



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 280 – February 2018

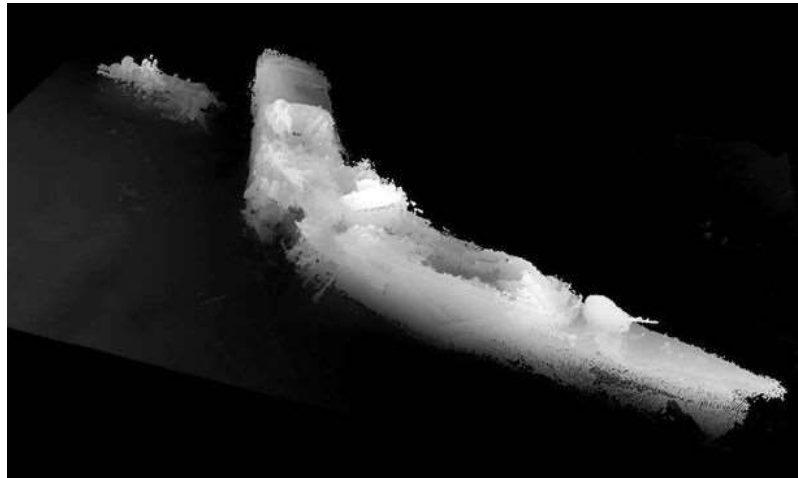


HMS Westminster 30NM off the British coast. HMS Westminster carried out her first fleet ready escort duty of 2018. The ship and her crew escorted five Russian ships through the English Channel as they made their way home from the Mediterranean Sea.



Kearsarge underway, circa 1898–1901. She is painted white from her main and lower decks down, but her paint scheme changes when she visits Europe in 1903, when the main deck and up display a buff color. (U.S. Navy Photograph NH 52036, Naval History and Heritage Command)

From the web site of the Daily Mirror with a few additions:

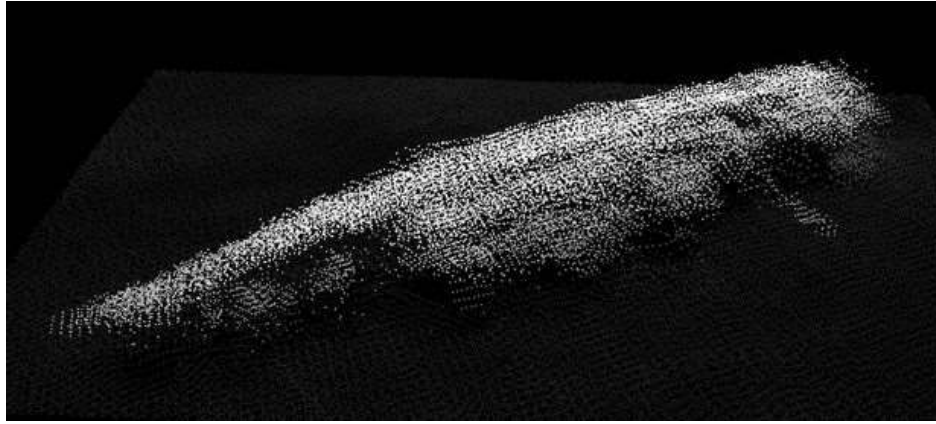


The remains of HMS COVENTRY, HMS ANTELOPE (above) and her sister ship HMS ARDENT have been captured using sonar images taken by the survey vessel HMS ENTERPRISE. The wrecks have been scanned to mark the 35th anniversary year of the conflict and the new images will be used to update charts used by ships.

Commander Philip Harper, chief officer of Enterprise, said: "Of all our sonar images of the 1982 wrecks, we think Antelope is the most remarkable - the 4.5-inch gun is probably still loaded." She was hit by bombs dropped from Skyhawk aircraft on 23rd May 1982. Bomb disposal officers went on board in a bid to diffuse a bomb but it went off killing one of the officers.



HMS ANTELOPE



Type 42 Destroyer HMS COVENTRY

Twelve of the survivors of the Coventry, who escaped the blazing inferno on life rafts, have visited the site to coincide with the anniversary project. A service of remembrance was held before a wreath was cast into the South Atlantic and a tot of rum poured into the ocean at the request of relatives of the crew lost.

SEA QUIZ 67.....Answers!

An easy quiz this month? Maybe, but 1 and 3 made me think!

1. What's this WWI Armoured ship?
....It's HMS Agamemnon as she was in 1918.
2. What Fleet Air Arm aircraft is this, and what's its top speed?
...A Hawker Sea Hawk, and her speed was 520 knots.
3. What ship is this???
....It's a Landing Ship Dock (LSD) of the 'Eastway' type.
4. What is this WWII small warship?
.....Easy enough it's a 'Plover' class Minelayer.

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

...They were 'Charger', 'Hasty' and 'Dasher'. Capable 'twas said, of 27 knots.

Oddly enough, I wondered why the Navy named a warship after one of Santa's Reindeer. In fact, when you think of it....'Dancer', 'Prancer', 'Vixen', 'Comet', 'Cupid' all sound warship names, but 'Donner' and 'Blitzen'?

More next month.

Rob Morgan.

SEA QUIZ 68.

Back to the written questions this month, but more illustrated quizzes will follow I promise.

1. In WWII who or what was known as the 'Goldfish Gang'?
2. What's 'Double Red!!!' in WWII parlance?
3. What was the 'Sea Gallopers Society.' Pre – WW1 ?
4. Who coined the term 'the trade' for the Submarine service?
5. Which decidedly unsinkable RN Unit was known as the 'Jordan Queen.'?



Parcels of seized narcotics lay on the deck of the smuggling vessel as HMAS Warramunga's boarding team conduct an illicit cargo seizure during operations in the Middle East.

'No Contraband!'

I am currently reading Max Hastings' *'Apocalypse'* on the opening phases of the Great War. Sadly, too little of it is naval oriented. However, on page 358, I came upon a note dealing with the anticipated campaign against British commerce afloat when war broke out. There were, says Hastings, around forty armed merchant cruisers in British service in 1914 (seems a large number on reflection) and he mentions two intended Armed Merchant Cruisers by name. The Big Cunarders *'Lusitania'* and her sister *'Mauretania'* *'had received large government subsidies for their construction because they were earmarked for service as Armed Merchant Cruisers, though never employed in the role.'*

What I wondered was the intended armament of these two giants? The first of them was sunk by U-Boat in May 1915, and the photos are of my Grandmother's

‘Lusitania Medal’, a copy of one allegedly struck in Germany as a commemorative and its information sheet.

Interestingly, it seems that the Admiralty was greatly worried that some or all of the twenty one German liners sheltering in New York, would come out, armed, and ready to attack merchantmen at sea! The two Cunarders would have been very big, and obvious AMC’s, but there were some big ones around, the Germans had two at least. Success in warfare was another matter.

Rob Morgan.
January 2018.



Guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee (DDG 90) returns to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from an independent deployment to the Western Pacific and South America. While deployed, the ship conducted theater security cooperation and maritime presence operations with partner nations throughout the Pacific. Chafee engaged in multinational exercises with navies from Chile, Peru, Republic of Korea, and Japan Maritime Self Defense Force, among other countries. Her crew recovered more than 800kg of illicit narcotics while patrolling the waters of 4th Fleet. Additionally, the destroyer successfully integrated into Carrier Strike Group 5 in support of the USS Ronald Reagan's extensive patrol of the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin R. Pacheco (Released) 180112-N-NU281-0020



The Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is performing well at the U.S. Air Force's Red Flag wargames at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Though it was not designed as an air superiority fighter, the jets have maintained a very respectable 15 to one kill ratio according to the Air Force. The UK currently has 14 F-35s based in the US, operated by around 150 UK personnel. These aircraft will arrive in the UK later this year at RAF Marham and initial flight trials will take place from the UK's new aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, in autumn off the coast of the US. The training of UK pilots is currently undertaken at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina. The first operational UK Squadron will be the RAF's 617 Squadron (The Dambusters).

Belgium may buy 35 F-35s and the eventual total number of F35s world-wide may be 3,000. This figure is probably from the same people who told us that 140 Concorde aircraft would be built.

The Zeebrugge Bell has returned to Dover after restoration and cleaning. The bell was given to the people of Dover by the King of the Belgians Albert the First, as a souvenir of the Naval raid on Zeebrugge Harbour, on St George's Day April 23rd 1918. The Bell is housed in Dover's Grade 1 listed building Maison Dieu and is struck at noon on St George's Day each year. The bell was restored at the Loughborough Bell Foundry, John Taylor and Co.

From the BBC website.



The wreck of Australia's first naval submarine has been found after a 103-year search.

The HMAS AE-1 was the first Allied submarine lost in World War One, vanishing off Rabaul, Papua New Guinea with 35 Australian and British crewmates on-board in 1914. The 13th search mission for the vessel found it in waters off the Duke of York islands.

The discovery solves Australia's oldest naval mystery, the government said. "This is one of the most significant discoveries in Australia's naval maritime history," Defence Minister Marise Payne said on Thursday 21st December. "It was the first loss for the Royal Australian Navy and the first Allied submarine loss in World War One; a significant tragedy felt by our nation and our allies."

The search team used an underwater drone floating 40m (131ft) above the sea bed to scour the area. The wreck was found in more than 300m of water. A brief commemorative service was held for those who had lost their lives. The government will try to contact the descendants of the crew, and also work with PNG authorities on commemorations for the site. "I truly believe this will bring peace of mind to the family and descendants of the crew who lost their lives on-board and perhaps, in time, we may discover what caused the submarine to sink," Ms Payne said.

Publicity picture of the next generation Columbia Class Submarine. Although I'm not sure that in reality the sub would ever cruise and launch that close to shore. In service date is currently 2031.



Portsmouth Miniatures can come painted and fully assembled but this obviously puts the price up.



Crossing the "T". 1/3000th Navwar models. Picture from Boardgame Geek.

The funeral service for, Surg Capt Rick Jolly RN will be held on February 10th at HMS RALEIGH. He was the only veteran of the South Atlantic to be decorated by both sides for his work at the Ajax Bay Medical Facility.



British vs French. Ships engaging in line. Tumbling Dice 1/4800 models.
Picture from Boardgame Geek.

Experiment That Proved the Battleship Was Obsolete

Chesapeake Bay, July 1921. Airplanes of the First Brigade sank a captured German destroyer and then an armoured light cruiser. Next was the German battleship Ostfriesland, considered “unsinkable” due to its extensive compartmentalization. 230lb and 600lb bombs were dropped by Marine, Navy, and Army aircraft, the battleship settled three feet by the stern with a five-degree list to port. Ostfriesland, it turned out, was not unsinkable from the air.

The next day, five Martin NBS-1 bombers each dropped a 1,100-pound bomb on the German battleship, scoring three more hits and causing the ship to sink even further. NBS-1 bombers returned with their new battleship-killer bombs. Of six bombs, three scored near misses powerful enough to rip hull plates off. Twenty-two minutes after the attack, Ostfriesland turned turtle and sank under the waves.

Ostfriesland wasn't the only battlewagon sunk by American airpower. The battleship Alabama was sunk in September, and the Virginia and New Jersey were sunk in 1923. The latter were both sunk within less than an hour.

Is it possible that one of New Delhi's Russian-built *Kilo*-class diesel-electric attack submarines managed to "sink" a nuclear-powered U.S. Navy *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine during exercises in October 2015?

According to the Indians, submarine INS *Sindhudhvaj* (S56) allegedly "killed" USS *City of Corpus Christi* (SSN 705) during an exercise called Malabar that is held annually between India, Japan and the United States. The submarines were assigned to track each other down in the Bay of Bengal.

The *Sindhudhvaj* recorded the Hydrophonic Effect (HE) - simply put, underwater noise - of the nuclear powered submarine and managed to positively identify it before locking on to it. Being an exercise what did not happen was an actual firing, the Indian vessel then "sank" USS *City of Corpus Christi* using 533mm torpedoes.

If the Indian description of the events is correct, it would be a bright spot in an otherwise dismal record for New Delhi's undersea force.

The [Los Angeles](#)-class is a dated design that is being replaced by the newer and exponentially quieter *Virginia*-class submarine. But the basic facts are that the *Kilo* is an extremely quiet and very capable submarine owing to its diesel-electric propulsion system. Running on electrical power while submerged, diesel-electric boats have been described as "a hole in the water" and are a vexing problem for the U.S. Navy. Developing ways to counter such vessels is a high-priority for Washington as many potential adversaries like China and Iran operate such submarines.

Abridged version of an article in, "The National Interest".

Perhaps modern warfare gamers can game the above encounter? I've been reading "freebie" air warfare rules recently to see how the third dimension is handled on the table-top; with the idea of seeing if the rules can be modified to show depth of submarines. Interesting reading and it brings home just how difficult it is to write unambiguous game rules. Hats off to those who do it.

Norman Bell.



HMNZS Te Kaha was part of the SeePort Festival at Captain Cook Wharf, Auckland from Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 January, and was open to the public on both days. Did any NWS Members get on board?

Navy Today is the RNZN's magazine. Published every month, Navy Today provides news and stories about the work and activities of the RNZN in New Zealand and around the world.

Free PDFs are available; <http://navy.mil.nz/nap/navy-today/default.htm>

New Zealand has the 9th longest coastline in the World and the country has a large maritime area of responsibility, including a significant Economic Exclusion Zone, extended continental shelf, and Search and Rescue area.



January's edition of Navy News included an article about the K Class Submarine that was very interesting. Steam driven on the surface in an attempt to have a submarine that could keep up with the battle fleet, it could take as long as 30 minutes to ready the sub for diving – lowering the funnels, extinguishing the boilers etc. The sub's length was much longer than their max operating depth of 200ft.

www.navynews.co.uk

Only one torpedo was fired in anger by a K Class sub – it was a dud.

War at Sea in February.....

A better month this. On the 3rd in 1781, Rodney with 12 of the line defeated the Dutch in the West Indies, forcing the surrender of their islands and taking 6 men o'war and a host of merchantmen. On the 6th in 1806, what's sometimes called a post-Trafalgar 'mopping -up' operation, San Domingo. Duckworth with seven ships took the French Squadron of five. On the 11th, in 1744, off Toulon, Admiral Matthews with 29 sail fought a Franco-Spanish fleet of 28, a haphazard action for which Matthews and his Rear-Admiral, Lestock, suffered court martial!

On the 12th, in 1942, the 'Channel Dash'. Hm? The 14th, in 1797 was a better day, off Cape St. Vincent, John Jervis trounced the twice-larger Spanish fleet; Nelson and Collingwood were both present. On 16th, in 1940, it was *Cossack's* seizure of the *Altmark*, successfully carried out in a Norwegian fjord. On the 18th, Blake met Tromp off Portland in one of the huge encounters which became the hallmark of the First Dutch War at sea.

The following day, the 19th well, in 1807, Duckworth forced the Dardanelles, destroying a Turkish Squadron of a dozen sail on the way through. Remarkably, on February 19th 1915, the fleet was back off the Dardanelles, but this time with little luck at all.

Rob Morgan.

SIGNAL PAD!

For several years NWS has had an annual Games Weekend at the Explosion Museum Gosport. I have enjoyed every time that I went and it has been well organised by a couple of NWS Members. Last year the Museum introduced a charge which had to be passed on to gamers. This year the Museum are asking for what I can only describe as silly money for the room which would otherwise be empty. Watch this space for further info; and all the best to Dave Sharp the Games Weekend organiser for NWS.

The following is from Dave Manley, which you may already have seen if you are a Member of the NWS Yahoo Group.

A plan is forming, to refight Jutland in a day in April. Our local wargames centre / pub is booked for the weekend of April 14/15th but the originally planned event has been cancelled. Stuart Machin and I have been thinking

about doing “Jutland in a day”, to take advantage of all the excellent preparatory work that he did for the game at the NMRN in 2016. Playing with a very quick-play set derived from my RJW/Span Am rules the intention is to do pre-game strategic movement in the weeks prior to the game, then kick off early on the Saturday and play through to a conclusion. We then also have the Sunday. On that day we could:

- a. Carry on with Jutland if not finished (but the plan is it will be)
- b. Run another large campaign type game if anyone would like to run something
- c. Have between four and six tables available for general naval wargames, similar to the Naval Wargames Weekend. Bring a game, set up and play.

To get an ideas as to whether the whole thing is a runner, please contact myself and Stuart to let us know if:

- a. You’d like to play in the Jutland game
- b. You’d like to play on the Sunday
- c. If you have a game you’d like to bring on the Sunday or (maybe even better) if you have a big campaign type game that everyone can play.

For those who don’t know the venue is the skittle alley of the Tudor Arms pub in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Good food, good beer, they have accommodation if you need to travel, there’s a lovely camp site attached as well. And the venue is free of charge.

Let me know if this sounds like fun and you want to take part.

Oh, and please feel free to pass on to anyone else you think may be interested.

davidmanley1966@btinternet.com

stuart.machin@hotmail.co.uk

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.

Membership secretary: simonjohnstokes@aol.com

NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2018

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 - Website: <http://falkirkwargamesclub.org.uk/>

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)
-

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

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

Tel: 01271 866637

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 • 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