



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 282 – APRIL 2018

'The eyes of the world are now focused on the Falkland Islands. Others are watching anxiously to see whether brute force or the rule of law will triumph. Wherever naked aggression occurs it must be overcome. The cost now, however high, must be set against the cost we would one day have to pay if this principle went by default. That is why, through diplomatic, economic and, if necessary, through military means, we shall persevere until freedom and democracy are restored to the people of the Falkland Islands.' – Margaret Thatcher, 14 April 1982

Defence Secretary Gavin Williamson chose St. David's Day to announce the name of one of the new Type 26 warships as HMS Cardiff. The third to be named in the City Class of eight brand new, cutting-edge, anti-submarine warfare frigates, HMS Cardiff will provide advanced protection for the likes of the UK's nuclear deterrent and Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers. It's great to see the name HMS Cardiff returning to the Fleet as one of our new Type 26 Frigates, reflecting the Royal Navy's long-standing bond with the city and the people of Wales. The name HMS Cardiff brings with it a proud history. A century ago the light cruiser HMS Cardiff famously led the German High Seas Fleet into internment at Scapa Flow at the end of the First World War. The last HMS Cardiff, a Type 42 destroyer, also distinguished herself on operations around the world, including the 1982 Falklands campaign, the 1991 Gulf War and service in the Adriatic during the 1999 crisis in Kosovo.

The newest Virginia-class attack submarine, USS Colorado (SSN 788), was commissioned at Naval Submarine Base New London, March 17, 2018. It is the 15th Virginia-class attack submarine to join the fleet. The submarine Colorado will be the fourth U.S. Navy vessel to bear the Colorado name. The first USS Colorado (Screw Frigate) was named after the Colorado River, the second USS Colorado (AC 7) was an armored cruiser commissioned in 1905, and the third USS Colorado (BB 45) was the lead ship of its class and was commissioned in 1923.

SEA QUIZ 69,...answers.

Why Mr Johnson I wonder?

1. 'The Black Navy', because of their colour scheme.
2. King George VI, when a Midshipman in Collingwood.
3. It's 80 feet, but I don't know why.
4. This was a submarine patrol area in the Kattegat, where seas are short and lumpy and boats on the surface get a wet passage.
5. Aboard a WWI Q Ship.

Surprisingly, there was no comment at all about the 'Wet Triangle'....maybe submariners didn't read 'The Navy'!

The Imperial War Museum has more than 10 million photographs which can be viewed or purchased. www.iwm.org.uk/collections/photographs
tel: 0207 416 5309.



A Sea King carries out a Helicopter In Flight Refuelling (HIFR) above the deck of HMS MONTROSE off the coast of Bahrain.



New Zealand ships Remuera and Manapouri. From the Anchorage 1/1250 waterline ship model catalogue March 2018.

My note on the “U-Boot” Game in March’s Newsletter prompted Rob Morgan to write the following:

U-BOOT!

This 1/72nd scale U-Boat model, I presume it’s a Type VII of some sort, in this substantial game has potential on the table top in all sorts of wargames. I looked for reviews on You Tube and asked other naval-inclined wargamers about it. No-one in my circle seems to have invested in U-BOOT, and so I haven’t actually laid hands on the model or the figures and guns as yet. No doubt someone among the NWS membership will have more to tell!

This isn’t a complete detailed sub, but, there does appear to be a significant number of ways that a skeleton U-Boat, with compartments and conning tower, and deck weapons could be used in a game. It’s in the right scale - tremendously valuable. The figures look active and the deck guns could be replaced with additional flak weapons for a late war game, of course.

The U-Boat could be used for landing saboteurs or agents, it could be one of the submarines allegedly sent to operate in the Antarctic in the fabled Nazi *Operation Haunebu*. Or an interned craft which the Allies needed to destroy; or one from which some *Enigma* material could be captured. Or used in an attack in conjunction with divers, say Italian frogmen from MAS XI? A secretive operation seems the best potential for a game, if only because the need to use the flak or forward ‘88’ in defence might make for a rather brief encounter! The U-Boat model would probably be best used as a base, rather than as a fighting warship firing her tubes, but admittedly this is just one or two basic thoughts - I haven’t considered the true capability of the submarine as yet. Ian Fleming’s WWII idea of seizing *Enigma* materials using a captured seaplane comes to mind and might fit in nicely here.

The splendid little U-Boat need not actually be in the hands of the *Kriegsmarine* of course. As 'Cold War' possibilities, the USSR, Norway, Britain, France, Poland, East Germany, West Germany, Spain and the USA all acquired U Boats at the war's end.

I find myself thinking about the U-Boat crew figures in the Revell 1/72nd German Navy set, and the rather rare 'Panzer vs Tanks' range of very hard plastic figures in that scale too - I've seen a few but only unpainted. These would bulk up the set's figures nicely. In terms of divers, the old fashioned Atlantic pack 110- Divers includes several swimming figures, a rubber raft, and a smallish human torpedo. There's also a good rubber raft to land your agents from in the Revell German Engineers set, and some rather unusual 1/72nd figures appear in the Odears manufactured 'Operation Antarctica' set. They might be useful for clandestine passengers. Or a maybe a dock or shore installation command group. Tempting to put an Airfix 'Afrika Korps' Rommel figure aboard as a potential target- maybe! For movement, tethered sea-mines are easy enough to make, and then base on wire, as indeed would be an anti-submarine net. Jetties again, no real problem; nor huts or a pill box, shore flak placements or even dock gates. Since this is 1/72nd there's plenty available in lineside and other kit ranges to suit. While the smaller 1/72nd model ships around would also fit in, basing might be more of a problem for say a landing craft or MTB or launch, but it could be done. Just a few thoughts. The box wargame's probably equally good, and I notice that there are several game options to be found discussed at length on You Tube.

Rob Morgan.
March 2018

The MOD has agreed to sell HMS Ocean to the Government of Brazil for approx. £84M.



HMS Ocean heading for the Caribbean.

[Crown Copyright]

Throughout HMS Ocean's impressive 20 years since entering service in 1998, she has covered more than 450,000 nautical miles. The long-planned decision to take her out of service in 2018, as she reaches the end of her planned

service life, was confirmed in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) 2015.

HMS Ocean has delivered 20 years of service. Since commissioning into the Royal Navy in 1998 she has been involved in Operation Palliser during the Sierra Leone civil war in 2000, Operation Telic off the coast of Iraq in 2003, Operation Ellamy as part of an international coalition in Libya in 2011, and most recently the hurricane relief contingent on Operation Ruman in the Caribbean.

One of HMS Ocean's final operations mirrored that of her first; the role of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. In early 1999 HMS Ocean was deployed at short notice to render assistance to Honduras and Nicaragua in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Some 18 years later she did the same across four separate island chains in the Caribbean.

Submarine *H.L. Hunley* (1863-1864)

H.L. Hunley, a small, hand-powered submarine, was privately built at Mobile, Alabama, in 1863, based on plans furnished by Horace Lawson Hunley, James R. McClintock and Baxter Watson. Following trials in Mobile Bay, she was transported to Charleston, South Carolina, in August 1863 to serve in the defense of that port. On 29 August, while moored to a steamer, the submarine was accidentally pulled over on its side and sank, drowning five members of her crew. After salvage, she was given a new crew and began a series of tests. However, during diving trials on 15 October 1863, she failed to surface. Horace Lawson Hunley, who was directing her operation, and the rest of her men were drowned.

H.L. Hunley was again raised and repaired. With a third crew, and under orders to only operate on the surface, she began a series of attempts to attack United States Navy ships on blockade duty off Charleston. On 17 February 1864, these efforts were successful. H.L. Hunley approached the steam sloop of war USS Housatonic and detonated a spar torpedo against her side. The Federal ship sank rapidly, becoming the first warship to be lost to a submarine's attack. However, H.L. Hunley did not return from this mission, and was presumed lost with all hands. Her fate remained a mystery for over 131 years, until May 1995, when a search led by author Clive Cussler located her wreck. On 8 August 2000, following extensive preliminary work, the H.L. Hunley was raised and taken to a conservation facility at the former Charleston Naval Base.

Details from the Flagship Models website.

HMNLS Walrus and her 62 crew were visiting Portsmouth whilst conducting Operational Sea Training with the Royal Navy's Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) organisation. Lt Cdr Jan-Willem Vroegop, the Commanding Officer of HMNLS Walrus, said: "We are here in Portsmouth for some rest and recreation. For the past three weeks we have been working with FOST. During those exercises we've been acting as a hostile submarine, so our main task was to search for the frigates and the main target, RFA Tidespring in order to test the boat and her crew. We work with the Royal Navy quite a lot, training with FOST; usually we go to Plymouth but sometimes we come to Portsmouth." HMNLS Walrus is due to return home in March.



I don't know about a U-Boot Captain looking through a periscope but it gives me a headache.

<http://www.wargamevault.com/product/238602/Dahlgren-and-Columbiad> Website of interest. A set of fast play rules for small ship actions set in the American Civil War and the "ironclad wars" of South America from the 1860s to 1880s. Included with the rule are ship statistics for the Union and Confederate fleets



German Destroyer on fire, Ofot Fjord – 2nd Battle of Narvik, 13th April 1940. Any naval refights by NWS Members to report? Will HMS WARSPITE avoid being torpedoed again or will her luck run out this time?

Ice Exercise 18 (ICEX) is a series of demanding trials in the frigid climate of the Arctic Circle, designed to test submariners' skills in operating under the Arctic ice cap.



Do any NWS Members game submarines under the ice? Probably a neglected area for naval wargames.

HMS Trenchant joins US submarines USS Connecticut and USS Hartford for the drills, co-ordinated by the US Navy's Arctic Submarine Laboratory. Rear Admiral James Pitts, US Navy, said: "With every ICEX we are able to build upon our experience and continue to learn the best way to operate in this unique and harsh environment. We are constantly testing new tactics under the ice and this exercise allows us to do this on a larger scale and alongside our UK, joint and academic partners."

ICEX 18 - testing a series of equipment, notably sonar, against live 'targets' and to practice tracking and simulating attacks against other submarines. Exercises such as this are vital in maintaining the operational readiness of the USN and Royal Navy's submarine fleet and in maintaining the security of the North Atlantic and Arctic oceans.

A distinctive profile, which many NWS Members will be able to immediately identify.

Answer: It's a Ship.



SOME OF THE IAN ALLAN ABC COMBINED VOLUMES

US WARSHIPS OF WW2 AND WW1 (2 Volumes)

WARSHIPS OF WW2 (Royal Navy) 1966 638 pages.

GERMAN WARSHIPS OF WW2 1969.

ITALIAN WARSHIPS OF WW2 1968 204 pages and WW1 1970 304 pages (2 volumes)

JAPANESE WARSHIPS OF WW2 1966 400 pages

Mc DONALDS POCKET PICTORIALS

These were 4 x 6 thick covered smaller books costing fifteen shillings each.

GERMAN SURFACE VESSELS> VOL 1 1966 159 pages. (All of these are WW2)

AMERICAN CARRIERS, BATTLESHIPS, AND CRUISERS. 1968 160 pages. (Includes 23 escort Carriers built for the Royal Navy)

THE FRENCH NAVY VOL1 and VOL2 1969.

JAPANESE BATTLE SHIPS AND CRUISERS 1963. JAPANESE AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND DESTROYERS 1963 and 1964. 159 pages each

This listing follows on from the recent Rob Morgan contribution concerning the little ABC booklets which covered individual warship types (i.e. British and German Cruisers) with technical data on each class. These were later amalgamated into the volumes as listed above and included anything that had a gun! Trawlers, Drifters, Gun and Patrol Ships, Minicraft, and a host of others. Although only collectors items now, they were eagerly awaited long before the very large "Conways" were in print. They can still be found second hand and are very readable and informative in their own right.

We began naval wargaming 11 years after the war when there were no such works of reference about at all. All we had were histories of both world wars which had plenty of ship photographs and naval battles, but little on the technical stuff. Since we knew there were Light and Heavy Cruisers with six and eight inch guns, we assumed a Medium type with seven inch must exist, and we incorporated them into our games! Imagine our fascinated interest and delight then when these *IAN ALLAN* and various others began to appear on the book shelves.

Phil Dunn.

War at Sea in April.

T.S.Eliot described April as the cruellest month, and at sea it begins on the 2nd with the First Battle of Copenhagen in 1801, with Hyde Parker in command and Nelson's memorable blind eye trick. A notable victory. NATO was set up on the 4th in 1949, and on the 7th in 1919, came the end of the Grand Fleet. The 8th saw the fight of *HMS Glowworm*, and the beginning of the Norway campaign, a campaign which brought the loss of over thirty British and Polish ships, but seriously hurt the Germans.

On the 9th in 1782, Hood began the fight off Dominica which by the 12th had become, under Rodney the victory of The Battle of the Saintes, a twelve hour encounter against De Grasse' French fleet. Also on the 9th, an often forgotten encounter, when *HMS Renown* with 9 destroyers saw off both *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* damaging the latter, and pursuing them with vigour. On the 10th, the First Battle of Narvik, 1940, and the same day, Skuas of the FAA sank the *Konigsberg* at Bergen...the first warship ever sunk by dive bombing.

On the 11th, one of my favourite Napoleonic War actions. Cochrane's firships in the Basque Roads. On the 12th, another of the overlooked Indian Ocean encounters between the Royal Navy and the French; Hughes aboard *Superb* fought Suffren. The Second Battle of Narvik, on the 13th, and another naval victory in a campaign which achieved little other than the beginning of the ruin of the *Kriegsmarine*.

15th April 1918, the British Raid into the Kattegat, a very wargamable attack. While on 16th in 1941, another very gamable encounter between four RN Destroyers and an Italian convoy and destroyer escorts off Sfax in the Med. On the 17th, Rodney took on the French off Martinique, in an inconclusive encounter. While in 1587 on the 19th April, Drake attacked Cadiz. On the 20th, in 1657, Blake destroyed 16 ships of a Spanish fleet at Tenerife.

On the 23rd in 1918. The Zeebrugge Raid.

On the 26th in 1982. The fleet retook South Georgia.

On the 29th in 1781, Hood and de Grasse were indecisively scrapping again off Martinique. A cruel month ended.

Rob Morgan.

‘International Symposium on Boat and Ship Archaeology 14.’

The collected papers (43 in all) of this world wide conference, held in Gdansk in 2015 have now been published in English in a 300+ page, and magnificently illustrated A4 volume. Though copies are likely to be found only in maritime and museum libraries, there is a substantial amount of information of use in modelling, historical research, even in wargaming which should be brought to the attention of the naval warfare enthusiast. The purely archaeological research method, technique and other ‘in-house’ papers aside, several specific contributions are of tremendous value.

Chapter 9 on the ‘Medieval Vessels of North West Russia’ (pp 71-75) by Petr Sorokin, gave me plenty of food for thought. While Chapter 25 is not to be missed. “Early Cogs” (pp 179-189) by Katrin Their is as good a starting point for medieval sea and war at sea, as any I have found. There’s a marvellous short account entitled “Building War Fleets” by Morten Ravn (pp 237-245) all about the late Viking age in Denmark. I also found John Davis’ notes (pp 289-293) on the problems of reconstructing a 14th century Venetian galley valuable.

There are several contributions on Roman war vessels, especially recent discoveries in European waterways- some delightful line drawings too. Later in time, the sailing warship era is dealt with in chapters such as Nick Ball’s ‘Change and Control in Royal Naval shipbuilding in the eighteenth century’ (pp 153-158) and a very readable report by Fred Hocker on the effects of 17th century naval ordnance on ship’s structures- serious detail on *Vasa* here (pp 221-229).

It also seems that advanced technological methods have recently brought to the attention of maritime investigators at least half a dozen period vessels around the shores of the Baltic and Mediterranean, which will be the subject of further research. A scholarly work, yes, but a very valuable work to know exists.

Rob Morgan.

SIGNAL PAD!

There is a notable centenary coming in April, that of the Raid on Zeebrugge. The Society will present a game at Salute based on the Raid which we also plan to run at the Naval Wargames Weekend, Joy of Six and Colours.

Additionally we have agreed a date with the National Museum of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth historic dockyard for us to run the game there on Sunday 22nd April following on from the museum's Zeebrugge Centenary Conference (20 April 2018 until 21 April 2018, 13:50 - 15:50) which members might also be interested in registering for.

Please drop me a line at simonjohnstokes@aol.com if you would like to help out in running the game at the museum or at any of the shows listed above.

More information on the Zeebrugge Centenary Conference can be obtained from:

Christopher Gale Senior Curator
National Museum of the Royal Navy,
HM Naval Base (PP66)
Portsmouth PO1 3NH

christopher.gale@nrmn.org.uk

<http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/events-by-date/event/1255-zeebrugge-the-centenary-conference>



The approach of spring and summer, in the northern hemisphere anyway, mean that the number of game days and conventions is on the increase. Try and attend one near you. If you are in the southern hemisphere perhaps you have been to one or even ran a naval game there. If so a few words for AGB or Battlefleet would be appreciated.

Coming in May's AGB: Early Days Pt 6, 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.

Membership secretary: 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 - 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