



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 293 – MARCH 2019

EDITORIAL

Welcome to new Members, Glenn Simpson, Geoffrey Halls and Ian Roberts. The distribution of AGB by email is bubbling along at just under 200. Just when I think that the 200 barrier will be busted, I have to delete an email address or two as the AGB gets bounced back to me, "address not found". My policy is to delete an email address when the AGB is not delivered for six consecutive months. So ladies and gentlemen, if you change your email address do not forget to tell Simon and me if you want to continue receiving AGB.

Somewhere in the World, the sun is over the yardarm.

Norman Bell



War of the Pacific By David Manley

A campaign system, ship data and brief campaign history covering the War of the Pacific, 1879-1883 between Chile, Peru and Bolivia, designed for use with "Dahlgren and Columbiad", and also with A&AGE's "Iron and Fire". Ship data for the complete Peruvian and Chilean fleets is provided

Available from Long Face Games. See Wargame Vault.

https://www.wargamevault.com/product/238604/War-of-the-Pacific?filters=40104_0_0_0



An F-35B Lightning II attached to the F-35B detachment of the "Flying Tigers" of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron (VMM) 262 (Reinforced) prepares for take-off during flight operations aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp (LHD 1).
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Daniel Barker (Released) 190203-N-RI884-3473

Opposing solo pilot Lt. Cmdr. Andre Webb, assigned to the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, performs a low transition take off during a practice demonstration. The Blue Angels are conducting winter training at Naval Air Facility El Centro, California, in preparation for the 2019 show season. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Timothy Schumaker (Released) 190202-N-UK306-1551



A Note on Anti-Submarine Weapons in WWII.

There I was, wading through a box of old copies of “*Warship World*”, looking for material on HDML’s, when I came upon an article entitled “*A/S Weapons of WWII*” by Ben Warlow. It’s in Volume 7, number 3 (January 2001), by the way. I read it again, and the final paragraph ends with a chart indicating the success of depth charges, of the ‘Hedgehog’ bomb thrower, of single and of double ‘Squid’ mountings. Ben Warlow’s figures are quite remarkable, and do have a bearing on naval wargame rules for surface attacks, by ships, on submarine targets. He gives figure for the first half of 1943, the second half, similarly for 1944, and for 1945.

The humble dropped off the back depth charge though the mainstay of the anti-sub efforts of ships throughout, and he records over 1,500 attacks, achieved a very low (confirmed) percentage kill rate, though eighty U-Boats did succumb to them. The ‘Hedgehog’ on the other hand, seems to have had serious problems at the outset, and was unimpressive to surface watchers compared with the mountainous explosion of a depth charge, became much more successful. In the second half of 1944, just 37 attacks destroyed 13 U-Boats, and Ben Warlow notes a US Warship armed with the US variant of the thrower, sinking six subs in a fortnight with 12 salvos.

The ‘Squid’ was a late-war weapon, first trialled in 1943, and achieved its first U-Boat kill, *U-333*, in July 1944. He comments that ‘only one U-Boat attacked with ‘Squid’ survived’. ‘Squid’ was produced in single and double mountings, and the success of the success of the single mount was over 40% in early 1945.

I found this a tremendously interesting article, studded with scenarios and useful information. He mentions a few other late-war developments in A/S weaponry, a ten-barrelled Fairlie Mortar, and a weapon known as a ‘Parsnip’,

which I'd never heard of. Many of these later devices seem to have been trialled simply to increase the range at which a U-Boat could be engaged, but he mentions one further development, the 'SHARK' projectile, designed apparently to be fired from a 4in gun at a surfaced submarine, and intended to enter the water close to the hull and thus enhance the explosion. The late developments seem to have been shelved because of the overall effectiveness of the 'Squid' and the end of the war.

A tremendous article no more than three pages long, but packed with information for the WWII convoy escort commander on the table-top. Notes like the fact that the 'River' Class escorts carried up to 200 depth charges, and that 'CASTLE' Class corvettes fitted with single 'Squids' were capable of 27 salvos. Highly recommended if you can find a copy!

Rob Morgan.

Sea Quiz 80.....

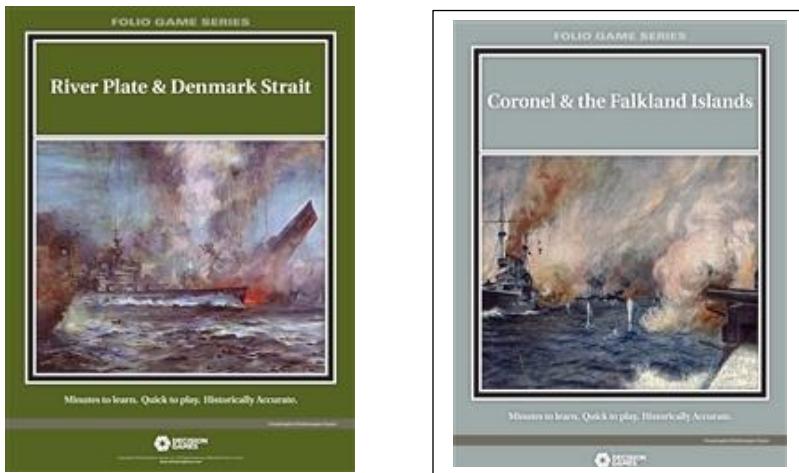
Another month passes by, and here's another quiz.

1. What is a 'Green Parrot'?
2. What were the 'Wobbly Eight'? Can you name them?
3. What's the regimental march of the Fleet Air Arm?
4. In which year were the 'Air Divisions' of the RNVR disbanded?
5. When was the last occasion an Admiral of the Fleet hoisted his flag afloat?

Well, do bear in mind these questions were originally posed in the Spring of 1959. Number 4 brought some dispute not surprisingly, and the answer to number 5, some memories!

More next month.....

Rob Morgan.



Decision Games have two Folio Games in the “Dreadnoughts & Battlewagons” sub-section, each containing two individual complete games. Sounds like value for money to me. D and B is a low complexity ship-to-ship combat system. In each game you have the common rules for movement and combat and a game specific sheet for any variations from the norm – for example the max range of torpedoes may be reduced.

Each counter depicts a single ship, or the information markers required to denote a ship's damage, special ship movement, etc. Ships are rated for weight of fire, range, structural integrity, manoeuvre, speed, and special capabilities.

The **Battle of the River Plate** simulates the naval encounter between the German Panzerschiff Admiral Graf Spee and the Royal Navy Cruisers HMS Exeter, Ajax, and HMNZS Achilles on 13th December 1939. The historical outcome led the Graf Spee to seek shelter in Montevideo, Uruguay, where she was subsequently scuttled.

The **Battle of Denmark Strait** that well known and often gamed battle between the Bismarck and a British squadron on 24th May 1941. The historical outcome sent HMS Hood to the bottom and damaged HMS Prince of Wales, but Bismarck suffered seemingly minor damage that would lead to her eventual destruction. My intention is to game this and submit an AAR to David Manley for his Battle of the Denmark Strait extravaganza on his Blog and the Naval Wargames Facebook

group. I have never joined Facebook; will the knowledge that a Naval Wargames group exists change my mind? Probably not, as I am not a fan of “social media”.

http://dtbsam.blogspot.com/2019/02/denmark-strait_2.html#comment-form is David Manley's wargame blog.

The **Battle of Coronel** simulates the 1 November 1914 meeting engagement off the coast of Chile between the German East Asia Squadron of Vice Admiral von Spee and the British 4th Cruiser Squadron under Rear Admiral Cradock. The historical outcome was the loss of Cradock's largest ships. Unfortunately for Spee, the Admiralty was stung into action and dispatched Battlecruisers to the South Atlantic

The **Battle of the Falkland Islands**, simulates the encounter between von Spee's squadron and a much more powerful British naval force on 8 December 1914. This time the British exacted a heavy revenge, virtually obliterating the German squadron.

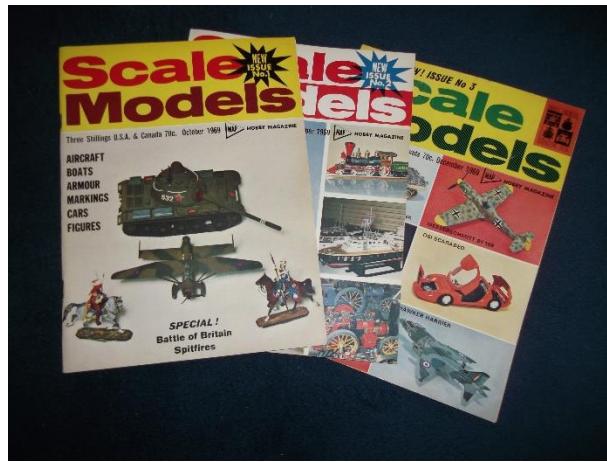
Norman Bell

The US Navy has awarded a contract for the construction of CVN 80 and CVN 81 to Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding (HII-NNS). This contract award delivers significant savings to the government – exceeding \$4 billion when compared to the Navy's original cost estimates to procure these CVNs separately. ENTERPRISE (CVN 80) is the third ship of the FORD-Class and the numerical replacement for USS EISENHOWER (CVN 69). CVN 81, not yet named, will be the fourth ship of the class and will be the numerical replacement for USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70).

MOD Sealand in Wales will maintain, repair, overhaul and upgrade hundreds of F-35 fighter jet systems. The £500M assignment is expected to begin in 2020 and support hundreds of high-tech jobs.



F-35B aircraft at RAF Marham. Crown copyright.



“SAILING SHIPS THROUGH THE AGES.” A Sixties series rediscovered.

Amazing what you find in the Oxfam shop! Three copies of ‘Scale Models’ magazine for a pound, and what’s more they were issues 1, 2 and 3, published in October-December 1969. Since you ask, they cost three shillings (15p) an issue at the time. Described as covering aircraft, armour, markings, cars and figures, with ‘boats’ an add-on, I took a closer look. Well, a bit of a mish-mash, and I’m surprised the publication lasted as long as it did, with bits to interest one aspect of the hobby one month and another the next. No real focus if you understand me.

But the price was attractive. So I bought them. Now Volume 1, No.1 contained two ship articles, a scale model plan for a small 20th century coaster, and a small scale drawing and plan, under the title above, of an English Ship c.1485, with painting instructions and well detailed. Described as Warwick’s ship and intended for the scratchbuilder. Lovely! Issue 2 has two ships, small indeterminate scales, but one is a ‘Ship of the Cinque Ports’ in the 13th century, castled fore and aft, about 1/300th, that one’s mouthwatering. The other an English ship of 1426, intended to represent a castled warship of the Duke of Bedford, not much less elaborate than Warwick’s ship.

Issue 3 again contained two warships. First, a Viking longship c.900AD, with a ‘Roman Galley’ of AD 50; the Viking not far off the scale of the smallest of the old Kremlin Viking range vessels, and the (smallish) Galley common enough in wargame models of all scales. Intriguing. The drawings and series was produced by one R.A.Sweet, in later issues identified as Bob Sweet (does anyone know if he was a naval wargamer? Could have been an NWS member of course) and he also provided in later issues some unseen (by me), drawings

of Soviet small warships. Three of the five ship drawings, all very suitable for wargames of course, would be of use to any model manufacturer today. Indeed, though you can find a few models which make decent wargame examples of the 1426 and 1485 warships, from the tiny 'Tumbling Dice' upwards, or will convert with some work, the Navwar Cog for example, they and the Cinque Ports ship, a castled 'nef' remain among the commonest of all sailing warships which have not yet been created in a decent wargame size, say 1/300th or 1/600th by any manufacturer. Bob Sweet's contribution was obviously not taken on board by model manufacturers in those days, and still seems incredibly sidelined. A great pity, the prospect of a table-top Cinque Ports fleet, as in the Battle of Sandwich cheers my spirits at least!!!

I have no idea which of the 'Sailing Ships through the Ages' was chosen to follow on in Issue 4, 5 and beyond. Hopefully someone among the readership will know and can tell us. But the series must have continued for a while surely? Incidentally, this series about warships, at least in terms of the choice of vessels, bears a great similarity to another, later series which we have discussed in these columns before now, Graham Dixey's excellent '*Period Ships*' in 'Model Boats' in the 1980's.

There was another scale warship drawing in 'Scale Models' Volume 1 number 3 An accurate and 1/500th scale (unusual?) two-page spread of the Soviet 'Kynda' Class rocket-armed Cruiser, though sadly the magazine describes her as a 'destroyer'. Other Soviet warships and FAC's and rocket boats followed much later on. Someone surely remembers these useful plans, sadly in Bob Sweets contributions there was, unlike Graham Dixey's detailed descriptions fifteen years on, almost no text provided. Perhaps that was the problem?

Rob Morgan.

U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, announced the addition of the 2019 Miami Beach Air and Sea Show to their performance schedule. The air show will take place May 25-26, which was previously an open date on the Blue Angels schedule. The team is now scheduled to perform 61 demonstrations at 32 locations in 2019.

The mission of the Blue Angels is to showcase the pride and professionalism of the United States Navy and Marine Corps by inspiring a culture of excellence and service to country through flight demonstrations and community outreach. Since 1946, the Blue Angels have performed for nearly 500 million fans.

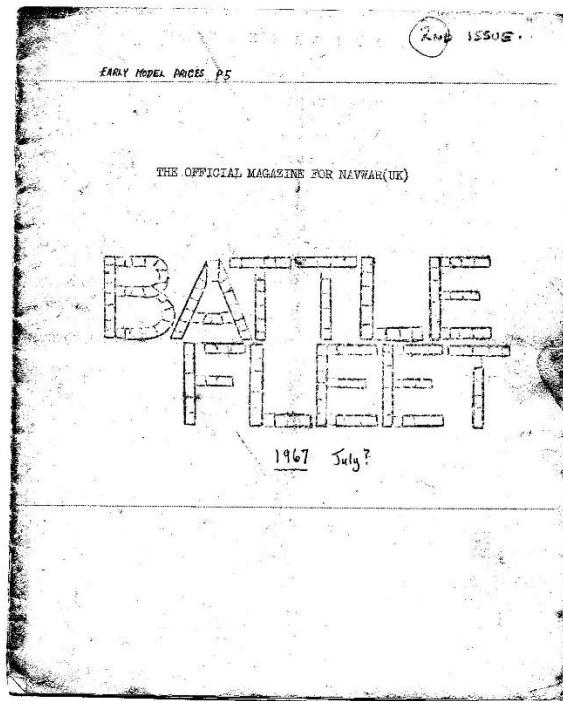
For information about individual air shows, please go to each air show's official website.

For more information about the Blue Angels, including the 2019 and 2020 air show schedules, visit <http://www.blueangels.navy.mil>.



An F/A-18E Super Hornet assigned to the "Pukin' Dogs" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143 performs an arrested landing on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Abraham Lincoln is underway conducting a composite training unit exercise (COMPTUEX) with Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 12. I've said it before and I'll say it again – only the Americans could nickname a Squadron, "Pukin Dogs".

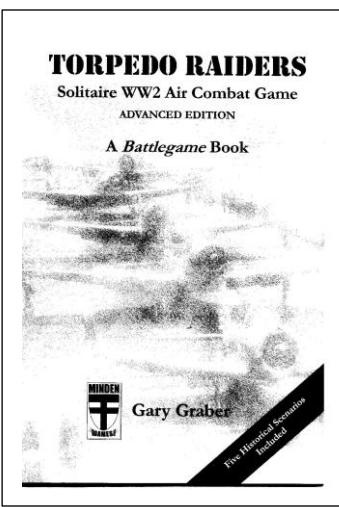
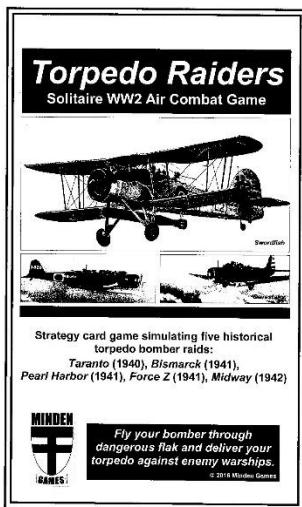
In January's AGB, Rob Morgan asked for any info on the early days of NWS. P Dunn sent to me for onward move to Rob, Issue 2 of "Battlefleet" dated 1967.



It made interesting reading, articles about the NWS Jutland Campaign, part 2 of 5 on Battlecruisers, a few words about Avalon Hill's new Jutland Game, the price of which was fifty shillings. £2.50 in decimal currency.



Some of the Ships for the NWS Jutland Campaign in 1967.



Minden Games' Torpedo Raiders comes in two versions, basic and not so basic. Swordfish at Taranto and against the Bismarck; Kates at Pearl Harbor; Nell and Betty's against Force Z and Devastators at Midway. Decreasing range is by use of a deck of cards. Can your aircraft survive the attack run? Can you drop your torpedo at the correct range? Will it hit and damage the target?

How to Defend the Turkish Straits against the Russians... 1815-1914.

This is a splendid and very useful campaign pitched article in the February 2019 issue of 'The Mariner's Mirror' (pp 40-59).

Written by Professor Gultekin Yildiz, a Turkish military historian, the thrust of the article is the way in which Britain and the other European powers might effectively defend both Istanbul and the Dardanelles area from a Russian attack which many thought inevitable. This 'Eastern Question' was a constantly evolving plan between Austria-Hungary, Prussia, France and Britain. The article considers the probable scenarios of a Russian assault, and pivots on the Royal Navy's necessity for supremacy in the Eastern

Mediterranean. The writer examines a number of alternatives and scenarios, and considers the deployment of naval and land forces and the support they would need. Some British plans such as the 1885 plan for a 48 strong volunteer steamship fleet and minefields seem remarkable to say the least!

A very readable and valuable article indeed, with a sound bibliography. I recommend it to all Ironclad era wargamers, and those with an interest in combined-ops. Of course inevitably, Yildiz concludes that whatever the strength of any Russian invasion force, the result would have been the same as that which was achieved by the Allies in WWI. Failure.

Rob Morgan.



<https://wargaminggallimaufry.blogspot.com/>

“Cruel Seas” fills the gaming blogs it seems to this casual observer.

<http://bleaseworld.blogspot.com/2019/02/cruel-seas-heroics-and-ros-fairmile-ds.html>

Did you know that vexillology is the scientific study of the history, symbolism and usage of flags or, by extension, any interest in flags in general?

The ‘Artizan’ Journal from the Crimean War era.

This note appeared, without comment, in the Ordnance Society Newsletter, and I’m grateful to my old friend Pete Fuller the editor for permission to use it. The ‘Artizan’ it seems was an engineering publication and this note deals with the proliferation of small naval craft being built for use against the Imperial Russians afloat during the Crimean War. This, obviously, is a fairly simple bomb craft intended for use against shore fortifications. Though there’s a mast, there’s no engine and the calibre of the mortar’s unclear. It’s a quick design to meet a quick need.

The comments are fascinating. The reference to naval officers being opposed to iron used to build war vessels! Intriguingly, this little note indicates that elsewhere in the ‘Artizan’ there was published a list of vessels being built and under contract, which might have some value for any naval wargame based on the Crimean War in the Baltic particularly.

Rob Morgan

February 2019.

HMS Victory.

No, not that one, the one which sank with all hands in October 1744 near the Channel Islands. *‘The Times’* has carried an interesting article about her possible fate, describing her as *‘the most important British shipwreck after Mary Rose’*. The wreck, armed as *HMS Victory* was, with bronze and not iron guns is of significance and value. There’s now an argument between Government and the Maritime Heritage Foundation as to the future exploration, or attempts at recovery of the wreck and remains.

One to watch.

Rob Morgan.

(See scans below)

IRON MORTAR-BOATS.

By LAIRD, Birkenhead.

THE great interest which attaches to the various kinds of vessels for war purposes, of which so many are now in the course of construction for operation in the shallow waters of the Baltic, and which are intended more particularly to approach within effective range of such of the granite fortresses and other maritime defences of Russia as have been erected in narrow, tortuous channels, beyond shoaly and difficult navigations, whether natural or artificial. We give below a longitudinal (Fig. 1) and a transverse (Fig. 2) section of one of the iron mortar-boats built by Laird, of Birkenhead, being the one recently tried with complete success. By the report of the officers of the *Excellent*, gunnery-ship, nothing could exceed the satisfactory nature of their experiments with this vessel. Upwards of 180 rounds were fired, continuously, on the first trial, and again, 80 rounds on the second occasion, without any other damage resulting than that of a few rivets and slight fittings having been started.

We know that many naval officers of high standing view the use of iron, as a material for building war vessels, with great distrust; we believe, however, that but for the introduction of iron for those purposes it would have been impossible to have turned out such an immense flotilla of war vessels in the very limited period which has been allotted for the building and equipment of these new additions to the Baltic and Black Sea Fleets, intended for active operations in the spring. In another part of our Journal our readers will find a list of vessels in the course of construction and under contracts to be delivered at various dates early in the spring, which, we think they will agree with us, form a truly magnificent picture of the resources of our Island in this branch of industry; for, be it observed, these so important results are effected by the use of native material and domestic industry only, thus showing to our enemy, and to the world, that within our own sea-girt land there existed, waiting only to be called into action, the means

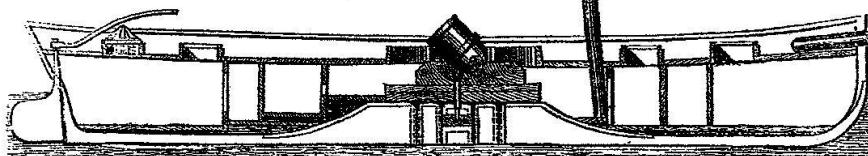


Fig. 1.

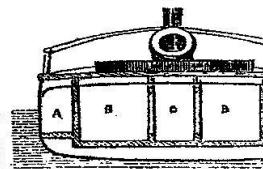


Fig. 2.

"solution" (to use a pet diplomatic expression) of Russia's vaunted impregnability.

The dimensions of the above vessel are as follow: length over all, 62 ft.; width over all, 20 ft.; depth from deck to keel, aft, 5 ft. 6 in.; draught of water, aft, about 4 ft. 6 in. She is fitted with one mast and a bowsprit.

The mortar is placed in the centre of the vessel, mounted upon large wooden bed-pieces, capable of revolving on a centre stud, as shown in the longitudinal section. These bed-blocks are secured upon a wrought-iron framed foundation, being a continuation of the keel-plate, the whole forming a solid resisting surface, by which the force of the recoil is distributed over a greatly-increased area, whereby the vessel is relieved from the strain on each discharge, which otherwise would tend to cripple her at that point.

An octagonal hatchway, with a moveable cover, encloses the mortar when not in use, and the general arrangement of the parts will be seen in the longitudinal section.

In the transverse section, A, A, are light rooms; B, B, magazines; C, the handing-room, by which the magazines are approached, and from which are received the charges.

ENGINES AND MACHINERY OF THE "ARABIA," AND OF THE "LA PLATA."

By MESSRS. R. NAPIER and SONS.

We present our subscribers this month with a magnificent Plate of the engines and boilers of the above paddle-wheel steam-ships, exhibiting longitudinal section of the engine-room between the bulkheads, and conveying very accurately a most comprehensive view of the general arrangement, there being a side elevation of one of the engines, a front elevation of one boiler abaft and one before the engine, with the separate steam-chests, funnels, and waste-steam pipes in section; main deck with deck lines, paddle and engine beams; the water casings around the funnels; hatchways, stairs, and platforms; engine and boiler rooms; frames of the ship, and keel, &c.



Salvagers fight to raise the other HMS Victory

On October 3, 1744 HMS Victory — not Nelson's flagship, an earlier one — was heading for home across the Channel when she was caught in a storm (Valentine Low writes). By the next afternoon, after disappearing near the Channel Islands, she was declared lost with all hands.

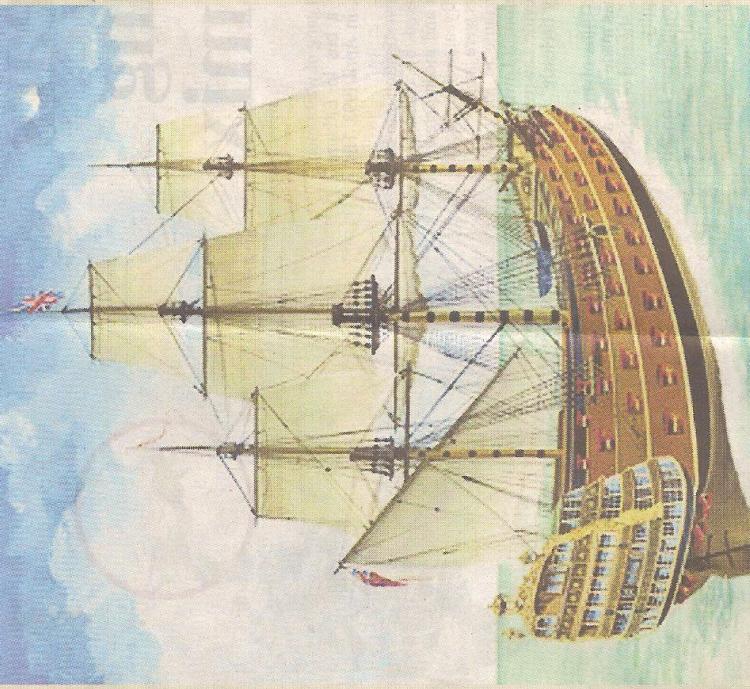
For more than 250 years nothing more was heard of Victory, or the 1,150 sailors who went down with her. Then, in 2008, the wreck was found by a Florida company called Odyssey Marine Exploration. The following year two

bronze cannons were brought to the surface. Now a legal battle is being fought between marine archaeologists who want to salvage the wreck and experts who want it to remain on the seabed. The salvagers argue that the wreck is at risk of being damaged by trawlers, erosion and illegal salvage, and that bringing it up will save it for future generations.

Opponents accuse them of being treasure hunters motivated by profit. Victory, which was under the command of Admiral Sir John Balchin after liberating a convoy blockaded by the French near Lisbon, is regarded by many as

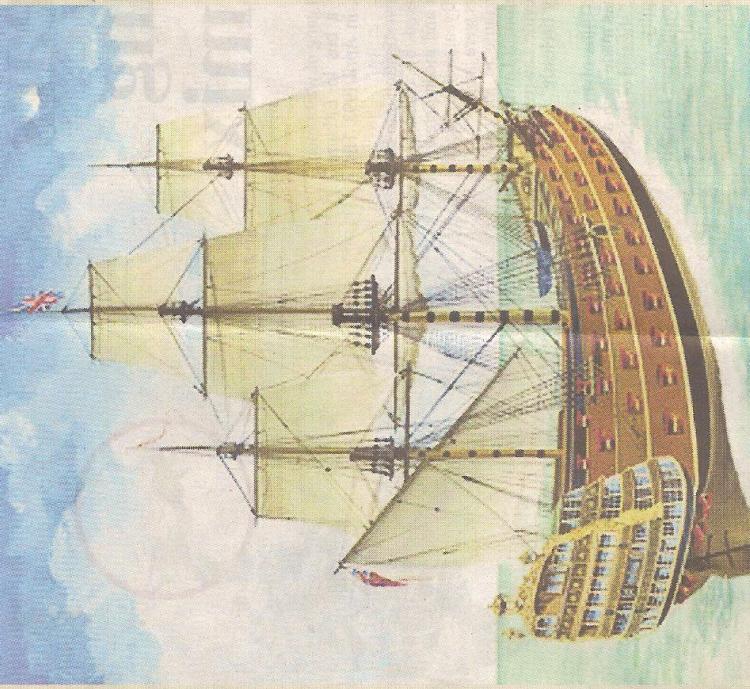


JOHN BATCHELOR/ODYSSEY MARINE/PA



HMS Victory, captained by John Balchin, right, and carrying bronze cannon, sank in 1744 the most important British shipwreck after the Mary Rose. Believed to have sunk near the Casquets, a group of rocks near Alderney, she was found 62 miles away, 75 metres down. As the only first-rate warship with intact bronze cannon — the Royal Navy would later switch to cheaper iron cannon — the wreck is of huge significance. There are also rumours, disputed by

JOHN BATCHELOR/ODYSSEY MARINE/PA



historians, that she was carrying a hoard of gold. In 2012 the wreck was gifted to the Maritime Heritage Foundation (MHF) and two years later the defence secretary Michael Fallon gave it permission to recover "at-risk surface items". That decision ran into opposition from Robert Yorke, chairman of the Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee, which represents bodies with interests in nautical archaeology. "It is a very important wreck," Mr Yorke said. "Any work on it needs to be undertaken in a professional and properly funded manner. If any artefacts are brought up, they need to go in a museum, they need to be conserved. This costs an enormous amount of money."

He said there was no evidence that the MHF could fund such an operation and he suspected that some items would be sold in breach of the agreement since 2008 proved "the existence of realistic funding streams". It added: "Of around 300 shipwrecks discovered by Odyssey ... not one artefact has been sold."

under which the wreck was given to the MHF. Mr Yorke said that under a Unesco convention, wrecks should not be commercially exploited. He added: "This is a war grave. They have already found two skulls on board. You don't go digging up churchyards, in the hope that you will find gold under the bodies."

In 2015 Mr Fallon reversed his decision to let the MHF salvage the wreck after a judicial review filed by Mr Yorke. Last year the ministry said the site was stable and should be left in situ. The MHF has been given permission to file a judicial review of the government's decision. It said it was committed to a scientific excavation and that investment made on the project since 2008 proved "the existence of realistic funding streams". It added: "Of around 300 shipwrecks discovered by Odyssey ... not one artefact has been sold."

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SEA QUIZ 80...answers....

Well, some substantial comment on these questions...

Answers first though,

1. The CinC's barge, painted vivid green to distinguish it from the other motor boats in harbour.
2. Of course this was the King Edward VII Class, comprising K.E.VII, Africa, Britannia, Commonwealth, Dominion, Hibernia, Hindustan, and New Zealand.
3. The march is "Taranto". Most appropriate too!
4. They were disbanded in March 1957 to much dismay!
5. On board HMS Ocean at Oslo 1957 for the funeral of King Haakon of Norway. The Admiral was Lord Fraser of North Cape.

Well? The loss of the RNVR air elements was the cause of serious upset, and looking back to 'The Navy' at that time, the comment was no less shall we say, outspoken when it was announced. By this time, political comment and criticism had seriously crept in to the pages and letter columns. The passing of King Haakon also brought some generous memories from those who had encountered him, he was apparently, very much a 'naval type'.

One thing crosses my mind about the attractive' King Edward's', how did they get their very odd spread of names? Hardly any of them seem to 'run together', so why the strange selection? Anyone know?

Rob Morgan.

The Ship's Company of HMAS *Success* has welcomed eight members of the Royal New Zealand Navy on board for part of the ship's final deployment before she decommissions in June.

The Royal New Zealand Navy contingent, consisting of three officers and five junior sailors, were on board *Success* just a week after the Royal Australian Navy extended an invitation for them to join her on her final voyage as a 'Her Majesty's Australian Ship'. The embarkation of the Royal New Zealand Navy personnel presents an excellent opportunity to strengthen the partnership between the two countries.

The ANZAC spirit remains as strong as ever.

Success is deployed for four months and will visit several ports in the Indian Ocean and South Asia areas to strengthen partnerships with some of Australia's close partners and promote security and stability in the region.

SIGNAL PAD!

NWS are staging David Manley's Stingray! participation game at Salute 2019 on 6th April at London Exel. Currently there are a couple of slots remaining for anyone wanting to come along and help to run the game. If you're interested please drop me an email.

Simon Stokes simonjohnstokes@aol.com

Make a note in your diaries, the Naval Wargames Weekend at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton 5th/6th October.

WORLD SHIP SOCIETY 41st Annual Meeting 2019.

This will be held in central Bristol on Saturday June 1st, and full details are available from Dr. R.H.Osborne, at.....

drosborne@blueyonder.co.uk

The cost is £15 a head by the way.

An interesting day planned, with four lectures all of relevance to the modern naval wargamer. First 'British Perceptions of the Italian Navy 1935-43'. Followed by ' Scapa 1919....the archaeology of the scuttled fleet' the third lecture is on 'The Allocation of Enemy vessels at the end of WWII'. Finally 'Operation Retain'. The RN's blockade of Vichy France 1940-42'.

Plenty of interest, and I for one didn't know that in WWII Vichy merited a specific blockading operation! For once I might actually be able to get to this gathering, but I should also mention a couple of BIG conferences, briefly noted in the SNR 'Topmasts' bulletin recently. There's a substantial international gathering on 'Piracy from ancient to modern times' at Strathclyde University in June, and this Summer sees 'NORMANDY 75' a substantial and it seems, wide-ranging conference at Portsmouth, which played a bit of a role in the preparations. Sadly, thought these 'academic' conferences come and go regularly, we as interested parties never seem to pick up any feedback. Maybe most organisers don't know we exist.

Rob Morgan.
February 2019.

The term 'Jack' has its origins in the Royal Navy. It was the name given to the Union Flag which in the 1800s was flown from a staff on the bowsprit of HM Ships. Hence the term 'jackstaff'. The public in the UK, when referring to the Union Flag will, more often than not, name it as, "The Union Jack". And why not. That's a great name for a flag.

Ensign - From the Anglo-Saxon 'segn'. A large flag or banner, hoisted on a long pole erected over the stern and called the ensign-staff.

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>

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

Having just about finished "Indianapolis" by Lynn Vincent and Sara Vladic (and it is a brilliant read, I cannot recommend it enough. See AGB 288 Oct 2018), I am looking forward to watching Nicolas Cage in, "Indianapolis: Men of Courage", on Channel 5 tonight. (27th Feb).

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.