

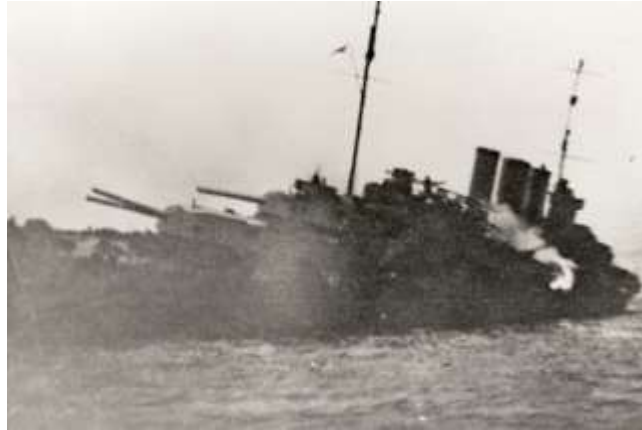


# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 277 – NOVEMBER 2017

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*The stricken Canberra following the action at Savo Island. After being struck by at least two Japanese torpedoes and numerous enemy salvos, she was deemed unsalvageable and consequently evacuated and sunk off Savo Island on 9 August 1942. This stretch of water is now known as Iron Bottom Sound after 32 Allied ships were sunk there during WWII.*

In 1942, a combined United States and Australian force provided protection to transports and troops ashore during the landings at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. The campaign to stop the Japanese advance into the South West Pacific was vital to protect the sea lines of communication between Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

In the early hours of 9 August, the Guadalcanal campaign culminated in the Battle of Savo Island. The Japanese inflicted great damage to the Allied fleet, but quickly withdrew to avoid daylight counter-attacks, missing the opportunity to destroy the landing forces.

*Canberra* was badly damaged to the point she needed to be abandoned and sunk. While the Battle of Savo Island delayed the liberation of Guadalcanal by several months, the Allies ultimately achieved their objective; prevented the Japanese from capturing a base in the South West Pacific. Eighty-four men lost their lives in the attack on *Canberra* and a further 10 died of their wounds. HMAS *Canberra* remains the largest Australian warship ever lost in battle.



Unknown ship firing broadside. Can anyone name her?



Does anyone have a copy of these rules from 1975? If so can you write a few words about them for AGB?

Large scale models in San Diego says Wikipedia.



HMS EAGLE. Sunk in 1942 after being hit by four torpedoes from U-73 which penetrated the destroyer screen. Sank in eight minutes south of Majorca (Position 38.05N 03.02E). 900 of her complement of 1160 were rescued. Ship's Motto: Arduus ad solem - 'Soaring to the sun'

The Italian Navy.

This is a selection of my old 1/1200th Italian early WWII fleet, from a number of sources. The two 'Littorio's' are plastic Revells, and some of the smaller craft are old Clydesides.

As you see, the BB's are both sporting the cherry red and white stripes, which naval wargamers in the 1980's favoured for this fleet. Well, I did anyway. It 'added' something to them. Now, I recognise that during the Spanish Civil War, and in fact right up to the date when Italy entered the war in 1940, these stripes would have been valuable as aids to recognition from the air. But how long did they last? Anyone know?

Rob Morgan



### SEA QUIZ 66 Answers.

A couple of these were straightforward, but number 1 far from so, and though Northesk was known to me, the three battles are to say the least, obscure! No-one responded to question 1, which means that the 'Novices' were all long gone by 1956!

1. These were boy seamen training aboard HMS Illustrious at the Haslar in the 1850's. (Now that's obscure).
2. They were all 4-funnelled Cruisers.
3. She survived the war, and was given to France where she served on the China station for a decade or so, re-named Colmar.
4. William Carnegie, later Earl of Northesk. He's buried alongside the other two, but Nelson cut him out of the organisation of the battle.
5. All were in the Seven Years War 1754-1763 (Isn't that nine years?).



*HMAS Norman wearing her wartime disruptive pattern camouflage paint*

Armament: 6 x 4.7 inch guns  
 1 x 2 pounder 4 barrel pom  
 2 x .303 Lewis guns  
 2 x 5 tube 21inch torpedo launchers  
 6 x 20mm Oerlikons  
 plus depth charges

HMAS *Norman* was one of eight N Class destroyers laid down in British yards during 1939 for the Royal Navy.

Five (*Napier, Nestor, Nepal, Nizam* and *Norman*) were transferred to the Royal Australian Navy, two to the Royal Netherlands Navy and one to the Polish Navy. The only one to become a war loss, HMAS *Nestor*, was sunk by air attack in the Mediterranean on 16 June 1942.

***“Wargaming allows you to try out tactics and not worry about having to swim for it.”***

– Sir John “Sandy” Woodward, Admiral (Ret) RN

Adm. Woodward knew the value of gaming tactics before engaging in combat. He led the British fleet in Operation Corporate that recaptured the Falkland Islands from the Argentinians in 1982.



Whether your preference is miniatures, hexagon board games or even those new-fangled computer games (I don't think they will catch on) the NWS is for you.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> 1917, after three months of fierce fighting, Allied forces finally took control of the tiny village of Passchendaele in the West Flanders region of Belgium; bringing to an end one of the bloodiest battles of the Great War. With approximately a third of a million Allied soldiers either killed or wounded and 260,000 German soldiers is believed to be the figure for killed and wounded the Battle of Passchendaele symbolises the horror of industrialised trench warfare. Soldiers from Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, India, Belgium and France fought and died together on the battlefield.

The F35 Lightning II is not in service yet but people are already working on what comes next. Pratt & Whitney and General Electric have been working on revolutionary new adaptive-cycle jet engines that will power the successors to the Boeing F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor.



*A Boeing artist's conception of a potential design for F/A-XX. Boeing Photo*

<http://portsmouthminiatures.com/shipsforsale/default.html>

<http://www.wargamevault.com/product/140822/Bloody-Broadsides>

Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, was among 30,000 people who watched the launch of HMS WARSPITE on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1913.



During the Battle of Jutland in 1916, Warspite survived two dozen heavy shell hits, while in the Second World War; she saw action in the Arctic, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and the English Channel.

The ship was the seventh Royal Navy vessel to bear the name Warspite. She and four sister vessels - Queen Elizabeth, Valiant, Barham and Malaya - were the deadliest battleships fielded by any side in World War One and greatly feared by the German Navy.

The original "Warspite", was launched in 1596 and became Sir Walter Raleigh's flagship for an attack on the Spanish port of Cadiz.

The eighth "Warspite", was a nuclear-powered submarine.

**Motto:** Belli dura despicio ("I Despise the Hard Knocks of War")







The leading  
international society  
for the study of  
ordnance and artillery

The society is open to anyone interested in the history and development of ordnance and currently has ex-military, academics and members of the general public as members.

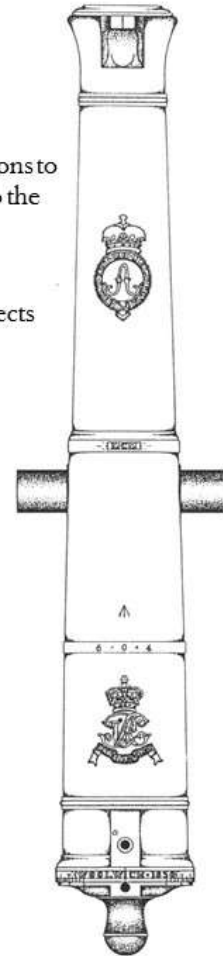
Our members are interested in the earliest gunpowder weapons to cutting edge artillery, from the smallest hand held firearms to the largest cannon.

We promote, encourage and co-ordinate the study of all aspects of the history of ordnance and artillery through:

- Research
- Publications
- Conferences
- Panel of experts
- Online resources
- Hands-on learning
- In-the-field excursions
- Disseminating information
- Preservation of ordnance and artillery

**Membership benefits**

- Annual Journal
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Invitations to events and tours
- Access to technical and historical resources
- Access to internationally renowned experts



**Become a member online**



[ordnance.society@btinternet.com](mailto:ordnance.society@btinternet.com)

[www.ordnancesociety.org.uk](http://www.ordnancesociety.org.uk)



Guns! Guns and more Guns... 'The Ordnance Society'.  
A Note by Rob Morgan.

Wargaming, naval and warfare research generally, takes us into all sorts of fields. Mine tend to be afloat of course, as if you haven't noticed. One of the most interesting and valuable of all the Societies I've encountered, and joined, over the years, besides NWS, is The Ordnance Society. It was mentioned in a note in the old

stalwart magazine 'Military Modelling' I was reading years back, and I dropped them a line.

What I found was a world-wide organisation of historians, and artillery enthusiasts of all periods ranging from early guns down to ultra-modern artillery and rocketry. I've read articles on fascinating subjects like the flamethrowers the '*Kriegsmarine*' mounted on escorts, and the awesome Swedish coastal artillery. Not to mention naval artillery of all sorts, and the oddest of weapons which saw service in WWII. There's an interest in everything gun-related in this Society, mines, explosives, machine guns and torpedoes, you name it. I'm often surprised by what I encounter. It's an active Society, with a quarterly newsletter and annual journal. It organises conferences and visits to museums, armouries and collections, as well as holding research conferences.

It's worth taking a look at.

Rob Morgan.

<http://www.wargaming.co/recreation/details/pdseabattles.htm>

Cammell Laird, Birkenhead, is one of several Shipyards waiting to see how much work will come their way in the wake of the UK decision to build 5 Type 31e (e for "Export") and 8 Type 26 Frigates.

Cammell Laird has an illustrious history of building aircraft carriers and over the years has built **many famous ships**. Many vessels built at the yard are famous for the innovative technology they embraced; others gained celebrity for their subsequent careers at sea. The list of notable vessels built by Laird's includes:

- the Robert F. Stockton, launched 1838, the first screw steamer to cross the Atlantic.
- the Dover of 1840, the first iron ship owned by the British Government.
- HMS Birkenhead 1846, famed for her tragic sinking at the Cape of Good Hope and the bravery of troops ordered to 'stand fast' whilst the women and children aboard were saved.
- the Ma Robert, built in 1858 for David Livingstone's expedition to the Zambezi, and quoted by some sources as the first ever steel ship.
- CSS Alabama, 1862, probably the most famous and most successful Confederate warship of the American Civil War.
- The Fullager, 1920, the first all-welded ship in the world.
- The Cunard White Star passenger liner Mauretania, at the date of her launch in 1938, the largest ship ever built in an English shipyard.
- **HMS Ark Royal, 1938**, (28,480 tons 244m x 29m 31 knots) the first British warship to be designed and built as an aircraft carrier and the third ship to be called Ark Royal. She was built to carry 60 aircraft, 1500 crew and was armed with 16, 4.5in guns, 32 two pounders and 32 0.5 guns. Her aircraft were responsible for two torpedo hits on German battleship Bismarck in May 1941 but she was torpedoed and sunk by German U boat U-81 14 November 1941 off Gibraltar. An official enquiry after the war concluded the ship could have been saved with proper applications of counter flooding.



- **HMS Ark Royal 1955**, (53, 060 tons 220m x 34m 32 knots) the second aircraft carrier of the same name built by Cammell Laird, was launched by the Queen Mother. She became the Royal Navy's first large post war aircraft carrier and saw 25 years of service eventually being sold to be broken up in 1980\*\*.
- HMS Devonshire, 1960, Britain's first guided missile destroyer.

\*\*Some of you may be old enough to remember the TV documentary "Sailing" which covered HMS ARK ROYAL's last deployment. Rod Stewart's "Sailing" was memorably used as the title music. I don't remember it myself but my Grand-Dad told me all about it.

<https://www.shapeways.com/product/R8XHNWQWG/1-1200-uboa-ixb?optionId=58938602&li=marketplace>

Using the (in my and surely most others opinion) excellent <http://www.uboa.net> and say "Operation Drumbeat" from Wargame Vault, with a few house rules to beef up the basic Game, any or all of the first 5 Submarine missions to the USA Coast can be played.

Extract from Gudmundur Helgason's "Operation Drumbeat" Uboat.net.

With the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbour on Dec 7 1941, Hitler was bound by a promise to Japan to also declare war on the US. He did so on Dec 11 and after that all restrictions on German U-boats not to attack American shipping were removed. This opened up a whole new field for Dönitz, who immediately drew up plans for a devastatingly swift blow on the US eastern seaboard.

Dönitz wanted to strike with 12 type IX boats, the only boats capable of cruising that far. But he was forced to reduce that number to 6 boats due to other engagements. One of the 6 boats marked for this operation, U-128 was in need of urgent repairs and could not make it in time. Therefore only 5 boats sailed.

### **The Drumbeaters.**



Kptlt Rheinhard Hardegen after a successful patrol in U123.

U-125 (Kptlt Ulrich Folkers) had the distinction of being the first to sail on 18th Dec, 1941. U-123 (Hardegen) sailed on the 23rd and U-66 (Zapp) on the 24th, presumably the crews high spirits were tinged with disappointment that the missions' start could not be delayed until after Christmas. Finally the last two boats, U-130(Kals) and U-109 (Bleichrodt) sailed together on the 27th. It would take them just over 2 weeks to reach US waters. They were under strict orders not to attack anything on the outbound cruise unless an especially attractive target was located (this meant a big warship like a cruiser, carrier or a battleship, but like Dönitz said, "We never let a 10,000 tonner pass us by").

U-125 torpedoed the general cargo vessel, West Ivis 5,666 tons which quickly sank with all hands on 26 January 1942. U-123 was more successful sinking 9 ships totalling 53,173 tons.

Can this replay of U-123 do as well? Let's find out.

U-123 Kptlt Rheinhard Hardegen.

- 23 Dec 1941. Left Lorient, crew in good spirit.
- 16 Jan 1942. Arrived Grid CB44 after uneventful Atlantic crossing.
- 17 Jan 42. Cloudy. Making best speed to CA64. South East of New York.
- 18 Jan 42. A Cloudy Sunday. Horizon clear of shipping – disappointing. Moving to CA52, which is expected sea lane to and from New York.
- 19 Jan 42. Clear weather but so ships sighted. Crew morale takes a downturn due to lack of action.
- 20 Jan 42. Cloudy. Freighter sighted and shadowed. 6,000 tons estimated. Text book night attack – two torpedoes, two hits forward and mid-ships. Ship sank quickly with no radio S.O.S. Decide to patrol Grid CA52.
- 21 Jan 42. Cloudy. Another freighter sighted. Easy to follow against the lights of New York. 4,500 tons target estimate. See no reason to change tactics. Night attack, two torpedoes, two hits – ship sinks but sends S.O.S and position. Decide to move to Grid CA27.
- 22 Jan 42. Clear but no ships sighted. Dived deep when enemy dirigible seen.
- 23 Jan 42. Cloudy. Freighter sighted and easily followed against the well-lit coast. Two torpedoes send 4,500 tons slowly to the bottom. As S.O.S with position was sent by the enemy, decide to move south towards Philadelphia.
- 24 Jan 42. No enemy ships detected.
- 25 Jan 42. Cloudy. Patrolling Grid CA54. Well-lit small tanker spotted. They are making it easy for us. Despite Gun Crew begging to get into action, decide on torpedo attack at midnight. Three torpedo spread – two hits. Tanker sinks.
- 26 Jan 42. Diesel Engine maintenance completed – all quiet. No contacts.
- 27 Jan 42. Cloudy. Patrolling Grid CA54. Dived to avoid enemy destroyer which made several depth charge attacks. The coast limited our manoeuvring but managed to evade the search after 3 hours. Damage to the diesel engines will limit our max speed. 14 crew injured. 6 hand injuries, 3 head wounds one of which is serious and 5 foot injuries, one of which is serious. The experience has shaken the crew. A few more sinkings will raise morale before a return to the Fatherland.

To be continued.....

At the current rate of EOD, it will be 500 years before The Somme battlefield will be clear of ordnance.

### Cyberweapons for Naval Wargamers?

The splendid journal 'New Scientist' often carries items of interest to the naval researcher, and the wargamer too, for that matter. A recent article, by David Hambling (19<sup>th</sup> August 2017) deals with reports of a new 'cyberweapon' being tested by the Russians. Intended to knock GPS off course, it's the first hint of an electronic weapon which will come to be of immense value in naval warfare and sea area control.

In June 2017, the US Maritime Administration filed a report, says Hambling, which showed that the GPS of a merchant ship in the Black Sea placed the vessel far off course, and that twenty other vessels in the area reported the same effects at the same time. Navigation expert Todd Humphreys at the University of Texas believes this is 'the first documented use of a form of attack long expected and warned of'. This is not the loss of signal or jamming, but 'spoofing' by sending a false signal from a ground station to replace the satellite signal.

Russia is now 'clearly experimenting with a new form of electronic warfare', and of course as most guided missiles, and drones, rely on GPS navigation, 'spoofing' would prevent hits on target! The Texas researchers say that 'spoofing' is getting easier and cheaper, and terrorists could hijack or direct a ship or drone with little difficulty. But says the Texas team, 'spoofing' by a competent military power, like Russia, is a more serious threat.

The alternative is 'LORAN' a WWII era global system of radio navigation beams which can detect and locate 'spoofing' stations and devices. It was, unfortunately, switched off in 2011! The immense potential of 'spoofing' has surely not passed the professional wargamers of NATO by without notice, and in fact it might well be time for table-top and map wargamers such as we, to think up a new set of 21<sup>st</sup> century rules with this as an option, at least for coastal and straits defence. Not to mention drone wars.

Rob Morgan.

# Hints of a new cyberweapon

GPS spoofing may have thrown vessels off course in the Black Sea

David Hambling

REPORTS of satellite navigation problems in the Black Sea suggest that Russia may be testing a new system for knocking GPS off course. This could be the first hint of an electronic weapon that could be used by anyone, from nation states to petty criminals.

On 22 June, the US Maritime Administration filed a seemingly bland incident report. The master of a ship off the Russian port of Novorossiysk had discovered his GPS put him in the wrong spot – 32 kilometres along the coast, at Gelendzhik airport.

After checking the navigation equipment was working properly, the shipmaster contacted other nearby ships. At least 20 were affected.

While the incident hasn't been confirmed, navigation experts think this is the first documented use of GPS misdirection – a

spoofing attack that has long been warned of but never been seen in the wild.

Until now, the biggest concern around GPS has been that it can be jammed by masking the signal sent from a GPS satellite with noise. Although this can cause chaos, it is also easy to detect: GPS receivers on ships sound an alarm when they lose the signal.

But spoofing a satellite's signal with a false signal sent from a ground station simply confuses a receiver. "Jamming just causes the

**"It shouldn't be difficult for someone to divert a driverless vehicle or hijack an autonomous ship"**

receiver to die, spoofing causes the receiver to lie," says consultant David Last, former president of the UK's Royal Institute of Navigation. Last says the Black Sea incident suggests a device capable

of causing widespread disruption, for example, if used in the ongoing dispute with Ukraine.

Todd Humphreys at the University of Texas at Austin has been warning of the danger of GPS spoofing for many years. In 2013, he showed how a superyacht with state-of-the-art navigation could be lured off-course by GPS spoofing. "The receiver's behaviour in the Black Sea incident was much like during the controlled attacks my team conducted," he says.

Humphreys thinks this is Russia experimenting with a new form of electronic warfare. There have been previous hints that they have the capability. Over the past year, GPS-reliant phone apps in central Moscow have been misbehaving. The problem became apparent when people were playing *Pokemon Go*: when hunting pokémon anywhere around the Kremlin, they found

the app thought they were at Vnukovo airport, 32 kilometres away. This is probably for defensive reasons; many guided missiles rely on GPS navigation, and spoofing would prevent them hitting their targets.

## Easy to build

Now, some worry that spoofing is getting easier. It once required considerable technical expertise; Humphreys built his first spoofer from scratch in 2008. But now he says he can download software from the internet onto commercial hardware. Both Last and Humphreys say that any reasonably competent hacker could build a GPS spoofer.

If the ability to misdirect GPS signals becomes more accessible, others may spot an opportunity. There have been no authenticated reports of spoofing by criminals, but it shouldn't be difficult for someone to use it to divert a driverless vehicle or drone, or to hijack an autonomous ship.

But Humphreys believes that spoofing by a state operator is the more serious threat.

The spectre of electronic warfare has led to calls for more research into countermeasures. Research on receivers that could authenticate a GPS signal has been under way for over a decade. "Guarding against spoofing is not easy," says Last.

There is one other option: ditch GPS and return to Loran, the second world war era system of radio navigation beacons. It requires a large, complex antenna and spoofing can be detected and located relatively easily. It was switched off in 2011, but advocates have long rallied around a modern update, eLoran – a low-cost fallback for GPS that might now turn out to be priceless. ■



Where am I?

Ian Allan Warship Books...back to the best!

Well, as I often say, the charity shops of the UK provide some of the greatest bargains any researcher, historian and occasionally, wargamer could wish to find! This little group of booklets I came upon priced at a pound each in the PDSA shop. The veterans among you may remember them first time around, when for the equivalent of a little less than twenty pence, you could pick up a small pocket sized ( 5in by 7in) guide to Warships of WWI or WWII.

There were eight in this the Royal Navy series...

1. Capital Ships.
2. Destroyers and Submarines.
3. Sloops, Corvettes and Frigates.
4. Auxiliary Fighting Vessels.
5. Auxiliary Support Vessels.
6. Trawlers.
7. Coastal Forces
8. Landing Craft.

The booklets ranged in size from 70-95 pages, and over the years I managed to acquire all but number 5 and 7. They still represent, in wargames terms, the best reference library I own, and use regularly. Capital Ships, for instance, has Cruisers, Carriers and Minelayers included, and a couple of detailed fleet distribution lists for 1939 and 1945. The Dominion Navies are represented in Number 3, on Sloops, and there are in all of the volumes splendid black and white photographs in support of the text and tables. The writers, Lenton & Colledge give background information on the role of escorts, and the deployment of them in January 1944 and of minesweepers at the start of Overlord.

The finest, to my mind, of the series, was the Auxiliaries covered in part 4. It carried the sub-title '*Miscellaneous and Auxiliary Vessels engaged in Trade Protection.*' Everything in the lower deck's "odds and sods" collection. From River Gunboats, to Minelayers, Ocean Boarding Vessels, Surveying Vessels and Armed Yachts. Some excellent, unusual photographs too, like that of *HMS Duena*, 1-3pdr, 3-mg's, and a host of paddle-steamer A/A ships. It's rivalled by Part 6 on Trawlers, well, Trawlers, Drifters and Whalers to be exact. 80 pages

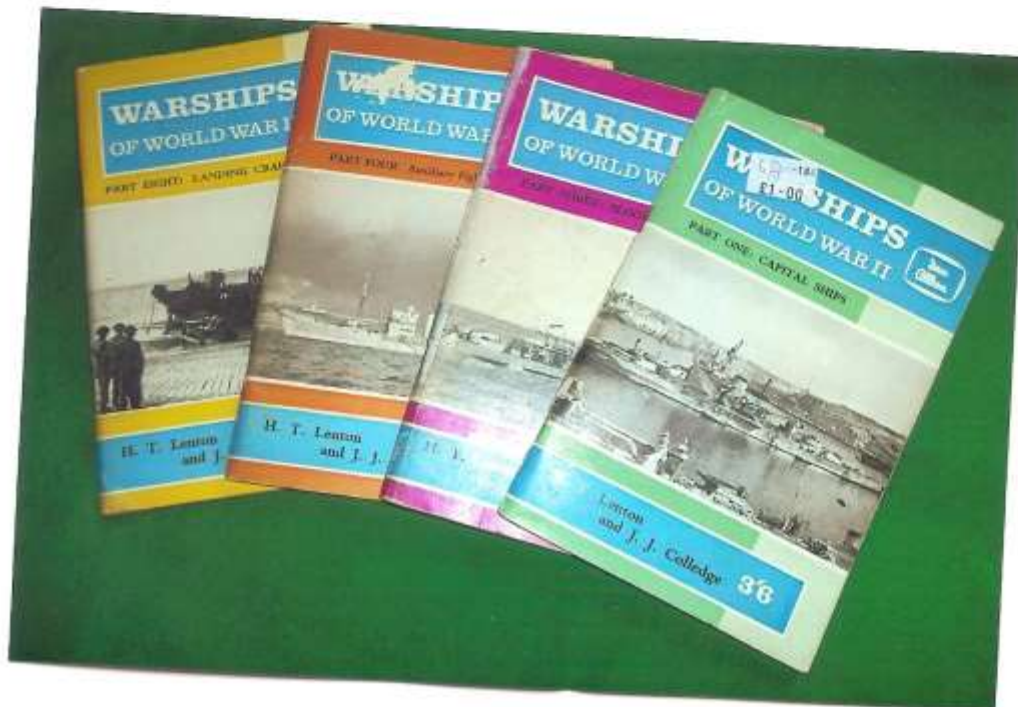


of them, with a description of their 'development' from WWI onwards, and deployment for 1939 and 1944. The photographs are magnificent, and these were the real workhorses of the Navy in WWII. They did everything, boom defence, minesweeping, air-sea rescue and escort work. The modelling detail in the forty or more photos is excellent!

I always thought number 8 on landing craft, landing ships, and landing barges a confusing work, well over a hundred types, from LSD's to LBF's and LCG's. But then I'm no enthusiast of combined ops on the table top. Lenton & Collidge do give some serious in-depth analysis of course, and again the photographs are superb, and again these craft were everywhere! Immense potential for the wargamer.

I only possess part 1 of the Ian Allan series on 'US Warships of WWII', which was written by Paul Silverstone, I can't remember any more of this group, but Part 1 deals with Battleships, Battlecruisers and all US carriers, down to the 'Casablanca' Class. The photos are perhaps better known in this volume, but he gives the US standard warship nomenclature which is useful, and war losses. Similarly Ian Allan produced a range of WWI naval booklets, dealing with most warship types, but as I only have one, on 'Battleships of Other Nations' by Charles Scurrrell, cost in 1964, some 4 shillings ( twenty pence), I'm not the one to comment on this set of booklets!

Rob Morgan.





## A DISTANT MEMORY.

I showed my note on the Ian Allan warship booklets to my old colleague Brian. He actually builds ship models, time consuming, very. A discussion followed and we could both remember, but little more, that in the 1960's and 1970's the ship modelling press would, from time to time, carry a letter, just a couple of paragraphs, from a man who was a Royal Navy enthusiast and a 1/1200th scale ship modeller.

It was a challenge rather than a comment on model making, and certainly had nothing to do with wargaming though the potential was obvious. This man claimed that he had a model of every warship and auxiliary in Royal Naval service on the day that WWII broke out. He asked the simple question, did anyone else have a comparable connection?

At this distance, I can't recall much more. I don't think there was ever a photograph of endless rows of models stretching across a table-top like a Spithead Review, and I'm not sure if anyone ever took up the challenge.

Can anyone else remember this fairly frequent correspondent? Brian and I both tried to remember the number of warships, etc., he said the fleet possessed at the start of the war, but that's gone!

Rob Morgan.  
October 2017.



US Airforce B1B Bombers and South Korean F15K over South Korea.

Anton Morozov, a senior Russian lawmaker, who visited Pyongyang from October 2-6, said the North is preparing for new tests of a long-range missile. "They even gave us the mathematical calculations that they believe prove that their missile can hit the west coast of the United States," North Korea's foreign minister said that Pyongyang could detonate a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean soon.

## WAR at SEA...November.

A poignant start to the month, in 1914, Coronel and the defeat of Cradock's Squadron. On the same day in 1944, the beginning of the huge assault on Walcheren. While on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 'the battle that never was', when William of Orange landed unopposed at Torbay, the only occasion in history when the Royal Navy, a divided force, refused action against an enemy fleet. On the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1914, the *Emden* was destroyed by *HMS Sydney* followed on the 11<sup>th</sup> by Taranto 1940, and on the 19<sup>th</sup>, in 1941, *HMAS Sydney* and the German Raider *Kormoran* fought to the death of both ships.

At last on 20<sup>th</sup>, Quiberon Bay 1759, and Hawke's decisive victory over the French, sinking 11 of the enemy for the loss of two. The following day, 21<sup>st</sup>, in 1918, one of the greatest sights in modern naval history, the surrender of the Kaiser's High Seas Fleet off May Island, just as Beatty predicted 'they came out.' November clearly a month of 'raider-actions', on 22<sup>nd</sup>, *Atlantis* was destroyed by *HMS Devonshire*, while on 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Rawalpindi* was sunk by a more powerful raider, *Scharnhorst* in the Faroes Gap in 1939.

The 27<sup>th</sup> marks the spirited driving off of a far more powerful Italian Fleet off Sardinia in 1940, by Somerville, with *Renown*, *Ark Royal* and 4 Cruisers taking on 2 enemy battleships and seven heavy cruisers. The month ends with Blake being bettered by Tromp, losing 4 warships sunk and 3 captured off Dungeness in 1652.

Rob Morgan.

After Lockheed Martin's F-35 fell out of favour with Liberals and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, (I assume on cost grounds) Canada pursued Boeing's F/A-18 Super Hornets as an interim fix. But the government has suspended talks with Boeing after the company's commercial arm accused Canadian manufacturer Bombardier of dumping its C Series jet onto the US market; prompting a US Department of Commerce investigation to determine if the company received unfair subsidies from the Canadian Government. Canada has formally expressed an interest in Australia's used F/A-18A/B Hornets.

Sensitive information about Australia's defence programmes has been stolen in an "extensive" cyber hack. About 30GB of data was compromised in the hack on a government contractor, including details about new fighter planes and navy vessels. Last

year, Australia announced a surge in defence spending, a move that reflects concern over military expansion in the region. Military spending will grow by A\$29.9bn over 10 years, including plans to buy 72 Joint Strike Fighters

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## China recruits Squids to detect submarines



**Sub way:** The system is effective for miles

CHINA has likely developed the world's most sensitive submarine detector – using Squids.

This stands for superconducting quantum interference devices. These massively extend the range of magnetometers, which can spot submarines lurking under the sea.

By comparing readings from an array of Squids, deputy director Xiaoming Xie and colleagues at the Shanghai Institute of

Microsystem and Information Technology, appear to have come up with an airborne system to detect subs from miles away rather than a few hundred yards.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences hailed the breakthrough in June. But the announcement was taken down when a Hong Kong newspaper pointed out the military implications: China could lock down the South China Sea.

### **SIGNAL PAD!**

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual San Diego Historical Games Convention Nov 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> at the 5,200 sq. ft. Shriner's Hall.

Millennium Con 20 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Nov Austin, Texas. Wingate Hotel and Convention Center, Round Rock. The Convention Theme is "Stalingrad" but there will be an Avalon Hill "Victory in the Pacific" Tournament over the three days.

[www.millenniumcon.info/tournaments.html](http://www.millenniumcon.info/tournaments.html)



Action from a previous Millennium Con.

The "COD WAR" has to slip into December's AGB.

## **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, 2017**

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

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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

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Uruguay, SCOW: Southern Cone Orientales Wargamers • Games erupt, inquire to set one off: Bill Owen US telephone is [217-619-0202](tel:217-619-0202),

Uruguay 099 834 544 [WmOwen@aol.com](mailto:WmOwen@aol.com) • If Spanish speaking, email & I will get someone who speaks it better. • Soca, Canelones or in Montevideo we can arrange a "Graf Spee 3 Gun Salvo": see her 5.9" gun, anchor & rangefinder salvaged from the ship resting in the harbor, a Real English Tour conducted by British expat staff who were associated with the British Ambassador who won the post-battle diplomacy and subterfuge plus, of course, a GQ3 refight of the battle (fees for features like museum & tour). • Most of the Salvo can even be done during a cruise ship stop in MVD from a Round Cape Horn itinerary between Santiago<->Buenos Aires.

- [wargamecampaign.wordpress.com](http://wargamecampaign.wordpress.com)