



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 294 – APRIL 2019

April 1941. Churchill's war situation speech to the House of Commons, "...everything turns upon the Battle of the Atlantic".



The Independence variant littoral combat ships USS Independence (LCS 2), left, USS Manchester (LCS 14), and USS Tulsa (LCS 16) are underway in formation in the eastern Pacific. Littoral combat ships are high-speed, agile, shallow draft, mission-focused surface combatants designed for operations in the littoral environment, yet fully capable of open ocean operations. As part of the surface fleet, LCS has the ability to counter and outpace evolving threats independently or within a network of surface combatants. U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Shannon Renfroe (Released) 190227-N-FC670-255

In answer to Rob Morgan's question regarding the names of the KE VIIIs, apart from the traditional naming of a battleship after the reigning monarch, they represent major members of the Empire as it was at the time. Britannia and New Zealand speak for themselves, Commonwealth and Dominion refer to Australia and Canada, Hindustan a major part of the Indian Empire, Hibernia is of course Ireland and Africa presumably South Africa or all the colonies on that continent. New Zealand was renamed Zealandia to free up the name for the battle cruiser donated by that country.

Regards

Ric Pelvin

Battlefleet or Battle Fleet? The good old days.

It seems that in the early days of what was then 'The Official Magazine for Navwar (UK)', and not the NWS, that it was two words. Anyway, my thanks to Phil Dunn who provided me with sight of Issue Number 2 for July 1967, some 16 pages of typed and hand printed pink paper. Clearly Issue Number 1 is as rare as a decent 'Penny Black'! It reminded me of so many of the Society publications I saw in those days, delightful and nostalgic to read! All of the material was WWI and WWII oriented by the way, and not all the writers were identifiable.

There was a two page note on 'Morale in Naval Wargames' by K.French, he describes it as '*a very elaborate subject*'. Hm? I'm not so sure, it depends surely on the Captain's (and Admiral's) ability to play poker as soon as 'Flag 5's' lifted. A good deal of space was taken by 'Project Jutland' which was obviously a long term plan, and there was a list of the (presumably 1/1200th scale?) ships so far gathered for the purpose of the battle, many from the pricey German companies. Much of the other material was 'Society Business', though one member based in Cardiff had some wonderful kits for sale. In 1967, what five, six years after 'Eaglewall' had closed, Mr J. Hammond still had a number of that company's lovely '*Altmark*', '*Ajax*' and '*Warspite*, the latter at ten bob (50p) a go!!! If you're reading this, Mr Hammond, I'll take one of each, please.

There were some interesting asides on the problems of wargaming, which we all encounter even now. 'People' who buy and keep model warships, but won't game with them, but don't mind using others models! They're still around. The

problem of breakage caused some concern too. Then there was this note, on the Napoleonic Championship using Society's rules.....

6. Competitors are asked to bring their own models, to 1/600th scale (Airfix 'Victory') as only a few can will be available from the Society.

I remember that model well, I've still got a couple, and it features significantly in Phil Dunn's book '*SEA BATTLE GAMES*' still a good read, but, note 3 on the same page mentions using '*...Only 'rated' vessels, brigs and sloops*'. HM? The 'Victory' was regularly converted into two deck, and even big 120 Gun ship models like Spain's '*Santissima Trinidad*', but surely the Brigs and Sloops would have to be scratchbuilt? I wondered if there was an article on that project in 'Battle Fleet' at some stage? Veterans will remember that Airfix also produced the Frigate 'HMS Shannon' but as it was around 1/300th scale, it couldn't be used with 'Victory'. Made for great Solo actions of course! The 1968 convention list was also enclosed with the magazine, and it seems that while in 'land' terms, the ACW held sway, it wasn't WWI or WWII that featured as the 'naval option' but fighting Boney. Times have changed.

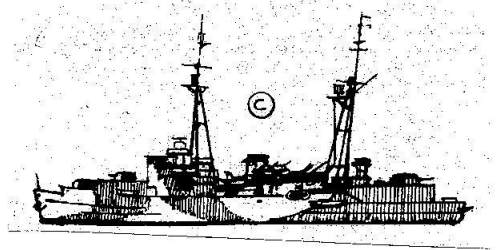
Rob Morgan.

SEA QUIZ 81.....

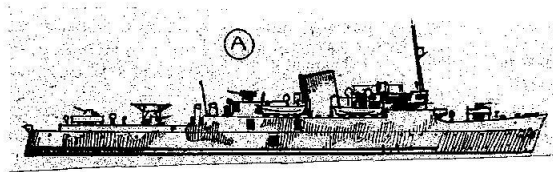
Although there were many illustrated questions in the issues of 'The Navy' published up to the mid 1950's, no indication of who the illustrator was ever appeared; nor, more remarkably did the quiz ever venture into photographs of ships..or Admirals or anything else nautical, and there must have been a great deal available.

Try these....

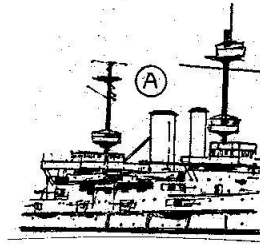
1. This was a WWII anti-aircraft ship.....



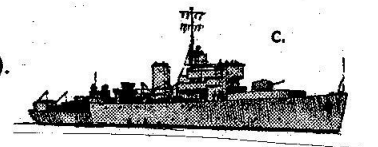
2. And another.....



3. Identify this WWI Armoured ship.....



4. And this 'saw service in the late war' (from a 1953 quiz).



5. To end, an 'early' destroyer.....



The U.S. Navy flight demonstration squadron, the Blue Angels, perform the Echelon Parade manoeuvre during a demonstration at the El Centro Air show California. The team is scheduled to conduct 61 flight demonstrations across the country in 2019. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Timothy Schumacher (Released) 190316-N-UK306-1199



The newest Independence-variant littoral combat ship, USS Tulsa (LCS 16), had the commissioning ceremony Saturday, Feb. 16, at Pier 30/32 in San Francisco. U.S. Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma delivered the commissioning ceremony's principal address. Kathy Taylor, former mayor of Tulsa, Oklahoma is the ship's sponsor. The ceremony was highlighted by a time-honoured US Navy tradition when Taylor gave the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life!" The USS Tulsa is the second naval vessel to honour Oklahoma's third largest city. The first USS Tulsa was an Asheville-class gunboat designated as PG-22 that served from 1923 to 1944 before being renamed Tacloban. She earned two battle stars for World War II service. A cruiser to be named USS Tulsa was also authorized for construction during World War II, but the contract was cancelled.

Future littoral combat ship USS Cincinnati (LCS 20) has successfully concluded acceptance trials in the Gulf of Mexico, following a series of in-port and underway demonstrations for the Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey.

Dover Patrol 1917....A wargame in '*The Mariner's Mirror*'.

For the naval wargamer, this is so often a valuable publication and in Vol 105:1, for February 2019, pages 60 to 80 contain a splendid and illustrated article by Col. Eamonn Welch entitled '*The Operational Impact of the Loss of HMS Paragon in the Straits of Dover, 17th March 1917.*' Well worth reading.

HMS Paragon was a 30knot Destroyer of the *Acasta* Class, launched in 1913, and with 3-4in guns and 2-21in torpedo tubes. The writer describes her as a 'small, nippy ship' of 900 tons, and gives a short history of her 'war' until she was lost as part of 6th Destroyer Flotilla, as part of the Dover Patrol in November 1916. Both the Dover Patrol***, and their opponents the German Flanders Flotilla were substantial forces by then. The routine and deployment of the Patrol's units is described, along with armament and capability, and would make for a decent map game, I think. Losses were fairly regular.

The core of the article is the substantial German Destroyer raid on the night of 17th March, in which *Paragon* was a speedy loss to a torpedo in a brief fight with three enemy ships. The author provides maps and drawings which are useful, the running fight between British and German warships is described, and culminated in the brief bombardment of Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

Welch now considers the inevitable inquiry, which tabulated the raids undertaken by the Flanders Flotilla between October 1916 and April 1917. The tactical use of the Dover Patrol changed as a result of this analysis, and there was a concentration of combat power which led to the addition of Tyrrwhitt's Cruisers and patrolling Destroyers acting in consort, rather than strung out. The result, quickly obtained was the '*Broke and Swift*' action of 21st April 1917, which led to the loss of two German destroyers, and a change in the enemy's raiding pattern, indeed there were no further raids for some considerable time afterwards. This is an excellent article, read it if you can!

*** I vaguely recall, as a boy encountering a boxed board game called 'Dover Patrol' but didn't possess one, and know nothing more of it. Anyone help?

Rob Morgan.



British 74 gun SOL
Generic British, 74 gun 3rd rate. The backbone and work horse of any Napoleonic Age of Sail fleet.
<https://tllw.blogspot.com/>



Naval Wargames Weekend, October 5th/6th 2019

The Naval Wargames Society is holding the ninth annual weekend of naval wargaming. As last year the event will be at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton, so expect some games featuring the FAA and the RNAS! The emphasis of the event is on games and getting together, and we have had a lovely selection in recent years. Although it is primarily a gaming event there may well be some trade stands attending too and traders are welcome to attend (be aware it is a small event). We are on the lookout for volunteers to run games at the event. If you'd like to put on a game on either or both days, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Plenty of space and tables are available and there should be room for upwards of ten tables available of varying sizes. There will be a small charge for participation – last year this was £5 for one day, £7.50 for both days. The aim of the event is to provide a forum where naval (and other) gamers can come together to run and/or play in each other's games. Games can be as long or as short as you like, and the intention is to include a few participation games so that members of the public can join in too.

For more details, or to book a table for a game for all or part of the weekend please contact Dave Sharp. Contact details for the Fleet Air Arm Museum are at the link:
<http://www.fleetairarm.com/find-fleet-air-arm-museum.aspx>
dave_sharp@talktalk.net dave(underscore)sharp@talktalk.net

The frigate HMS ARGYL – on her way home to Plymouth after nine months away in the Asia-Pacific region – responded to a mayday from the 28,000-tonne merchant ship about 150 miles southwest of Brest: the crew were fighting a losing battle against the flames and were abandoning ship into 5m to 6m seas at night. When they did, all 27 crammed aboard the lifeboat which smashed into the heavy seas as it launched, damaging the craft which was unable to make headway. Despite very difficult sea conditions, Argyll succeeded in launching her sea boat which nudged the lifeboat against the frigate's side, so the Grande America's crew could be brought aboard.



[Crown Copyright] The fire onboard MV Grande America

Neal was awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on July 3, 1951, when, while serving with Helicopter Utility Squadron ONE, he and pilot Lt. j.g. John Koelsch attempted to rescue Marine Corps Captain James Wilkins. Wilkins crashed near Yondong in North Korea after his Corsair took antiaircraft fire. Koelsch and Neal located Wilkins and under increased enemy fire lowered the rescue sling, however the helicopter was soon disabled and crashed. For nine days, Neal assisted Koelsch and Wilkins in evading enemy forces before being captured and held as a Prisoner of War. Koelsch died during captivity but Wilkins and Neal were released and returned to the United States with more than 320 fellow POWs in 1952.



Arleigh Burke-class destroyers conduct a variety of operations from peacetime presence and crisis response to sea control and power projection. The future USS George M. Neal (DDG 131) will be a Flight III destroyer capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously, and will contain a combination of offensive and defensive weapon systems designed to support maritime warfare, including integrated air and missile defense and vertical launch capabilities.

The ship will be constructed at Huntington Ingalls in Pascagoula, Mississippi. The ship will be 509 feet long, have a beam length of 59 feet and be capable of operating at speeds in excess of 30 knots.

USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) successfully completed its five-day fast cruise, March 25, in another step toward returning to sea for the first time since July 2017.

SEA QUIZ 81...answers.

Five line drawings, and one or two rarities I think.

1. Well, this is the A/A ship HMS Pozarica, which was lost in the Med in 1943. Unfortunately, probably because of post war language usage, the magazine named her as 'Pozariki', but no-one, absolutely no-one picked it up!
2. This was the lightly armed HMS Queen Eagle. Again, no comment from the readership.
3. I wonder how many people got this one, I didn't. It's HMS Queen, as flagship in the Adriatic. Hm?
4. It's an RAN Frigate 'Condamine' one of the Australian 'River Class', she served in Korea. Looks more like an 'Algerine' 'sweeper to me.
5. One of the Thornycroft 30knot boats, 'Ariel', 'Albatross', 'Angler', etc. Mind you, I must say that all these early Destroyer types look the same to me.

Rob Morgan.

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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, 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 e-Subscription to NWS BATTLEFLEET magazine.