



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 291 – JANUARY 2019

EDITORIAL

Another Year again. It is nice to look back and reminisce but let's not forget to look forward with hope. And a big well done and thank you to all the service people who gave up their Christmas so that we could enjoy ours in peace and safety.

Norman Bell

Maritime forces from France, Australia and the United States participated in Ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Readiness and Evaluation Measurement (SHAREM) 195 exercise in the Arabian Sea, Dec. 14-18. Participating ships included French navy F70AA-class air defense destroyer FS Cassard (D 614), and Royal Australian navy Anzac-class frigate HMAS Ballarat (FFH 155), guided-missile destroyers USS Stockdale (DDG 106) and USS Spruance (DDG 111), Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarine USS Louisville (SSN 724), and Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Richard E. Byrd (T-AKE 4). Additionally, U.S. P-3C Orion aircraft and a French Atlantique 2 maritime patrol aircraft supported the exercise from the air.



ARABIAN SEA (Dec. 18, 2018) The Royal Australian navy frigate HMAS Ballarat (FFH 155) transits the Arabian Sea during the anti-submarine warfare exercise SHAREM 195, Dec. 18, 2018. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan D. McLearnon/Released)

GULF OF ADEN -- The guided-missile destroyer USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) interdicted a shipment of narcotics aboard a stateless vessel while conducting maritime security operations in the international waters of the Gulf of Aden, Dec. 27. Chung-Hoon's visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) team seized over 11,000 pounds of hashish while conducting a flag verification boarding.

SEA QUIZ 78.....

More 'SeaMew' than 'Octopus' this time! The early questions with line drawings or illustrations of warships or parts of them, unfortunately died out in around 1955, and the quizzes were often downgraded to odd corners, rather than the standard half page of earlier times. Try these-no points scores!

1. Name the first HM Ship from which an aircraft was flown off at anchor.
2. What was the first RN warship to be hit by a 'Kamikaze'?
3. In which year was the term HMS first used for the King's, or Queen's ships?
4. Which warship led in the German High Seas Fleet to surrender in 1918?
5. Which operational RN submarine base was abandoned for that specific use in 1940?

Not a bad group of questions this time.

Rob Morgan

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I see from the websites that in excess of 2,500 people have signed up in advance to buy the re-prints of, "The Hunters", "The Hunted", "Silent Victory" and "Beneath the Med". Are these submarine themed games little more than rolling a die against probability tables? Perhaps I am totally wrong and someone can put me right.

I am currently looking at the Folio Game "Battle of the Atlantic" and hope to include a review in AGB soon.

Norman Bell

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RFA Tidespring and her three sister ships are flexible, state-of-the-art vessels that will provide key support to the Queen Elizabeth aircraft carriers



ARABIAN GULF.

An F/A-18F Super Hornet assigned to Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 41 launches from the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) in the Arabian Gulf, Dec 29th, 2018. The John C. Stennis Carrier Strike Group 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. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Grant G. Grady (Released) 181229-N-OM854-1289.



Sea Quiz 78...answers.

Not too complicated a list this month, though I thought April 1945 just a little late, given that there were Kamikaze strikes back in Autumn 1944, and HMAS Australia was hit and put out of action on October 21st! Harwich I didn't know, but it is a little too near the opposition.

1. It was HMS Africa in 1912, at Sheerness.
2. This was HMS Indefatigable, the carrier on 1st April 1945.
3. 1795...you all knew that one.
4. It was the Light Cruiser HMS Cardiff.
5. Harwich.

Rob Morgan.

Early Days.....

This is, for me an important piece of naval wargaming history. It was probably the first article on the subject to appear in a widely published (ie not a Society-based) publication; published in Vol.1, No. 1 of John Tunstill's long vanished but fondly remembered, *Miniature Warfare* which appeared in wargames and model shops in the late 1960's. It cost four shillings then- about three pints of beer. In his introduction to the piece, John Tunstill was a little deprecating, amused at the preference for fleets rather than those masses of pretty uniformed plough-boys marching through mud to their doom, in serried ranks (and they take far longer to paint than warships, but that's just my opinion). He also described the 'Navwar Group' as "putting up a brave show at the convention". Anyone recall the game chosen, by the way? If Anthony Anderson's figures are correct then we are 52 years old this very month! Our half century slipped by unnoticed.

I'm not sure I agree with everything that our then Secretary wrote, but his mention of the old Ian Allen warship series brought a tear to the eye, and interestingly, for those who are scale-obsessed, am I right in thinking that in those days 1/1200th and 1/1250th models were used together? Not much about then of course, pre-Airfix, and post-Eaglewall! Finally, on page 10 of Vol 1 No 1, there was a second short note about the Society's monthly meetings at Hook Community Centre, informing readers that the Society (the members must have been largely millionaires in those days!), were obtaining models from the German manufacturers 'in encouraging quantities'!!!

'Battlefleet' was certainly published then and according to the Secretary, was introduced in June 1967, another half century! Anyone out there remember those early days? What exactly was published in the first issue of 'Battlefleet' for example?

Rob Morgan. December 2018.

On Naval Matters

During the last few years, much to the surprise of many people, there has been a pronounced resurgence of Navalism in this country. From its peak in the days preceding the first world war, navalism has steadily declined in this country, except for a brief period of re-armament immediately before the second war. The main reason for this was, of course, the decline in our naval forces, which was in turn followed by a decrease in publicity given to naval matters, and then a decrease in the amount of literature devoted to naval matters. Usually this decline of interest has only been reversed by a program of rearmament, or extensive rebuilding, but the present upsurge of interest has had no such happy. (happy? - Ed.) stimulus. Instead, we have to thank Britain's publishers, to a great extent for this increase in interest, when they presented in a cheap paperback form a list of the capital ships of Britain and Germany in World War I. Since its publication, Ian Allen have continued to publish a series of cheap and easy to obtain volumes, giving details of the Worlds fleet during the two world wars. Others followed, magazines were introduced and three British model manufacturers saw fit to, at long last, introduce models of warships.

With each upsurge of interest in matters naval, there has been a corresponding increase in naval wargames. Before the first world war there were the famous Fred Janes Wargames, and again before the second World War Basset Lowke, Dinky and Trimco produced mouldings and models for the wargamer. Following that there was little active naval wargaming in Britain; but in America, Fletcher Pratt's system of wargaming was flourishing, although it never caught on in England to the same extent. Now, British naval wargamers have joined together to form the naval wargames society, which takes a leading part in organising naval wargames in England.

In December 1966, Phil Dunn called together a few friends who were interested in Naval wargames to try to form a wargames group. The group quickly grew, as more people

heard of it, and the meetings became more successful as the group started to form its own rules. In June 1967 the group's own magazine "Battlefleet" was introduced, and became an immediate success. At first only one day battles were fought, these could only mirror naval tactics, but campaigns are now being attempted that allow grand strategy to be introduced.

Possibly the main reason for the success of the campaigns is that the size of the actions and forces are no longer determined by the size of the hall that the battle is being fought in, but by the size of the maps that are being used. The more people that are involved, the more maps that can be used. Instead of seeing your enemy and knowing his forces, an attack has to be made against unknown forces, so that in bad weather a small force may find itself under the guns of the enemy battlefleet and unable to run, or an aircraft carrier may launch an airstrike only to find that its target has reversed course, and is no longer there. Thanks to maps it is possible to introduce fuel as an important factor, so that a superior force may have to break off an action as it is running short of fuel.

The most recent campaign, which started towards the end of last year, introduced such factors as troop movements, landings, supplies, logistics, blockades and submarines. From the early days when only some 100,000 tons of shipping were used by each side we have graduated to using 1,800,000 tons each side. All the warships are from the Second World War, and are built to 1:1,200/1,250 scale.

Future projects for the group include a series of battles based on the First World War, including Jutland. New rules to cover this period are at present in preparation, and should be published within the next two months. From this there are suggestions of delving further into the past and there are rumours of members preparing to refight the Russo-Japanese war.



SIGNAL PAD

The Naval Wargames Society will be running a participation game at SALUTE 2019.

Here's wishing NWS Members a Happy New Year!

"The final issue of volume 37 of Battlefleet is nearly ready to go out. There is still some space left for another short article or two, so if you've been itching to put pen to paper (or even better finger to keyboard) please can you send any remaining submissions through to me via email at simonjohnstokes@aol.com. As usual any subject matter is welcome so long as it pertains to naval wargaming in some way shape or form. If it's of interest to you then chances are it's also of interest to other NWS members. Simon Stokes (Membership Secretary / Caretaker Battlefleet Editor)"

Best Regards
Simon

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.navalwargameassoc.org.

Membership secretary: simonjohnstokes@aol.com

NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2019

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

THE NAVAL WARGAMES SOCIETY <http://www.navalwargamessociety.org>
(Victorian Division "Cerberus") Email: nws.victoria.au@gmail.com Membership by
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