



# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 288 – OCTOBER 2018

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#### EDITORIAL

HMS Pickle was a super yacht of her day. Chosen for her speed, the good ship “Pickle” was despatched from Trafalgar to Falmouth a journey of ten days and then her captain, Lieutenant John Lapenotiere spent 37 hours travelling to the Admiralty in London where he began his report with the words, “Sir, we have gained a great victory but we have lost Lord Nelson”. Trafalgar Night will be celebrated on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October and less formal Pickle Night is 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

The article circulated with this AGB, with some tremendous photographs is from Bruce Potter.

Welcome to new member Ian Trevelyan.

Cheers  
Norman Bell

#### **INDIAN OCEAN**



Petty Officer 3rd Class Alexander Turla, an airman assigned to the Essex Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), launches an F-35B Lightning II assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), aboard the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2), Sept. 3, 2018. Essex is the flagship for the Essex ARG and, with the embarked 13th MEU, is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations in support of naval operations to ensure maritime stability and security in the Central Region, connecting the Mediterranean and the Pacific through the western Indian Ocean and three strategic choke points. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. A. J. Van Fredenberg (Released) 180903-M-LQ865-1105

Beijing has accused Britain of deliberately provoking China after a British Royal Navy warship sailed near islands that it claims it owns in the disputed South China Sea.

“The actions by the British ship violated Chinese law and relevant international law, and infringed China’s sovereignty,” the foreign ministry said in a statement. “China strongly opposes this and has lodged stern representations with the British to express strong dissatisfaction.

“China strongly urges the British to immediately stop such provocative actions, to avoid harming the broader picture of bilateral relations and regional peace and stability.”

HMS *Albion*, a 22,000-tonne warship, recently sailed near the Paracel islands when it was on its way to Vietnam. China responded by dispatching a frigate and two helicopters to shadow the ship.

A Royal Navy spokesperson said:

“HMS Albion exercised her rights for freedom of navigation in full compliance with international law and norms”.

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea as its territory; parts of it are contested by Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam and others.

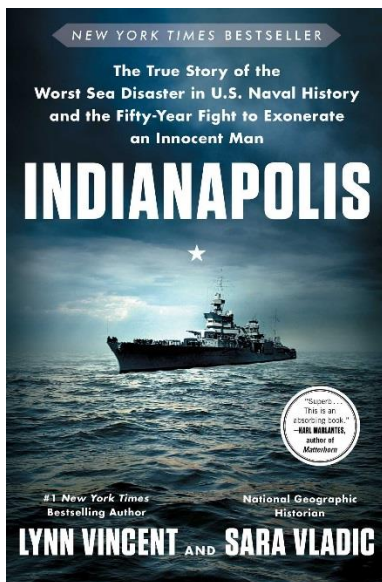


Impressive 1/700 USS MIDWAY by Kostas Katseas.



The 12 Canadian-built Halifax-class multi-role patrol frigates are considered the backbone of the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN). The ships were originally designed for anti-submarine warfare and anti-surface warfare, primarily in the open ocean environment.

HMCS *Fredericton* (337)



Rob Morgan brought to my attention a book review in “The Times” of “Indianapolis”. The survivors of the sinking had to endure four days in the shark infested water. Many died of dehydration, salt water poisoning or sheer exhaustion. Many lost limbs to, or were taken by, sharks. Due to the secret nature of the ship’s mission, delivering the components of the atomic bomb, no-one knew where She was or that She was in fact missing. So no search and rescue. Approx 600 men died in the water. Indianapolis and Her crew deserve to be remembered. You should be able to buy a copy for US\$16-17 or £12-13.

Commander Nathan Gray RN, Makes the first ever F-35B Lightning II jet take off from HMS Queen Elizabeth.



The UK National Museum of the Royal Navy and the Embassy of Chile hosted an afternoon conference and reception at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on 2<sup>nd</sup> October commemorating the bicentenary of the Chilean Navy.

An agreement of cooperation in naval heritage was signed in respect of the close working relationship since Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane commanded the embryonic Chilean Fleet to victory over the Spanish in the Chilean war of independence.

**Portsmouth based HMS Dragon has left her homeport to embark on an operational deployment to the Gulf.** The Type 45 destroyer is scheduled to work alongside coalition and regional partners throughout her time away. She will be focused on providing regional maritime security, including counter-terrorism and anti-smuggling activities.



#### SEA QUIZ 75.....

Not the most complex of sets this month. Plenty of responses to question 2 thought that flight deck must have been packed! Question 4 from 1954, by the way.

1. In which ship did Beatty fly his flag in 1919?
2. What first took place on the flight deck of *HMS Indefatigable* in March 1945?
3. Operation Tungsten (1944) involved six RN Carriers. What was their target?
4. What is proposed to join NATO next year?
5. "Sink, burn and destroy. Let nothing pass." Whose order, and when?

Rob Morgan



OSPREY Elite 213...A Brief look at....'The Barbary Pirates'.

I didn't pay the full price of £11.99 for this, in fact I'd have passed it by, but it was on sale remaindered in the book market, at £3.99, so I ventured the cost! It's an Angus Konstam title, a couple of years old now, and the illustrations are by Gerry Embleton. Part of the value of the work for the naval wargamer is the chronology and the description of the far-ranging activities of this bunch of seaborne rogues. There's a good deal of, I suppose, necessary background on the Arab conquests, the several Dynasties and the development of the 'corsairs' from around 1450 onwards along the Barbary coast from the Straits of Gibraltar to Tripoli.

The essential, and to me at least, most important aspects, are the sections which deal with the ships used by the Corsairs ( or Pirates!) and their tactics and techniques in battle. Konstam in addition provides a very good and quite lengthy account of the chain of command in the Ottoman world, sometimes quite complex, of the nature of the Captains and Admirals, and the quite astonishing cross-section of renegades and hangers-on which crewed many of the ships, and crucially, the Janissaries, all of the larger raft carried these elite troops. Useful campaign information all round.

Though it's the ships used which provide the greatest interest in the book. The odd siege and land encounter is covered, but the success of the Barbary Pirates was afloat. The text considers the galley and the smaller galliot, oared and fast, and goes on to look at the slightly odder but no less successful craft, the Xebec, usually three-masted and rowed if necessary, but essentially a very quick sailing warship; Konstam differentiates between Xebec and Polacre, the other major sailing type. These were useful craft in swift attacks, as were the smaller Felucca and oddly named Tartan. The list he gives is not inclusive. The Pirates used anything they could, including captured carracks and small craft of the type to be found in Venetian hands. The book's text, ably supported by the superb plates, of which more in a moment, gives sufficient information to the naval wargamer to enable the seemingly complex sea forces of the Barbary states to be created on the table top.

The book ends with a short series of notes on the limitations of a galley or galliot; on the hunting-grounds of these pirates, and don't forget, the British Isles though far to the north were often raided by them even into the time of the Civil Wars of the 1640's. In 1625, they raided as far north as Iceland! Konstam gives an interesting, again useful note on the tactics in battle of the pirate

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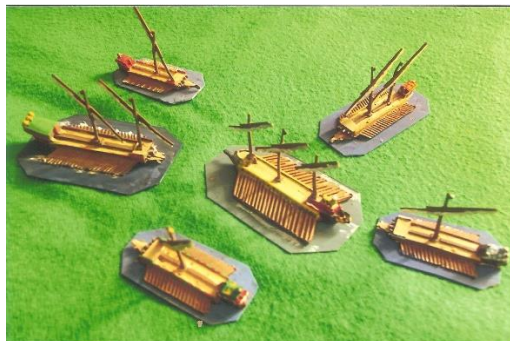
swarms, which could be quite large, or simply a ship or two. As a table top force, a small group of Barbary Corsairs have tremendous uses and could be used against almost any European enemy, merchant or well-armed naval vessels.

The plates, by Gerry Embleton are attractive, though in naval wargames terms there's little value in a plate dealing with renegade sailors gear, or depicting a sea-fight, hand to hand between armed Christian sea-soldiers and Moslem pirates. But, take a look at plate D, which shows several beautifully painted Pirate craft, large and small; as well as Plate E, of a Xebec, and Plate H, of a selection of small Pirate vessels. The Galleys and Galliot's are also covered, and enough information for painting and decoration is provided, and backed up by a score of small line illustrations, many of these in colour. There's a detailed Bibliography, Guilmarin, Landstrom and Rogers all appear. The book is worth far more than a glance, especially if you are considering an opponent for your Spanish or Venetian men o'war- or later, don't forget Jack Aubrey encountered this lot ( and beat them) in the Med in one of the O'Brien novels 'The Hundred Days', set during Boney's brief visit home in 1815.

The standard scale of 1/1200<sup>th</sup> is probably best for wars involving the Barbary Pirate ships, I'd use my old ( now, very old!) Navwar galleys and galleasses, but add a selection from the Langton Renaissance list, much more costly, but if you're careful, valuable in small numbers. Models such as the Saik, Fusta, the Sambuk and the coasters from this range will prove useful added to the galleys, the smaller Navwar galleys will represent Galliot's incidentally. There are a few Carrack models around, though the Langton Carracks' are stunning, and smaller craft are easy enough to add from numerous sources, such as ships boats with lateen sails added. Go into Spanish Armada or Dutch Wars ranges for opponents, and for merchants. By the late 1600's as the book shows in good black and white and colour illustration, the Barbary Pirates were using fairly standard ship types, see page 61 for a good example.

A better, more interesting title than I thought it would turn out to be!

Rob Morgan.





## Carriers?

The March 1958 issue of 'The Navy', contained an article on the Fleet Carrier HMS Victorious, which had recommissioned in January of that year, and given the fact that she had been launched before the Second World War, the writer of the piece ended with this pointed comment on the state of the Fleet.....

*'All of the carriers completed since the late war have hulls which were laid down before Japan was defeated.'*

Victorious' career was astonishing, she was part of the 1936 estimates and lasted as long as some of the wooden walls of the eighteenth century. She survived to the late 1960's of course, and in three decades flew everything from Fulmars and 'Stringbags' to Sea Vixens and Buccaneers. I only saw her once but she was a magnificent sight.

Rob Morgan



INDIAN OCEAN. The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Michael Murphy (DDG 112) and the Royal Australian Navy Anzac-class frigate HMAS Stuart (FFH 153) break away from the Royal Canadian Navy replenishment ship NRU Asterix following a replenishment-at-sea during Australian exercise Kakadu 2018. Michael Murphy is participating in Kakadu to enhance maritime security skills with participating nations by highlighting the value of information sharing and multilateral coordination. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Morgan K. Nall/Released)

HMS Birmingham is the fourth of the UK's eventual eight Type 26 frigates to be named, with HMS Glasgow, HMS Belfast and HMS Cardiff the first three to be built. The frigates will begin to enter service in the 2020s.

During World War II, the weather forecast was Top Secret. A big problem for the Germans was their lack of weather information in the North Atlantic and Arctic. U-Boats, trawlers were tried but the RN hunted down the trawlers and seized code books and Enigma machines. The Germans set up weather stations on land – Greenland and a remote Canadian Arctic Island. One of these stations was only discovered, abandoned and derelict in 1977. The remains were taken to Ottawa and are on display in the city's Canadian War Museum.

(From a newspaper article in The Times brought to my notice by Rob Morgan).

## A Spanish War Memorial.

The two photographs are of the War Memorial at the Spanish Naval Base of Cartagena, commemorating the loss of almost all the ships, and many hundreds of officers and men of the Squadrons of Rear Admiral Montojo at Manila, and of Admiral Cervera at Santiago in May and July 1898. It's one of the most impressive memorials to a naval war that I've ever seen. Given the state of the Spanish warships generally, neither was unexpected or even hard-fought, and as wargames are not impressive, the short account in Jacques Mordal's *Twenty Five Centuries of Sea Warfare's* 'as readable as any.

However, the Spanish Navy had the possibility for a different outcome set aside by the usual internal wrangling, in having a remarkable warship with their Squadrons which might have altered the equation. It was the single bow-tube Submarine '*Peral*', which could have caused similar problems for the Americans as earlier subs had at Antwerp in the 1830's, throughout the Civil War between the States, and in the 1870's between the Russians and the Turks. The threat being as great as the enemy perceived it. There is a wargame in that!

Rob Morgan.





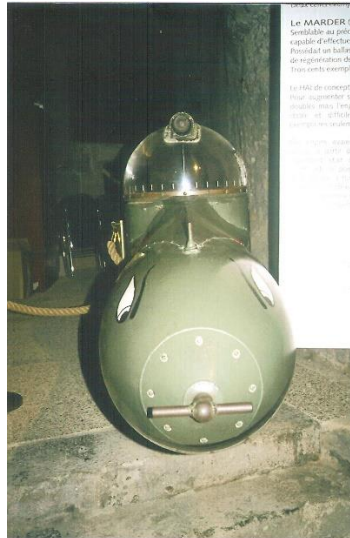
## Modelling the 'Marder'.

Well, I'm not actually a fan of 'Winnie the Pooh', but my granddaughter is. We were in a shop the other day, one of the cheap ones, 'Poundland' looking for holiday stuff ( it was raining) and came upon these '*Pearl Stickers*'. They are connected ( don't ask me how) with the new film, '*Christopher Robin*' and I bought a pack, for me, not for Daisy- she had a colouring book and crayons. Whatever the purpose of these splendid '*pearls*' in the world of Pooh escapes me, but....

It struck me immediately! Here is a pack of opaque plastic 'beads', ideal for the naval wargamer. If you see them, and they should be fairly prolific at the moment, then buy some. You get 130 plastic half-beads, 48 are just 1mm across, another 48 are around 2mm across. There are two other types of '*pearl*', but let's concentrate on these two for the moment.

These 96 beads are all you need to represent a swarm of German late-war manned torpedoes, '*Marder*', and the earlier '*Neger*' in a decent wargame scale. The smallest of the beads will represent the Perspex cockpit domes of either of these little craft in 1/300<sup>th</sup> scale, fitting in neatly with the decent 'Heroics and Ros' landing craft and coastal forces for a Normandy or Mediterranean game. There's little needed to create a '*Marder*' from one of these beads, they're opaque, indeed 'pearly', so you could dab a wash of grey over. The dome can then be superglued to a sliver of plasticard, any thin scrap will do, about 20mm long and 2-3mm wide, painted as a wake, as these boats inevitably operated just below the surface. That's it for the cheapest WWII flotilla you'll ever acquire.





Don't forget there were prototypes and plans for other similar 'domed' German midget subs, the '*Kleine Delphin*' with a short 'snorkel' type mast, behind the cockpit, and the bigger '*Schwertal*', all easy to represent using these beads. If you file the dome a little flatter, you could use it with the wake base as one of the fourteen Japanese '*U-Kanamono*' two man, very basic, suicide boats, which operated awash.

The larger beads, well they'll do the same job in 15mm scale, and of course there were attacks by '*Marders*' on locks and waterway structures and bridges later in the war, the plasticard wake should be perhaps 5mm wide and 30mm or so long. You could use these in conjunction with some Mick Yarrow frogmen for a late war attack in N.W.Europe, or the Adriatic.

There's more...these beads, and I do think that though the larger attacks off Normandy involved fifty of the manned torpedoes, you might not want that many, have other uses. As radar dome covers on modern 1/1200<sup>th</sup> warships, for multi-radar AGI's or-and this crossed my mind as I started on my little '*K-Flotilla*', this could make a floating minefield, or just a loose mine or two, to add a hazard to a naval operation. Paint them dark-grey or black in this case; you'd probably need to base them on a 3 or 4mm circle of thin plasticard.

There are 34 '*pearls*' left. Twenty of them are oval-ish with a low dome and a lug at the rear. In 1/300<sup>th</sup>, with minimal addition of a pin head low mast and small fittings they will represent the *Type D 'Koryu'* suicide submersible. There are a small number of larger, 10mm long, 7-8mm wide domed '*pearls*' for which I haven't yet found a suitable naval use, but there's potential for a sub, I'm sure. Bushnell's '*Turtle*' might be one? All you'd need would be a few fittings.

The photo of the '*Marder*' was taken at the French Maritime Museum in the Citadel at Brest in Brittany. Tucked into an alcove, this is the only shot possible, and of course the 'colour-scheme' may not be entirely accurate.

Rob Morgan.

### SEA QUIZ 75...answers.

A straightforward, or so the original compiler thought, set of questions for number 75. Half the readership remembered either 2 or 3, and a good many were involved in the latter!

1. Beatty flew his flag in *HMS Queen Elizabeth*.
2. The first landing of a twin engine Mosquito on a carrier.
3. The target was Tirpitz.
4. West Germany. Not one single comment appeared.
5. Cunningham's order, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1943, as the Axis collapsed and tried to flee North Africa.

The carrier force assembled for Operation Tungsten was indeed impressive. *HMS's Victorious, Emperor, Fencer, Furious, Pursuer, and Searcher*. Well over a dozen FAA Squadrons, and a support group including *HMS's Anson, Jamaica, Sheffield, Belfast*- and a dozen destroyers.

Rob Morgan.

### **SIGNAL PAD!**

If you are in the area, there is still time to visit Grimsby, the Alexandra Dock for the exhibition about "Grimsby's Lost Ships of WWI". 300 Grimsby Trawlers and Drifters were lost during the war – one for every four days of the War. The exhibition goes on until January 2019.

Rob Morgan



### **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)

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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)

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