



# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 209 –September 2011

#### EDITORIAL

Well Gentlemen,

There hasn't been much time for naval wargames at Castle Wimpenny this month; kids at home, family holidays and such, plus starting a new tour seem to have eaten away at nearly all my free time! This also meant I missed the society event at 'Explosion' in Gosport last weekend, but from what I heard everyone had a splendid time. Unfortunately, the long-awaited AGM didn't take place either, and I for one feel rather guilty about that, as being editor of this 'organ', I felt I should have attended, but I just couldn't make it! Real life can be such a drag, can't it? I'm sure I'm happier sometimes if left alone to pace my quarterdeck!

I have couple of 'technology' notices to squeeze into this month's ramblings. The first is a set of age of sail rules that are available as an 'app' for the iphone or ipad called 'Eight Bells'. Now you need the latest version of the Apple software to use it and I don't have that yet, so I can't give you any details. However, if you want to have a look, they can be downloaded from the App' Store. Secondly, I know I tend to go on (and on?) about 'Seekrieg 5', but a game has been made into a short animated film! It's a WWII Pacific action, and if you put 'Attack on Muishamai' into *You Tube*, you can watch the action unfold. Now, for those of you *who can't stand SK5* (and I know you're out there!), it matters not a jot for the enjoyment of the piece.

There is no game report this month again, but an interesting array of articles and reviews that I know you will find interesting nonetheless.

See you next month

Up Spirits!

Richard Wimpenny

[wimpenny@talktalk.net](mailto:wimpenny@talktalk.net)

#### THE TRI-HULLED LITTORAL COMBAT SHIP

**By Norman Bell**

There have been rumours about the U.S. Navy's speedy new triple-hulled ships, but now they're for real. The U.S.S *Independence* was built by General Dynamics. It is called a "littoral combat ship" (LCS), and the trimaran can move its weapons around faster than any other ship in the Navy. (It is ironic, but with all that high tech, the ship reminds me of the *Merrimac* ironclad from Civil War days). They're tailor-made for launching helicopters and lightly-armoured vehicles, sweeping mines and firing all manner of torpedoes, missiles and machine guns. These ships are also relatively inexpensive. This one is a bargain at \$208 million, and the US Navy plans to build 55 of them.



Here are some recent photos of the LCS-2 (to be named the USS *Independence*).

Here she is at sea trials running at only HALF-power at 43 knots! NOTE the absence of a bow wave...

She also turns tightly too. Allegedly this turn was also done at 43 knots...and from the look of the small bow wave, she's still in the turn. Note the absence of any sign of her heeling over, even at that speed.



And then there's the massive helo' deck, big enough for a CH-53. This was the LCS they wanted because of the huge storage capacity under that flight deck and the size of the flight deck. Note that there is very little spreading wake. In fact, it does not look like a wake at all, just foamy water from the water jets. Somehow, at 43 knots, you'd think there'd be more of a wake.

## Wargames Rules in 'Glossy' Print.

By Rob Morgan

Like most naval wargamers, I've got a pile of odd wargames rules for different periods which over many long years have found favour and indeed fallen out of it! The small, sometimes extremely expensive, mountain of dog-eared booklets and pamphlets aside, there are plenty of other rules about.

Of late my 'desperately seeking', alter ego has taken me up into the depths of the Morgan archive, yes the wargames magazines in the cardboard boxes in the attic, and I unearthed a few rule sets. I didn't find what I was looking for, but the existence of a handful of fairly decent rules from across the historical periods might be of interest to some. In fact it crosses my mind that if a 'ball starts rolling' then maybe other members will be aware of other rule sets which might be of interest to the rest of us. I hasten to add of course that no extensive trawl of the 'old comics' (my wife's opinion) has been undertaken, but these are just the rules related articles which have cropped up. They go back in a couple of cases over thirty years, and many are concise and very well written, while others are substantial to say the least!

I suppose it might be possible to collate and produce an entire bibliography of naval articles from the relevant publications, if I had them all, and if I had the spare time to do it. Yet hopefully a few others will decide to share their knowledge of rules and related stuff which has appeared in the major journals over the years. I've not looked at the Society publications of course, merely at titles which appear or once appeared on the shelves at *W.H.Smiths*. In no particular running order either, here they are.....

1. 'Wargames Illustrated' No 130 (July 1998) pp 30-31. "Naval Rules 1939-1945" By Michael Sommers.
2. 'W. I' again. No. 101 (Feb 1996) pp 14-15. 'By the Sword and the Compass'; fast play rules for the C16th by Chris Peers.
3. 'W.I' No. 146. (Nov. 1999) pp22-24. 'Great Ship. Fast play Rules for the Restoration period.' By David Manley.
4. 'W.I' No.32 ( April 1990) pp 22-23. 'A Scenario for Ancient Galley wargaming.' (Campaign Rules). By Mike Adams.
5. 'W.I' No.33. ( June 1990) pp 22-26. 'Large Scale Sea Battles in the Peloponnesian War.' By Bramwell Adams.
6. 'W.I' No 104. ( May 1996). Two rule sets in this one!  
Pp 30-33. 'De Bellus Oceanus.' Naval Conflicts in DBA system. By P.J.Raper.  
Pp.29. 'Steam on and Sod the Sandbanks!'. Quick ACW Riverine Rules. By Rob Morgan.
7. 'W.I' No 88 (January 1995). 'Steamer Wars: Great War Period'. Pp24-26. By Rob Morgan.
8. 'Miniature Wargames' No.122. (July 1993) pp 46-47. 'The Leech and the Battleship' Human Torpedo Rules for WWI. By Ian Skinner.
9. 'Practical Wargamer'.( Jul/Aug 1996) pp25-27. 'An Unknown Species of Whale'. Rules for Jules Verne's 'Nautilus'. By Simon Evans.
10. 'Military Modelling' ( May, June and July 1979) 'Medieval Warfare in the Channel' By Lance Railton. ( Uses Bill Lamming's 1/3000<sup>th</sup> Cogs)

The list might seem a bit 'loaded' in favour of 'Wargames Illustrated', but back then I did subscribe to and sometimes write for all three of the glossies mentioned above. This is where the rules cropped up, though my collection is in one or two places incomplete, I must admit. I also have in a photocopy another four-page set of rules from 'W.I.', entitled 'This Foolish Game' A set of simple rules for Anglo-French naval encounters 1867-1873' again written by Chris Peers, though I don't know the issue!

There are some substantial naval items elsewhere of course. The page before Simon Evans' article in 'P.W.' there's a delightful short note by S.K.Andrews on 'How to Become an Admiral', and in "W.I." No's 156 and 162, Frank van den Bergh writes a very large and readable wargames diary for 'The Great Pacific War'. My collection of 'Battle' from the 1970s throws up virtually nothing, there's the odd naval wargaming note from Kelvin Holmes, but not much more, and by and large 'Military Modelling' despite great promises to

wargamers when 'Battle' folded, stuck to 'modelling'. Though there was a short bi-monthly series of 'Amphibious Campaigns' by Tony Bath from December 1980.

One thing does strike me, there were back then lots of people out there writing naval articles, even as far as painting guides and complex rules, but many, perhaps most of them were brought to a halt by the lack of suitable models, and that's in the 80s and 90s!

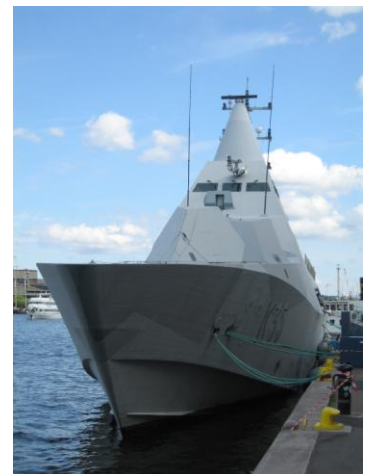
## The Return of Disruptive Camouflage?

**By Simon Butler**

I recently had the good fortune to be able to visit Stockholm. There moored in the harbour was HMS *Karlstad*, one of the Swedish navy's 'Visby' class corvettes. As can be seen from the accompanying pictures, the ship is painted with a two-tone disruptive camouflage scheme. I was not aware that the Swedish navy uses such schemes on most of its larger vessels until I checked the web. Most modern warships I have seen are painted plane grey of differing shades depending on the navy. Is this a resurgence of disruptive camouflage for use in the enclosed waters of the Baltic or are other navies using similar schemes?



Unfortunately I forgot to photograph the port side of the ship to show the difference in the patterns on the two sides.



## Hope yet for African Queen gunboat on Lake Tanganyika

By Stephen Evans BBC News, Berlin

(My thanks to David Manley for supplying this link to the BBC item. RW)



Ships don't come with much more historical ballast than the MV *Liemba*. The steamer still shudders and belches its way across Lake Tanganyika every Wednesday and Friday, a century after it was built as a warship in Germany.

In its time it's been a pawn in the colonial scramble for Africa. It's been scuttled and then raised again from the deep. It may have been the model for the warship sunk by *The African Queen*, a steam-powered launch in the film of the same name, starring Katharine Hepburn as a prim spinster and Humphrey Bogart as the rough captain.

And now it's a ferry on Africa's longest lake, invariably packed with hundreds of people plus their jumble of bundles and baskets as it churns the water between Kigoma in Tanzania across the lake to Mpulungu in Zambia.

But for how long? Such is the ramshackle, dented state of the vessel that the company which runs it has asked the German government to help with refurbishment. The basis of the appeal is that this is a piece of German history. The steamer that serves the citizens around Lake Tanganyika was once the Kaiser's gunboat.

### Cat and Dog

A spokesman for the Marine Services Company told the BBC: "We have requested that Germany help in its rehabilitation. This is because of financial constraints but we have not had a concrete commitment."



It may be cheaper to build a new ship than refurbish the old one

The *Liemba* started life as the *Graf Goetzen* in 1913 when she was built as a warship in Papenburg on the River Ems in northern Germany. It is said that the Kaiser himself ordered the construction to further his imperial ambitions.

The *Graf Goetzen* was then transported in parts, in 500 crates, from Hamburg to Dar es Salaam on the coast of East Africa—and from there over mountains to Lake Tanganyika where Germany, Britain and Belgium were all engaged in colonial jostling.

Britain did not take the presence of the vessel easily. As the Admiralty put it, "It is both the duty and the tradition of the Royal Navy to engage the enemy wherever there is water to float a ship."

So London decided to send two gunboats and by an equally difficult route.

The British ships were sent down to South Africa and then up the continent as far as they could be taken by rail, and after that by the sheer human power of 2,000 labourers who hauled and cut through the jungle, eventually getting them to the lake which became the site of imperial contest.

The two British boats, by the way, were initially to be called *Cat* and *Dog* but that was thought to be too flippant—the Admiralty in London at the time was not into flippancy. The names *Mimi* and *Touto* were chosen instead, the French terms used by children for cat and dog.

### 'Indispensable service'

Colonial rivalry and conflict then ensued, and, in the face of a British attack, the Germans abandoned the port of Kigoma, scuttling their ship, the *Graf Goetzen*, to stop it getting into British hands.

### *MV Liemba*

- Built in 1913
- Scuttled in 1916—raised again after several years at the bottom of Lake Tanganyika
- Put into service as a ferry in 1927
- An inspiration for a vessel in C S Forester's 1935 novel *The African Queen*, and the 1951 Hollywood film
- Proudly described by its owners as, "the oldest passenger ferry in the world."

The *Goetzen* then remained at the bottom of the lake for nearly 10 years until she was raised to the surface. Amazingly, the engines still functioned after minor repairs—possibly because the German engineers who had done the scuttling were the ones who had taken it out from Germany... and they took care to encase the engines in grease so that their baby could one day live and steam again.

It is not clear who raised it, perhaps the Belgians or perhaps the British—but whoever did it, the old German gunboat ended up in the hands of the British.

Clearly, a vessel of the Royal Navy could not be named after Count Gustav Adolf von Goetzen, who was a German explorer and governor of German East Africa. So the ship was renamed as the *Liemba*, which is how she has stayed ever since.

And so may she stay for much longer if she can be renovated. The request for financial help has fallen between the governments of Lower Saxony, in which the ship was built, and the federal government in Berlin.

The president of Germany has added his voice. The ship, said President Christian Wulff, had a, "singular history," and performed an, "indispensable service," to the people of East Africa. The government of Tanzania joined the clamour for salvation.

A study has been done by the German authorities but it is thought to have concluded that the costs might well be higher than actually building a new ship. But would a new ship be quite the same as an ancient steamer, dented and bulging with history?

## Air Sea Rescue in the Channel in WWII.

### The new 'Tumbling Dice' 1/600<sup>th</sup> Range

**Reviewed by Rob Morgan.**

As I sit here, in front of me is the finest range of 1/600<sup>th</sup> metal, pewter in this case, wargames coastal ships I have ever seen. The entire range, which is currently set to expand, is without blemish, very high quality, the merest touch of a file or craft knife enough to prepare them for painting.

'Tumbling Dice's' enormous 1/600<sup>th</sup> scale WWI & WWII aircraft ranges are very well known and widely used. The more observant reader of this manufacturers list will have noticed a small range of 'accessories' has appeared. All priced at £1.80, these include a large number (32) of torpedoes (ISA 901); and ISA 903, described as 'Life-boats, floats and dinghies—a small pack of 6 little vessels with a remarkable range of uses from 1/1200<sup>th</sup> scale towed cargo rafts, and medieval 'followers' to 1/300<sup>th</sup> scale late WWII explosive motor boats.\* Then there's ISA 904 a 1920's RNLI lifeboat of the type which saw service, at least half a dozen of them, at Dunkirk\*. A valuable and rare model indeed.

Then there are the new releases!

ISA 902 is a pack of 15mm long airborne lifeboats and triple parachutes, one sea-based, which would form a delightful centrepiece for an ASR wargame. The parachutes incidentally, would be very useful as examples of the immense camouflage 'umbrellas' like those which were used by RN and SBS craft in the Med and in the Far East in WWII! Might fit in 1/300<sup>th</sup> too, while I keep thinking that the lifeboat with a little work might make a decent 80Years War Dutch pinnace, with very little effort!!!

I like ISA 905 very much indeed as a model. It's a 35mm long British Power Boat 68' High Speed Launch—it's a Type 2, and has so many possibilities. This version like HSL 2595 (the most decorated boat of the war) has the 20mm shielded oerlikon to fit aft, others of course like many in the Far east mounted a third perspex mg turret in that position. A host of conversions, and almost every theatre of war, and post-war uses too of course.

Then we have ISA 906 (and 906A) an early war, and a late war example of the ubiquitous HDML. What a model: 40mm long overall, the WWII Naval workhorse in coastal terms. Served everywhere imaginable, built in large numbers—around 500 or so, and armed in a variety of ways, and with 50 builders there were subtle differences in the overall detail. In this case 906 the 'early' HDML has the 8 depth charges and the forward 2 or 3pdr, while the 'late' 906A, has the 20mm oerlikon aft and the 2pdr forward. The weapons fits of course were enormously varied, with half a dozen variants recorded. Plenty (and I do mean plenty) of conversion opportunity, with enormous post WWII options. A wonderful model!

ISA 907 is another of the stalwarts of RAF WWII service, the old 60' General Service Pinnace, a real maid-of-work, to be found everywhere. This model is unarmed, but I do believe that in some theatres twin mg's, and Lewis guns were added for local defence purposes. A lovely, clean model again, some 35mm long and with separate mast and dinghy. Post war uses here too.

ISA 908 is to my mind the best WWII 1/600<sup>th</sup> scale small auxiliary warship model to be found in any list. This is HMS *Arcady* an Admiralty drifter. She's a five part model, with separate masts, funnel and gun bandstand, and sells at £3.60 for what believe me is a superb model. I wrote a lengthy article on converting this type of vessel in 'Battlefleet' XXXIII No.2, last year, and *Arcady* featured in that. She was a minesweeper of course, but other similar drifters were used for auxiliary patrol and escort, for boom and recovery work, for ASR duties, as net-layers and even anti-submarine duties. I looked the list up in the now venerable Ian Allen 'Warships of WWII' Part Six 'Trawlers', which covers drifters and whalers too. They were everywhere, the Ian Allen list for May 1944, places ships like HMS *Arcady* from Iceland to the Channel, Mediterranean and Far East; serving with Royal and Commonwealth and Allied navies. For this model, a brief hint, the gun platform and bow need to have the latter filed slightly flat for the bandstand to fit neatly. Of course, many drifters had no forward gun, like HMS *Fisher Boy* a mine recovery vessel. The only thing I don't like about this delightful warship is the fact that her ship's boat is part of the hull moulding, and not a separate item. I think if it were, it would make a lovely small explosive motor boat for late war use, and

give a little more room to the after deck space for equipment options. If you buy no other 1/600<sup>th</sup> scale model this year, buy this one!

Last but far from least is ISA 909: a 30mm long RAF flying boat tender/ pinnace. A very trim single-piece model with a short mast, not an armed craft—at least in normal service, but one which lingered long into the 1950s. I recall one back then at the Sunderland base in Milford Haven. This is another delight, and gives the opportunity for conversion through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for a number of naval craft options. Some were at Singapore when it fell, and one of these little steam boats might even give a Japanese 'patrol boat' version?

Having described the list of ASR and supporting vessels, I should mention that the 'Tumbling Dice' list already includes several well-detailed sea-based float and seaplanes, including ISA 49A , a lovely Supermarine Walrus, and ISA 68A a wallowing, yet elegant Short Sunderland. While ISA 244A is a PBY Catalina on a sea-base, and ISA 426A an enormous Japanese 'Mavis' seaplane, all fit in with these craft, beautifully.

An accessory pack with separate screened bandstands and neatly moulded 3", single 20/40mm, and twin-20mm guns is also available, and these will prove tremendously useful if you are converting under gunned or much earlier examples of auxiliaries from other 1/600<sup>th</sup> ranges.

Finally, an example of ISA 912 has arrived, it's a WWI 80' motor launch, elegant and slender 45mm overall, and with separate ship's boat and light gun. This takes the range into new waters, though some of the 80 footers survived into WWII, and the potential for a 'dust-up' in the Channel c.1918 is welcome indeed. Two other brand new craft are a pack of three 60' torpedo armed CMB's, 30mm long, neatly detailed, and a pack of six 40' CMB's just a little over 22mm long. Even greater potential there! From Dover to Kronstadt!

This range will add a great deal of value to WWII (and WWI) coastal and inshore wargaming and will, I'm sure prove a winner with most naval and air wargamers. There's a mini-starter pack available too, No.41, containing examples of all these craft. Magnificent indeed.

## NAVY LEAGUE QUIZ PART THIRTEEN

**Compiled by Rob Morgan**

Once again gentlemen, the dynamo of our society, Rob Morgan, has provided us with his interpretation of the old Navy League Quiz; and as usual, here are last month's answers first.

1. What happened to HM Submarine C.3?

*HM Submarine C.3 was filled with high explosive and blown up under the viaduct at Zeebrugge during the raid in 1918.*

2. An American warship was once credited with making a roll of forty-seven degrees and surviving. What was her name?

*The gunboat USS Wilmington.*

3. What unusual feature (in RN terms, perhaps) was carried by HMS *Triumph*, *Swiftsure* and *Vulcan*?

*They all carried goose-neck cranes.*

4. In 1952 at Norfolk, Virginia, which Royal Navy carrier demonstrated the new British aircraft catapult?

*The carrier HMS Perseus.*



5. During the twentieth century, which warship served in the Royal Navy for many years, but never left the United Kingdom, nor came here?

*This forgotten little warship was HMS Taku, a German-built destroyer in the Chinese service, which was captured at the Battle for the Taku Forts in the 1900 Boxer Rebellion. She served on the China Station until 1914, when she was broken up there.*

And now, Part Thirteen, itself:

1. Name the first two British destroyers built and the yard that built them.
2. How many warships have been named (*Henri*) *Grace a Dieu*?
3. With what incident do you associate HMS *Glatton*?
4. Name the world's heaviest carrier, and her tonnage, and the navy in which she served. (Remember, this was 1950!)
5. What class of warships were known as 'flat-irons'?

More next month from Rob's store of questions!

### **SIGNAL PAD!**

Gentlemen,

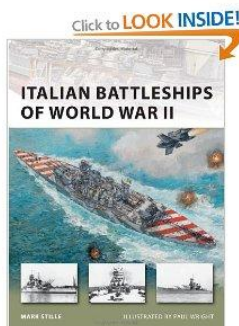
I don't know if I have mentioned the superb e-mail newsletter put together by Rob Smith (of the Ordnance Society and formerly with Royal Armouries\*\*\*) and Ruth Rhynas Brown, but it is available from [smithbrown@basiliscoe.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:smithbrown@basiliscoe.fsnet.co.uk) and contains a regular number of items from across the globe on naval matters, naval archaeology and on naval ordnance. I find it immensely useful, and if any of you don't know it then I suggest that you drop them an e-mail and get on board. Land mail to:

Mr Rob Smith,  
Editor Ordnance Society Journal  
'Hawthorne Cottage',  
Moorfield Road,  
LEEDS LS12 3SE.

**Rob Morgan**

### **Amazon Bargain!**

I received notification from the online booksellers Amazon that the new Osprey Vanguard volume on Italian battleships in WWII is available for only £7.49, instead of the high street price of £9.99. **RW**



## **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).

---

---

## **NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2009**

---

---

### **NWS Northern Fleet – Falkirk East Central Scotland**

Kenny Thomson, 1 Excise Lane, Kincardine, Fife, FK10 4LW, Tel: 01259 731091

*e-mail:* [kenny.thomson@homecall.co.uk](mailto:kenny.thomson@homecall.co.uk) - *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)
- 
- 

### **NWS North Hants [Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday]**

Jeff Crane 31 Park Gardens, Black Dam, Basingstoke, Hants, 01256 427906

*e-mail:* [gf.crane@ntlworld.com](mailto:gf.crane@ntlworld.com)

---

---

### **NWS Wessex [Bi-Monthly Meetings]**

The Wessex Group has gone into (hopefully) temporary abeyance for the moment. If anyone living in the Bath / Bristol / Gloucester area (or further afield) would like to take on managing the group please contact myself or any of the other NWS officials.

---

---

---

---