



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 297 – JULY 2019

EDITORIAL

I went to “Broadside” at Sittingbourne, Kent on Sunday 9th June and was a bit disappointed. Despite the nautical title, naval wargames were conspicuous by their absence. There was a large display of “Cruel Sea” items on the Warlord Games stand and 2 each of 3 Sails of Glory ships on another stand and that was it. Perhaps those of us who enjoy naval wargames but do little to promote the sub-division of the wargaming hobby could do a little more in future. The Naval Wargames Weekend and the International Naval Wargames Day provide two early opportunities.

Welcome to new Member, Toby Ewin.

Norman Bell.

Naval Wargames Weekend, October 5th/6th 2019

NWS NEWS

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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GULF OF ALASKA



Sailors stand by an F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the "Blue Diamonds" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 146 before starting flight operations on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) while participating in Exercise Northern Edge 2019. Northern Edge is one in a series of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command exercises in 2019 that prepares joint forces to respond to crisis in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Andrew Langholf (Released) 190516-N-FA490-2121

Little Wars Chicago included the Battle of Tsushima using Naval Thunder Rules.

Russian destroyer closing in on giant prey

<https://rallyroundtheflag.blogspot.com/2019/04/battle-of-tsushima-little-wars-2019.html?m=0&fbclid=IwAR2oAGfwsereV1Sph3K3fuqoyRqitgY-JWEI-736pdSchdeJLSWHVbNFens>



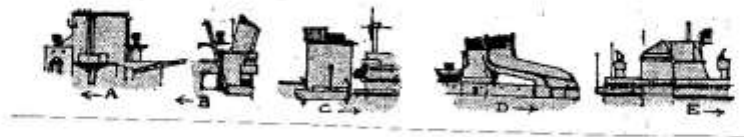
6th August. International Naval Wargames Day.

Celebrate the birth of the father of naval wargaming, Fred T Jane, on the occasion of his birthday. Play games, solo or with friends, and post your action reports, on your blog or your favourite wargaming websites. Help raise the profile of naval wargaming by supporting INWarD 2019!

SEA QUIZ 84.....

Yes, sometimes the compiler and his illustrator came up with complex and even bizarre questions, and Christmas 1954 was one, here we are, the usual five questions rolled up in one....

1. Which warships had these funnels, A,B,C,D, and E. The arrow points to the bow, obviously.



The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell (DDG 85) launches a Standard Missile (SM) 2 during a missile exercise in the Philippine Sea.



One of many of Pete Wenman's photographs on the Naval Wargames Facebook Group.

IJNS MIKASA at Yokusaka.

Take a close look at this photograph. I was seriously tempted to use it as a quiz question! The Admiral on the foreground plinth is Admiral Togo, who of course was the only naval commander in the twentieth century to have fought two fleet actions with Battleships and cruisers and won both. The warship behind him is his British (Vickers of Barrow) built flagship *IJNS Mikasa*, aboard which he fought and won the Battle of the Yellow Sea in May 1904, and then fought and won the Battle of Tsushima in May 1905.

This is a magnificent vessel, one which few of us will ever get the chance to see....a rare survivor of a great ironclad naval age, and was the subject of a recent visit by members of the Morgan family, who for once didn't forget their cameras. It really is an astonishing memorial, and one with heavy British overtones too.

So, please keep your eye open for an illustrated article on the *Mikasa* in "*Battlefleet*", soon, and if anyone's got a decent wargame and photos of Tsushima or the Yellow sea, now's the time to dig them out.

Rob Morgan.



Harvey Torpedoes?

I've just been reading a review of one of the DP&G Technical Publications, published at PO Box 186 Doncaster DN4 0HN at £10 and p&p extra. This particular one, and I'm not actually reviewing it is a reprint of an 1874 RUSI title '*The Strategic Importance of the Military Harbours in the British Channel*' by Major General Collinson, a mere 37 pages of commentary in all. The review mentions the 'new' torpedo developed by Captain John Harvey RN in the late 1860's. This apparently was a towed device, of which much was hoped. I've never encountered it, but I'm hoping someone in the NWS can expand a little on Harvey's invention. Anyone know more?

Rob Morgan



Writing, Illustrations and Warfare at Sea?

I happened to be sorting through a file of notes earlier, and came upon a photo. It once appeared in this place, some years ago now, and when I wrote the note about a conversion from an old ACW 'Pyro' kit of *CSS VIRGINIA* to a rough Confederate floating battery, I wondered if it would be used. Richard Wimpenny was editor then, and I was in two minds about sending him a photo which, let's face it would never get a mention in the glossy wargames mags!

I needn't have worried. It was used. In fact, I can't think of very much that's been rejected, and not I suspect because of the high quality or unusual subject but because so little's submitted. When you look at the length of the membership list, anyone would need to wonder why? All those members, and let's face it most of them must have fleets, or collector's models of warships. Or just read naval books. Or magazines. Or even hang about dockyards waiting for a Chinese *Sovremenny* Class Destroyer to steam in on a surprise courtesy visit.

So why are these columns so often thin in content? Last year around twenty or so NWS members contributed, Norman, I know has to search around each month to fill them, and with '*BATTLEFLEET*' adrift for the past few years (Yes! I know one's in the pipeline) this surely is our main shop window to the world of warship enthusiasts, wargamers, naval historians *et al*.

It did cross my mind that the bulk of the membership who have joined in recent years are in fact serving PLAN Officers who read '*All Guns Blazing*' month after month in hope of finding a chink in NATO defences written into a game

by a naive NWS member who moonlights as a top shot in STANAVFORLANT or something similar. I still can't get over, after almost twenty years of membership, the fact that so very few people say anything to their fellow members about their interests or their collections, whatever they are. No-one sends in photos of their *SKORY's* or *UDALOY's* (if they did they'd surely be published?) No-one mentions their favourite fleet, ie Finland 1982 with all those small FAC's and missile boats, in 1/1200th naturally.

What we do see from experienced members is good. Very good. Last year, Jeff Chorney's Age of Sail rules 10 out 10, and Stato da Mar from Simon Stokes excellent and unusual. I enjoyed the Jutland report, by Stuart and David and as for the Zeebrugge game! The BIG *HMS Vindictive* model deserved an article of its own! I suspect though that some of these pieces would have gone into '*BATTLEFLEET*' if it had been possible, which still leaves the matter of the newsletter, and the silent members. Well, my own target is one or two if possible, short notes a month, as well as the quiz.

At present I've just completed a magazine review, a comment on ASW weapons in WWII and am about to write up a note on the article by Tom Parfitt in 'The Times' on the Russian development of undersea nuclear drones (some small wargames possibilities there, I think) But, like many of us who have been around for a long time, I'd like to see someone produce a set of photos of a game they've undertaken, or maybe of a favourite model. I was unwise enough to say out loud to my wife, in a Cardiff model shop one day, that the ZVEZDA 1/72nd waterline medieval cog (about £20 then) would with little effort make for a decent wargame if about six or seven were available and a few small 'followers' and the odd galley knocked up. I know for a school hall which would suit as a game area. It didn't happen of course, but I've no doubt that somewhere among the new membership, there's someone who has one, but just hasn't got around to photographing it and sending it in.

It would if nothing else, be nice to know what people do in terms of gaming. There must be a reason why the NWS membership list expands by a few names each month.

Rob Morgan.

ARABIAN SEA



An F/A-18E Super Hornet from "the Fist of the Fleet" Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 25 lands on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group (ABECSG) is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

Naval Guns in the Ordnance Society Newsletter.

My interest in naval guns from the late medieval period onwards, is long standing, and resulted in my joining the Ordnance Society many years ago. They produce a quarterly newsletter, and an annual journal, Volume 25 has just arrived and all five of the articles in the 104 pages are dedicated to naval guns, and those weapons discovered in shipwrecks. Guns recovered from the Mediterranean and Adriatic feature, as do sites off the North East of England. Some very readable material with some good, tangential interest for the wargamer. I particularly enjoyed an article by Sean Kingsley (pp 82-102) on '*Guns from the Narrow Seas*' dealing with discoveries in the English Channel. There are some valuable titles in the bibliography too.

ordnancesociety.org.uk

Rob Morgan

13th June 2019. Gulf of Oman. The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Bainbridge (DDG 96) has rendered aid to the crew of the M/V Kokuka Courageous, one of two oil tankers which had explosions on board. Bainbridge is deployed to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations.

Minden Games has a large selection wargames many of which are naval in theme. Check out their website. http://minden_games.homestead.com/

Highlights of the new releases are: **PANZER DIGEST #14**, a full-colour magazine containing three games: **VIKING FURY** (solitaire, strategic level Viking Expansion game), **BATTLE OVER EUROPE** (WW2 air dogfight game, using the *Battle over Britain* system), and **NORTH CAPE** (solitaire, tactical WW2 naval game covering the 1943 battle). There are several wargame

reviews, articles, and variants included in this edition, as well as a few words about NWS! Naval fans are well served by Minden, with [GREAT WAR SALVO! 3rd ed.](#) released (solitaire and two-player WW1, tactical naval combat game), as well as **ACTION STATIONS: ATLANTIC** (WW2 naval miniatures rules using the “*Battleship Captain*” 3rd ed. system), and the solitaire design **TORPEDO RAIDERS** (WW2 torpedo bombing game).

Many of the items are available via [amazon.co.uk](https://www.amazon.co.uk) in Great Britain, which might be more convenient (and cheaper) for your purchases. Visit Amazon and search for Minden titles in the usual manner.

From ‘The Mariner’s Mirror...May 2019.

Volume 105:2 of the splendid ‘*Mirror*’ contains just three articles of value to the wargamer, but that’s three more than in any of the glossy wargames magazines I’ve failed to buy in Smith’s recently! The first of them covers an unusual side-show to the First Anglo-Dutch War (1651-1654). Entitled ‘*Breaching Neutrality*’, by Steve Murdoch (pp.134-147), it deals with the matter of prize-taking by English (*sic*) privateers and naval vessels during that pointless war. There’s a good deal of material on the potential for encounters, and significantly for more serious warfare in terms of Swedish convoys escorted by around twenty men o’war in the North Sea and Channel. At least fifty Swedish ships were taken. This certainly has potential for a map or solo game.

The second, ‘*The Egyptian Navy of Muhammad Ali Pasha*’ by John Houghton (pp. 162-182) is a remarkably useful description of the ships, men and struggles and potential of a navy which by 1840 matched that of the United States in size and arguably, competence. Very well worth reading, as this is a fleet easily built in 1/2400th using ‘Tumbling Dice’ models. The article deals with the conquest of Syria in 1840 and with Navarino.

Finally, Innes McCartney provides a superb account of the archaeology of WWI U-Boat losses in the Channel (pp 183-202) and this is a must for all Great War naval gamers. It is best read accompanied by the large map which appeared in ‘*The Diver*’ magazine over thirty years ago with, regrettably little commentary. It contains several notes of value to the wargamer, including the matter of locating WWI shipwrecks for the D-Day invasion! Don’t miss this article, and for readers information, among the references is this one....

'History of British Minefields 1914-1918' by L.Leith (Naval Historical Branch 1920)... 'an unpublished manuscript'. If any member knows of an accessible source for this, please let me know!

The new issue contains as always a dozen well turned out reviews, one of which '*After Jutland*' by Rear Admiral Goldrick, looks very interesting and apparently contains a detailed account of the High Seas Fleet's sortie of August 1916, which the reviewer terms a 'game of blind-man's-buff' and states something very debatable..... '*it is clear that the Germans had been in no way contained by the results of Jutland*' The book also ventures into the Baltic and Heligoland Bight as well as the Norway Convoy and a number of smaller actions. Clearly another issue useful to many NWS members..

Rob Morgan.

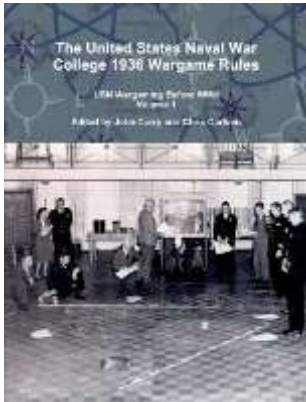
SEA QUIZ 84, answers.

Far from easy, at least I thought so....

1, A...HMS Malaya. B...USS Nevada. C..HMNLS Tromp (I actually got that one!). D..... IJN Yubari, and E..... USS Oriskany (which was one of the carriers completed after WWII ended, I believe.).

No-one commented at all on these questions or answers incidentally.

Rob Morgan



United States Naval War College Rules 1936, now in print

<http://www.wargaming.co/recreation/details/usnwcrules1936.htm>

The United States Naval War College 1936 Wargame Rules: USN Wargaming Before WWII Volume 1 June 2019

by United States Naval War College Edited by John Curry and Chris Carlsen

The famous United States Naval War College wargames have been seen as an important part of the US Navy's preparation for war with Japan. The actual naval commanders took lessons from these wargames into the conflict in the Pacific 1941-45.

This book makes the 1936 edition of the tactical rules readily accessible for the first time to the public. It includes the detailed rules for movement, gunnery, damage and other aspects of real naval warfare from the big gun era. The object of these games was to aid students of strategy and tactics in the comprehension of these complex subjects.

The foreword is written by Jeffrey Harley Rear Admiral, USN, and President U.S. Naval War College, who celebrates the contribution of these interwar wargames to eventual victory in the Pacific.

The book includes:

- Original guidance from 1922 on how to play the game

- Sample gunnery tables

- Torpedo fire cards

- Rules for visibility and smoke

- Details about speed and fuel

- Sample ship cards to illustrate how the rules worked

Further supporting material is available from the History of Wargaming Project website. <http://www.wargaming.co/recreation/details/usnwcrules1936.htm>

The book is published by the History of Wargaming Project. It is part of a series to document key steps in the development of wargaming.

I am now working on two more books on naval wargaming to be published over the next 12 months.

John Curry

Editor of The History of Wargaming Project

www.wargaming.co

<http://wargamingco.blogspot.co.uk/>

Twitter [http://twitter.com/HistoryWargames](https://twitter.com/HistoryWargames)

Landing Party?

Unlike our brethren in say, those wargames societies dealing with Ancient, Medieval, and Napoleonic wars, we in the NWS are unlikely ever to meet re-enactors. After all, how do you re-enact the activities of an Admiral or Captain without a Galley, Man o'war or an Ironclad? At least that's what I believed until my old friend Martyn Clarke sent me a pack of photos taken at events 'somewhere in the North'. Two c.1914 (I understand) Bluejackets and a Midshipman of slight stature. Anyone know which ship they are in?

I do recall, probably in 'Skirmish' magazine reading of a small group of re-enactors who portrayed U-Boat crewmen, but due to the lack of a Type VII, they re-enacted themselves on shore leave. If you recall the opening episode of *'Das Boot'* the stamina required for that level of drinking must have been immense!

Rob Morgan.



SIGNAL PAD!

4th July 1991

USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) is commissioned at the waterfront of downtown Norfolk, Va. The guided-missile destroyer is the lead ship of her class and named for the former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Arleigh Burke, who attends the ships commissioning ceremony.

4th July 1992

USS George Washington (CVN 73) is commissioned at Norfolk, Va. The ship's sponsor is First Lady Barbara Bush. The sixth carrier in the Nimitz-class of supercarriers, it is the fourth warship to be named after the first president of the United States.

A Free Gift!!!

I rarely, if ever, buy the 'glossy' wargames magazines these days, not that they're that expensive, they don't have the appeal that they had in the 80's, but that's beside the point. As I write this, the July issue of *'Miniature Wargames'* for July 2019, issue 435, has gone on sale. It's the last few days of June, and dipping into my pocket I bought it. Little or nothing 'naval' in it, but.....

.....attached to the cover is a free gift. Well, two of them, Two 1/300th scale plastic British WWII MTB's! As the cover price of the magazine is £4.50, and the two models are from the 'Cruel Seas' range by Warlord Games, this is clearly a bargain. Buy the magazine now!!!

Brief comment on the models. High quality moulding, two waterline hulls, well detailed. 18 pieces in all, no flash. One is an early Vosper 73' boat, two tubes, and a two part bridge and mast. The armament of these early boats varied from group to group, and the sprue has four distinctive weapons for this purpose. The second hull represents a later 73' boat, four tubes, a similar structure and a forward 'gun tub'; again the armament varied.

Excellent, quickly built, and attractive. Buy at least one pack while they're on the shelves. I bought mine in 'W. H. Smith's'. (UK stationers)

Rob Morgan.

Coming in August's AGB: HMNZS Te Kaha, HMAS Adelaide, the Anglo Saxon Navy of Alfred the Great and a French Fleet in Mexico 1840.

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.