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All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society No. 279 – January 2018

Happy New Year.

Answers to the Seasonal Sea-Quiz Rob Morgan.

A slightly larger set of questions, of course. These questions are not taken from 'The Navy' by the way, apart from 1, 2, 4 and 8! Number 8 caused some serious debate, as the enemy (obviously!) wasn't afloat! I do like the idea of HMS Farragut and HMS Robert. E. Lee.

- 1. What did General U.S. Grant, General Robert E. Lee, Admiral Farragut and General Stonewall Jackson become?

 They became Abercrombie Class Monitors, the original American names were rejected because of US neutrality.
- 2. What began on 12th May 1797? *The Mutiny at the Nore*.
- 3. What surrendered and what was scuttled on Christmas Day? *Hong Kong (1941) and the Gunboat HMS Robin.*
- 4. On 3rd December 1945 the first landing of a jet on an RN Warship took place. Name the ship and the type of aircraft. *HMS Ocean and it was a Sea Vampire*.
- 5. Which Empire came to an end aboard HMS Glow-worm, and where? Austria-Hungary in 1921 after the last Emperor Karl surrendered to the Royal Navy gunboats on the Danube.
- 6. The first sea battle in which the RN used wireless? *It was Coronel 1914.*

- 7. When was the term Grand Fleet first used?

 In the summer of 1914, after the Battle of Heligoland Bight.
- 8. The Monitor General Wolfe achieved what in September 1918 off Ostend? Now, she achieved a range of 36,000 yards firing at the greatest range any Royal Navy warship ever engaged the enemy!
- 9. What opened its doors on 27th April 1927? *The National Maritime Museum Greenwich.*
- 10. Which force was disbanded on 28th February 1810? *The Sea Fencibles, 24,000 strong.*
- 11. Where was the Auxiliary Patrol Boat Li Wo (1x4in) lost?

 South of Singapore, in action with the Japanese Invasion Force. Her Captain was awarded the VC.
- 12. Whose nickname was 'Old Dreadnought'?

Admiral Edward Boscawen 1711-1761.

13. What warship carried the names Staerkoder and Olinde to disguise her true destination?

That fine Confederate Ironclad 'CSS Stonewall'

14. Originally classed as a torpedo boat, what was the first US Destroyer launched in 1898?

USS Farragut, her tonnage was that of a destroyer.

- 15. What was the first Dutch ironclad? *Admiral de Ruyter 1863*.
- 16. Which German warship was scuttled as a result of Brazil entering WWI on the allied side?

The Gunboat SMS Eber.

- 17. What sank *Tosa* (Japan) and *Indiana* (USA)? *The Washington Treaty*.
- 18. Which navy acquired the 'Battle' Class Destroyer HMS Slays in 1965?

 Persia... Iran (she was still in service in the 1980's).
- 19. What did *Junyo*, *Ryuho* and *Katsuragi* have in common?

 They were Japanese Carriers which survived the war.
- 20. *Togo* (commissioned 1943) was unique in the Kriegsmarine. What was she? *A Night Fighter Direction Ship. She was stationed in the Danish Belt.*

No prizes as usual. But, by the way if anyone knows of a scale model of the Togo, let me know. It would make a great centre piece for a wargame. Compliments of the Season to you all.

Rob Morgan.

US Navy Weeks are scheduled for the following cities in 2018:

- San Antonio, Feb. 19-25
- Waco, Texas, April 2-8
- Birmingham, Alabama, April 9-15
 - Tampa, Florida, May 7-13
- Chattanooga, Tennessee, June 11-17
- Reno/Carson City, Nevada, June 17-23
 - Sacramento, California, July 16-22
 - Fargo, North Dakota, July 23-29
 - Milwaukee, Aug. 6-12
 - Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 20-26
 - Cleveland, Aug. 27-Sep. 2
- Albuquerque, New Mexico, Sep. 10-16
- Springfield, Massachusetts, Sep. 17-23
- Bossier City/Shreveport, Louisiana, Oct. 29-Nov. 4

IMPERIAL ROMAN WARSHIPS 193-565AD.

This is Osprey's New Vanguard 244, by the Italian scholar Raffaele D'Amato, illustrated by Guiseppe Rava. A very good Osprey indeed, though at the new price of £10.99. I haven't bought either of the preceding titles, by the same author- well, I didn't buy this one. It was a gift, and one I find interesting. I do have some Roman warship models, old now, from the 1970's and 1980's, and rarely used. A photo or two shown here, in the hope that someone with better Roman ship models (and photography skills!) will add something more! A few Carthaginian ships in the box too. I always thought the problem was, Carthage aside, and some of the Greeks, if you wanted to use your Roman naval forces, it was Civil War which gave the best scenario. Others may disagree, of course.

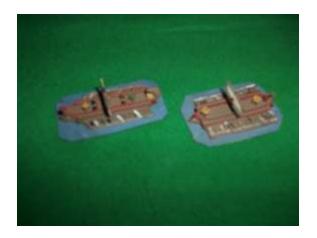
Anyway, this book deals with Rome in decline, freefall at the end, and the story is fascinating. D'Amato gives a chronology which leads from the First Gothic War in the mid third century AD through a surprising number of naval campaigns, on rivers and seas, against a host of enemies, including themselves! It ends in 551AD, with the Ostrogoths victorious. There's substantial information on the organization often inadequate, of the late Imperial Roman Navy, the Provincial fleets, and the final fleets of Justinian the Great, large in number, but often many were just auxiliaries. The description of the ships begins with the *Classis Britannica*, one of the best known late Roman warships, and neatly illustrated, goes on to examine a host of others. The *Pentekonteris*, *Triakonteris*, and...I thought this was most valuable, the emergence of the Dromon, which became the finest of all Early Medieval Warships (and the best armed). The author spends a deal of text looking at the other ships of the fleet, those which carried troops, defended rivers and showed the flag. There were many simple patrol craft, naturally. Some of these vessels, for wargames purposes look easily converted, the *Camara*, a 4th century horse transport, with a distinct Norse look about it. I was taken by the illustrations of Plate E, the Navis Lusoria, great potential for a river vessel, and the Proto-Dromon, which could with little effort be made from the 1/1200th Navwar model (AGS 17), or from one or two of the Tumbling Dice models. I'm still thinking about the Navis, of course. The text goes on to deal with the armament, equipment and decoration of the fleetssome good sound information here. Then deals with naval tactics, and illustrates them by reference to a number of campaigns, the splendidly titled Gothic Wars, the last throw of the Empire, the Persian Campaigns along the Euphrates in 363 AD, and Justinian's final wars of the mid-6th century. A big finish to the empire! There are several line drawings, like that on page 43 of an *Oraria*, and the *Lusoria* on page 26, which lend to thoughts of model conversion, and best of all, Plate D, a splendid

looking Dromon from 565AD, easily made from the Navwar larger Dromon AGS 18, in 1/1200th scale.

An interesting book, and a good introduction to the end of Rome's naval power, well worth the price.

'My colour scheme comes from an old copy of a children's history book, but D'Amato's illustrator uses some lovely schemes. Look at the ships in Plate F, and G, and E.1.....'

Question.... Anyone know of a model of a Dromon available in 1/600th or even 1/300th scale???





Rob Morgan.



'YUAN' Class Attack Submarine in 1/700th Scale.

Now a ship model kit with only six pieces to assemble is a joy, even if like me you don't tend to 'go' for Submarines in any scale. However, since this 'Hobby

Boss' 1/700th Chinese PLAN sub was at a much reduced price, I bought it, after having a look inside the box, naturally. The company produces a mixed bag of models, and some are good value and useful, others not. Making the waterline option of the 'YUAN' known in the PLAN as a Type 039A, is straightforward, one upper hull, one sail, one option for sail top gear, up or down, and a prop aft. The hull has two big protruding lugs which need to be reduced in height if the boat's to be sued on a table top. Otherwise it's an attractive if unspectacular submarine model. Sitting 10.5cm long and 12mm wide, it's a smallish model, assembled in minutes. When the waterline sub is complete, you have the stand and the bottom hull left. Now the hull is my reason for buying it, you get two waterline hulls for the price of one. With the bottom hull you can produce a Science Fiction sub, something out of Jules Verne, or by some careful filing flatten the keel and add a scratch built sail of your own. You could use it with the 15mm Mick Yarrow Jap mini-sub as a towing craft, turning the hull into one of the many kinds of transport 'dummies', used for supply purposes. Look at it and use your imagination.

The Diesel-Electric Yuan Class, and there are 20 planned with around 15 or 16 in service, dates from 2006, replacements for old Soviet boats, with 6-21in tubes, and anti-ship missiles; 38 crew and capable of 16 knots. The Chinese have sold a group to the Royal Thai Navy, and one entered service recently with the Pakistani Navy. The colour scheme' matt black overall, nothing flash about the PLAN!

Rob Morgan.



The difference in size between the Invincible Class and the QEC is shown in this photo of two ships side by side.

Mini Trafalgar 2017 - MillenniumCon Game run by Grant Hopwood

The 3rd Annual Mini-Battle of Trafalgar was held this year at MilleniumCon XX in Austin, Texas. The rules were Bloody Broadsides by Portsmouth Miniatures.

20 players. 10 British ships of the line lead by the Victory charged the rag tag French line of 13 ships in turn lead by the Bucentaure.

By the end of turn one, the French had somehow managed to turn their battle line into even more of a disaster. The British unfortunately, were never able to take early advantage of this. HMS Africa did her duty and charged straight into the French vanguard. For the rest of the game she found herself constantly surrounded by French and Spanish ships with no help, and was eventually struck.

The Victory, Britannia, and Tonnant crashed the French line and took very heavy damage. The other British captains took notice of the sheer amount of damage flying around their vanguard and decided they wanted no part in it. Against Admirals orders they veered off and away from the main battle leaving the three heaviest British ships to their own. It took those captains two hours in game time, to come back around to the main battle, but by then it was too late to save the British vanguard.

The game lasted three and half hours and nine turns were played. By the end, the Victory was struck, the Britannia was Swiss cheese, and a couple of other British ships had taken heavy damage, while most of the French fleet were relatively unscathed.

On the 1st of November 1805, the French invasion of Britain commenced...

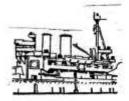




SEA QUIZ 67.

An all illustration quiz this month, makes a change, but then 'The Navy' almost always carried a single illustrated question each month, but the quality of the drawings varied immensely...have a go at these....

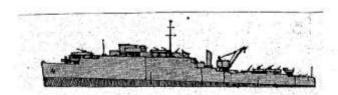
1. What's this WWI Armoured ship?



2. What Fleet Air Arm aircraft is this, and what's its top speed?



3. What ship is this???



4. What is this WWII small warship?



5. One of a group of three early Yarrow Destroyers, name them. What was their speed?



I can't find any correspondence relating to the illustrated questions in the quizzes published. So, possibly everyone got them right first time, including the artist!

Rob Morgan.

Chris Lambert.

These fly out of Tyndell Airforce Base, Panama City, Florida.

F16 DRONES - ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! This is awesome!

This is an example of recycling that actually saves money and removes our airmen from the perils of being shot down while undertaking reconnaissance flights or potentially delivery of munitions over enemy territory.

Drone technology has advanced this far so quickly. They are using up their obsolete F-16's. Not a good day for the future of manned aircraft. Seems like the PILOT is on the endangered list. This little four minute video is really something. A first for a full size jet aeroplane. Thousands of planes that were grave yard bound, with costs in the hundreds of millions, can now be used as never before. These F-16 aircraft have been in the bone yard at Davis-Monahan for 15 years, and now being used as drones.

http://video.boeing.com/services/player/bcpid1173939806001?bckey=AQ~~%2cAA AAukPAlqE~%2coAVq1qtdRjwBrlkHYj2MSytJiEK9s5fy&bclid=0&bctid=2684464741 001

The Navy successfully conducted take-offs and landings from the nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS George H.W. Bush, with a new stealth jet called the X-47B. What is so different about this plane is the fact that it is a 'drone.'

It is completely unmanned. Drones come in all sizes and the X-47B is likely one of the larger ones. What is so ironic about all of this is the fact that the enemy cannot detect a plane like this. In the unlikely event they get lucky at shooting one down, there will be no human loss of life or captivity. As you view the flight deck crew signalling the plane, they are simply signalling the on-board cameras, who in turn are being manned by staff inside the command intelligence center on board the ship. Also check out the short distance this plane needs for a take-off.

Impressive indeed.

CLICK HERE

Submarine service breaks radio silence to reveal mission milestone

Royal Navy Submariners at HM Naval Base Clyde marked a major milestone recently with the successful completion of the 350th deterrent patrol.



Picture crown copyright

As the country's ultimate weapon, submarine operations and movements are kept a closely guarded secret, but the Silent Service has temporarily broken its silence to reveal the significant achievement.

Continuous submarine patrolling began in April 1969 with the Royal Navy's submarines taking primary responsibility for the UK's national strategic deterrent. Since then at least one Royal Navy ballistic submarine has been on patrol in the world's oceans, ensuring a continuous at sea deterrent. Today the four Vanguard class submarines uphold the mission and between them have never missed a single day on patrol. The name of the submarine and the date it completed the 350th patrol have not been revealed.

As well as marking the considerable achievements of the past, the Submarine Service is also focussed on the future. HM Naval Base Clyde has been home to the submarine based nuclear deterrent for five decades and will be the home to the entire UK Submarine Service by 2020. The UK Government is investing £1.3B over the next 10 years to update and upgrade its engineering and training facilities in preparation for the new Dreadnought class of submarines. The design and construction of the Dreadnought class of four ballistic missile submarines is one of the largest and most complex programmes that the MOD and UK industry has undertaken.

JANUARY SEA WARS....

Venturing to sea in the depths of Winter, even now, is a formidable matter. So, not surprisingly, January is a quieter month in terms of naval encounters. On the 16th, in 1780, Rodney with twenty three sail defeated eleven Spanish warships, capturing four, off Cape St. Vincent, just a few days after capturing a vast convoy off Finisterre. Known eternally as the 'Moonlight' battle as it was a 'first' being fought at night (there's a wargame idea-no searchlights either!).

On the 24th, in 1915, at Dogger Bank, Beatty fought, and failed to destroy Hipper's Battlecruisers, though much was made of the sinking of *Blucher* of course. Shades of Troubridge though, as Beatty outnumbered Hipper five to three in Battlecruisers.

On the 25th, Sir Saml. Hood repulsed de Grasse at St. Kitts with roughly equal forces but far better manoeuvring, and did it again the following day. That was in 1782. Plenty of small actions during January though.

9 0 00

Rob Morgan.

The January Sales may be the right time to pick up that Airfix Kit that is missing from your collection.



Box art from the Airfix Kit of the Fairey Swordfish.

Fairey Swordfish Mk.I W5856 looking magnificent at Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum.



Historically, the Fairey Swordfish would prove to be an exceptional naval aircraft and one that served the Fleet Air Arm with distinction. Despite being classed as virtually obsolete at the start of WWII, the aircraft would see operational service throughout the entire war and had the distinction of being the last British biplane to see active service. Significantly, the Swordfish outlasted more modern aircraft that were developed to replace it.

Airfix have models of all levels of difficulty. The "Starter" Sets include paint and a brush and could be the introduction for a child into the hobby.



£9.99

Item Code: A55104

'SKYBIRDS' of the 1930's...a naval note.

I doubt if any member of the Naval Wargames Society recalls a company called 'Skybirds' which thrived before the Second World War, and largely marketed a range of construction kits in 1/72nd scale, some of them rare delights even today...the Fairey Hendon bomber and the Heston 'Phoenix'. Hm? A copy of their 1936 price list is shown here, but I've never seen one of their models (I'm old but not that old!). This company, which seems to have thrived and grown rapidly produced a magazine, a range of figures and accessories, including WWI a/a guns and searchlights. There were two decent, I could say comprehensive, articles on 'Skybirds' in 'AIRFIX Magazine' (remember that?) in April 1967 and again in February 1969. Dinosaurs like me took it then, and collected and kept those magazines. I had to dig the 'Skybirds' information out for a colleague recently, and carefully read both articles.

'Skybirds' produced model waterline ships in 1/600th scale! They were in premoulded wood, with metal cast items like gun turrets and lifeboats. The wooden hulls were 'supplemented by stamped white celluloid decks, and funnels made from brass'. The ship range was 'limited', and only one vessel, not a warship but a paddle steamer, SS. Canterbury, sold as part of a dockside range (a bit like the Triang series post-war). The writer, D.R.Hughes, mentioned flying boats in 1/600th, and other metal castings like tugs and lightships.

Sadly, the price list doesn't include details of the naval range, but I have a feeling that this is a range of models which might well have brought into being a wargame, why not? What the company produced in 1/600th offers some tantalising thoughts. If they could make a massive 'Hendon' bomber in 1/72nd, why not HMS HOOD or HMS DREADNOUGHT? Or an early carrier? The prospects were immense; and the 'Eaglewall' concept of ships for actions comes to mind. I'll ask, does any member know more about 'Skybirds' and their ships, but I suspect it will remain just a tantalising thought!

Rob Morgan.

MAKE MODEL AEROPLANE CONSTRUCTION EAST.

This functioning hobby has expensed the imagination of air-minded man everywhere. No other model acceptance on compare with these basefflully made, each confirmed matthers. The components are word, metal and collected, precision made—true to make 1972;



Once you start assembling these early-constructed models, the selected wimply fly! All likebled models are period maskines in

There are complete sets of parts for warious civil and military machines, including many w.C. known types of the Goast War, German as well as Dirich. There is also a large roage of accessories for making War become, civil almost as mades acressors accessors.

Special Note: When ordering, please quote Series Letter and Item Numbers.

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This exact facsimile of the 1936 Skybirds Price List should bring back memories for older readers. Reverse side featured the ship models and separate kit components.

SIGNAL PAD!

Crusade

Date:

Saturday, January 27, 2018 - 10:00 to 16:00 hrs

The annual show "Crusade" will again be held at St. Cyres School, St. Cyres Road, Penarth. After our successful move here in 2017. A big thanks for the kind cooperation of St. Cyres School, Crusade has a new home. St. Cyres School is a brand new built state school in Penarth and we hope to continue for many more years of happy association at this fantastic venue.

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:

<u>www.navalwargamessociety.org.</u>
Membership secretary: <u>simonjohnstokes@aol.com</u>



Uruguay, SCOW: Southern Cone Orientales Wargamers • Games erupt, inquire to set one off: Bill Owen US telephone is <u>217-619-0202</u>,

Uruguay 099 834 544 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.

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