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# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 295 – MAY 2019

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May 1941. President Roosevelt in a radio address to the Nation, said that, "...what started as a European war has developed, as the Nazis always intended it should develop, into a war for world domination... I say that the delivery of needed supplies to Britain is imperative. I say this can be done; it must be done; it will be done".

Naval Wargames Weekend 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> October 2019 Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton.

Dave Sharp would be grateful if you could let him know whether you will be putting on a game this year, a rough idea of the period/scale and of how much space you would like. There is plenty of space available, but we need to arrange for sufficient tables to be brought in.

[dave\\_sharp@talktalk.net](mailto:dave_sharp@talktalk.net)    dave(underscore)[sharp@talktalk.net](mailto:sharp@talktalk.net)

Fleet Air Arm Museum

RNAS Yeovilton, BA22 8HT Ilchester, Somerset

Washington. "In our wargames, when we fight Russia and China," RAND analyst David Ochmanek said, "blue gets its ass handed to it." In other words, in RAND's wargames, which are often sponsored by the Pentagon, the US forces — coloured blue on wargame maps — suffer heavy losses in one scenario after another and still can't stop Russia or China — red — from achieving their objectives, like overrunning US allies. The games indicate that aircraft carriers and airfields are easily taken out by the latest missiles available to the other side. Once an American monopoly, smart weapons are now a rapidly growing part of Russian and Chinese arsenals. The US Marine Corps is buying the jump-jet version of the F-35, which can take off and land from tiny, ad hoc airstrips and smaller warships, which are harder to hit.



The USS Harry S. Truman, which the Pentagon proposes retiring early to save funds for new kinds of weapons.

## NWS NEWS

### Naval Wargames Weekend, October 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> 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.

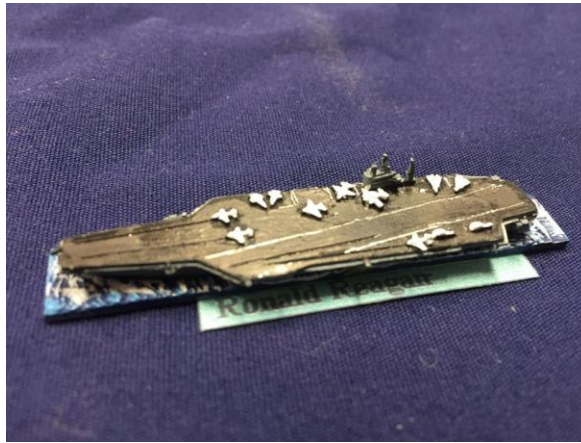
The aim of the event is to provide a forum where naval (and other) gamers can come together to run and/or play in each others' games. Games can be as long or as short as you like, and the intention is to include a few participation games so that members of the public can join in too.

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>  
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Trolling through some internet pages recently, I came upon the following comment: During the entire Second World War, Japan commissioned 31 destroyers, while the United States commissioned 365. The Japanese commissioned five light cruisers and no heavy cruisers, while the United States commissioned 46 large, heavy, and light cruisers.

<https://www.shapeways.com/shops/bill-s-bits-n-pieces> 3D printing of wargame models is a growing area for the hobby. Perhaps you have a recommendation of a manufacturer or perhaps you are a manufacturer that can do a good price for NWS Members?



One of Alex Karolyi's many models.

### SEA QUIZ 82.....

Some of the more elaborately worded questions in 'The Navy' quiz I tend to whittle down a little, but Number 2 is a classic example. It appeared in 1958, and 'Octopus' the compiler suggested it was worth 8 marks ( but no prize!).

1. What remarkable distinction did Charles Davis Lucas, later Rear Admiral achieve when mate of HMS Hecla?
2. What would you have called an Officer wearing two and a half stripes in 1910, and what was his correct title?
3. Name the Royal Yachts used in the Australia tour of 1954.
4. When was the naval salute as we know it introduced?
5. Are there any regulations laid down regarding the length of a 'Paying-off Pendant'?

Both questions 4 and 5 led to a decent spate of correspondence and reminiscences, by the way.

Rob Morgan.

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The third, next generation nuclear deterrent submarine will be HMS WARSPITE. She will join the fleet in 2030s after HMS DREADNOUGHT, HMS VALIANT and before a yet to be named fourth boat. She will be the eighth RN vessel to bear the name. The first was in Tudor times. The sixth WARSPITE was the Queen Elizabeth Class Battleship which has (so far)

won more Battle honours than any other RN ship. She was damaged at Jutland and in WWII at Crete. She saw action at Narvik, Matapan and She was hit by a remotely guided bomb at Salerno. She bombarded the Normandy Beaches. Her motto was, Belli Dura Despicio. (I despise the hard knocks of war).



The British fleet enters Aboukir Bay. Sails of Glory game at a Games Day at Doncaster.

Picture from Board Game Geek.

In January 1941, five Anglo-Norwegian manned merchantmen broke through the German blockade of Sweden and brought 25,000 tons of ball bearings and machine tools to the UK. The vessels evaded patrol vessels and passed nearby to the, at anchor, Scharnhorst and Gneisenau. The British Admiralty maintained and added to its reputation for originating interesting signals by enquiring as to why the merchantmen did not attack and sink the battlecruisers.

Info from "Navy News".

**The Long Lance torpedo was longer, broader and faster than the USA's Mk 15.**

Wargame rules reproduce torpedoes in many different ways. Which rule set is best?







Sea Ceptor launch from HMS ARGYLL  
(Crown Copyright)

The Common Anti-Air Modular Missile (CAMM) fires the same missile from either a sea or land-based platform, known as Sea Ceptor and Land Ceptor. It uses innovative seeker and datalink technology to achieve a high degree of accuracy. The associated radar systems track the threat and the datalink is then used to update the missile with the location of the threat. The CAMM's own active radar seeker can then take over the missile guidance. The missiles are designed to provide 360-degree coverage with a high degree of manoeuvrability.

Contracts for CAMM valuing £323 million were set with MBDA which sustains over 130 jobs in the UK at Stevenage, Henlow, Bristol and Bolton. Export orders have also been confirmed with New Zealand and Chile, other nations are in negotiation with MBDA. Sea Ceptor will provide local-area air defence to the Type 23 and Type 26 frigates providing the next generation of air defence.

The John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Group is currently 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 with the three strategic choke points.

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) completed a cooperative deployment with the Royal Australian Navy Adelaide-class guided-missile frigate HMAS Melbourne (FFG 05) in the Philippine Sea April 19.

The two ships rendezvoused for a full day of training between the well-established allies. The American and Australian crews completed ten successful cooperative evolutions, including a rescue and assistance drill; helicopter deck landing qualifications; divisional tactics; and a visitation, board, search, and seizure team exercise.



The Mediterranean Sea.

The Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) and John C. Stennis (CVN 74) Carrier Strike Groups began dual operations on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The CSGs will complete high-end warfighting training as they work multiple scenarios integrating the two air wings and surface ships with key allies and partners in the European theatre. The Spanish Alvaro de Bazan-class frigate ESPS Méndez Núñez (F104) is integrated with the Abraham Lincoln CSG and operates as one of Lincoln's escorts during its around-the-world deployment, displaying the United States' commitment to NATO allies, including the Spanish Navy (la Armada Española).

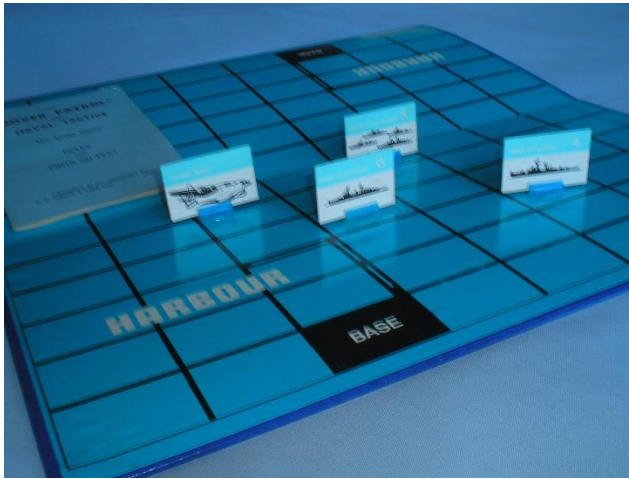
The US Navy's newest Zumwalt-class guided missile destroyer, is the USS Lyndon B. Johnson (DDG 1002). The third ship in the Zumwalt-class, is named in honor of late President Lyndon B. Johnson, who served in office from 1963-1969, and will be the first ship to bear his name.



Johnson served as a U.S. Navy Reserve officer before being called to active duty after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He requested a combat assignment and served in the Pacific theater. After returning from active duty, Johnson reported to Navy leaders and Congress what he believed were deplorable living conditions for the warfighters. He continued to fight for better standards for all military members.

The multi-mission Zumwalt-class destroyers will be capable of performing a range of deterrence, power projection, sea control, and command and control missions while allowing the Navy to evolve with new systems and missions. Zumwalt ships are 610 feet long, have a beam of 80.7 feet, displace almost 16,000 tons, and are capable of making 30 knots speed.

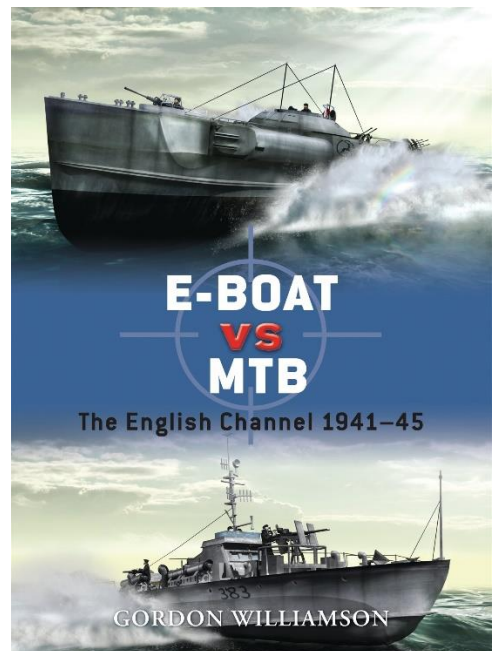
In answer to Rob Morgan's question about, "Dover Patrol":



Dover Patrol is a very (very) basic game for two players, both have the exact same ships. Sunderland flying boats, minesweepers and mines all play a part with the object being the capture of your opponent's harbour base and/or sink the enemy flagship. An introductory game for the young. I believe the Wellington/Napoleon version is "Stratego"

Norman Bell

Cruel Seas by Warlord Games seems to be the flavour of the month in many wargame websites. Perhaps Osprey's E-Boat v MTB from their "Duel" series will be of interest to Cruel Seas fans. Perhaps someone has it and can write a few words for AGB.



Little Wars 2019 NWS Games.

The NWS is putting on two games as well as a static display table at Little Wars 2019 this year.

Little Wars 2019 will be held at the same location as last year, Kingston Arts Hall, 985 Nepean Highway, Moorabbin. Right next to Moorabbin Station. It will be on Saturday, 11th May from 9am to 4pm.

This cutting from "The Diver" magazine, 1984 was accompanied by a map of the Atlantic, English Channel, North Sea and Skagerrak showing the approximate positions of sunken U-Boats and was brought to my attention by Rob Morgan.

# THE U-BOAT GRAVES

## A SPECIAL DIVER SURVEY SHOWING GERMAN SUBMARINE WRECK LOCATIONS

When they had time to count their losses, the Germans called it "The War of the Lieutenants". They did so because they found that of the junior officers of the German Navy killed in the First World War, one half of the lieutenant-commanders and one third of the lieutenants lost their lives in submarines.

They died by depth-charge, by mine, by gunfire, by ramming, by being caught in the nets stretched across the Channel from Folkestone to France, by bombs from Allied aircraft, and once or twice by torpedoes from British submarines.

In all Germany lost 178 U-boats during those four years of war—not counting the 14 scuttled to avoid capture at the end. Of the 13,000 men on submarine active service, 515 officers and 4849 warrant officers and men were killed.

This map shows the graves of those who died in the waters around Britain and Europe. There were others lost in submarines in the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

But the other side of the balance is even more horrific. The submarines sank 11 153 000 tons of shipping. Of this enormous total Britain lost 2099 ships of 6 635 000 gross tons with the loss of 12,723 civilians and 578 fishing boats with another 98 dead in them.

To this you have to add the victims of the UC minelaying class of submarines, which placed an enormous number of mines in Allied shipping lanes. Those mines, and others laid by surface ships, destroyed 259 British merchant ships of 673 417 tons with 1493 seamen killed and 63 fishing vessels with another 332 lives lost.

At the end of the war there were 158 German U-boats in various enemy ports; eight were interned in neutral countries, and were ready to surrender. Eighteen other boats were made seaworthy to make up the 184 boats demanded by the Allies. In the end, due to scuttlings and suspicious sinkings on the way, 176 surrendered. The "War of the Lieutenants" was finally over.



### Answers to Sea Quiz 82...

Now I thought the hardest of these questions was number 3, but a few of the readers made number 5 seem as complex as fighting a battle!

1. Lucas was of course the first recipient of the naval Victoria Cross, during the Crimean war during the bombardment of Bomersund.
2. This was a 'Lieutenant over eight years seniority', since the rank of Lieutenant-Commander was not adopted until 1914.
3. These were the *Gothic* and of course *Britannia*. The first from the West Indies to Aden, and the second from Tobruk to London.
4. Right! The naval salute was introduced in 1890. Some discussion took place as to how it was introduced, and whether some stations adopted it later. Prior to 1890, the cap was removed, of course.
5. No. Is the short answer, but... as always some debate. Apparently a ship paying-off after a two years commission should wear a pendant equal to the length of the ship. 'Custom' as many indicated, added one twelfth of that length for every two months over the prescribed period. Yes, we all knew that!

The argument as to the longest pendant in 'paying off history' achieved no perceptible conclusion.

Rob Morgan.

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### **SIGNAL PAD!**

Coming in June's AGB: World at War, magazine No: 66 The Cruise of the Graff Spee; Airfix magazine; the weather plus lots more.

## **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, 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](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)

THE NAVAL WARGAMES SOCIETY <http://www.navalwargamessociety.org>  
(Victorian Division "Cerberus") Email: [nws.victoria.au@gmail.com](mailto:nws.victoria.au@gmail.com) Membership by e-Subscription to NWS BATTLEFLEET magazine.