great rarity for me, but there are probably plenty of NWS members who live or work close enough to KCL in the Strand to nip along to this. On Thursday May 11<sup>th</sup>, at 17.15 in the War Studies Department, there's a lecture by Dr.Faulkner of King's College. Entitled *'The Royal Navy & Kriegsmarine Aircraft Carriers.'* Further information, and to book a place...alan.2.james@ucl.ac.uk

Rob Morgan



Cold War Warriors. HMS RYHL overflown by Vulcan Bombers.

I came upon the above photograph by chance when looking for info on HMS ROTHESAY and I thought that there cannot be many pictures of four Vulcans in formation. HMS RYHL was a Type 12 Frigate, forerunner of the Leander Class. Type 12 Frigates, HMS PLYMOUTH and HMS YARMOUTH served as the oldest frigates in the Falklands War task force. On 25 May 1982, YARMOUTH attacked and destroyed an Argentine A-4C aircraft, and was involved in rescue/salvage attempts for Falklands casualties SHEFFIELD, ARDENT, and GLAMORGAN, as well as providing gunfire support for the final assault on Port Stanley; PLYMOUTH was hit by four bombs (three of which failed to explode) but shot down two Argentine Mirage jets.

### **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

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