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# All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society  
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A new website containing a wealth of resources about the Battle of Jutland has been launched by NWS Member, Nick Jellicoe, grandson of Britain's naval commander in 1916, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. See the excellent "Centenary News" ([www.centenarynews.com](http://www.centenarynews.com)) for a review of the website.

Commemorating both British and German dead, the site is aimed at reaching 'educators, historians and anyone seriously interested in understanding the decisive naval engagement of the First World War.'

Animation, interactive displays and podcasts will be used to tell the story of the clash involving almost 250 warships off the Danish North Sea coast on May 31st/June 1st 1916.

Another goal is to make the German side of the story better known. Many of the original German accounts of the Battle of Jutland (Skagerraksschlacht) were printed in hard-to-read Gothic text. Optical character recognition software is being used to translate them, but volunteers are also being sought to complete the task and identify more books for translation.

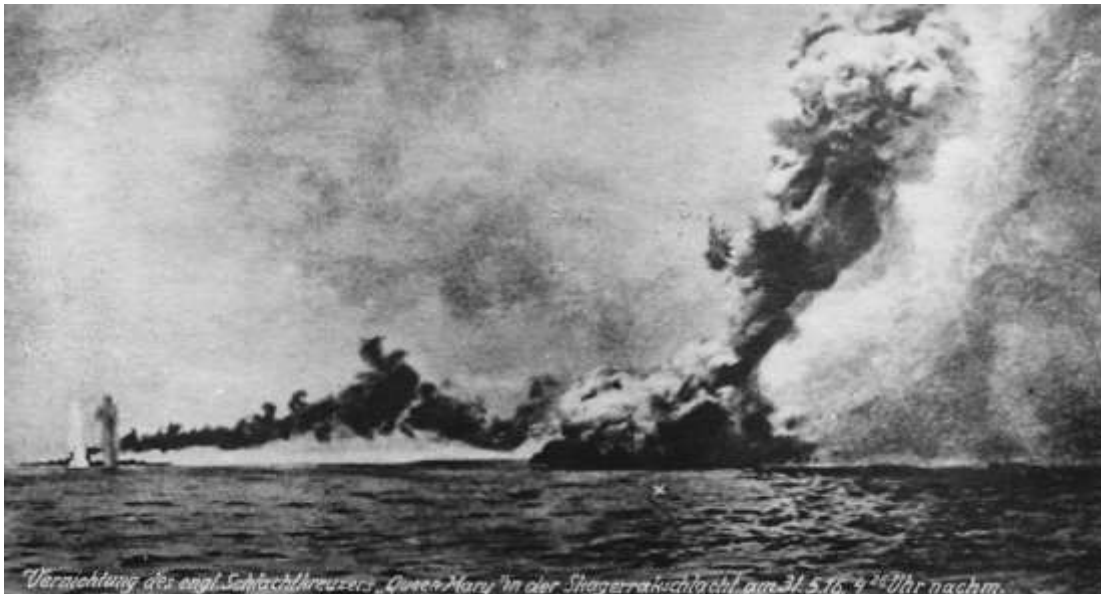
<http://www.jutland1916.com/#/>

<http://www.jutland1916.com/blog/latest-news/>

The following is an extract from, "The Rise and Fall of the Royal Navy, by Richard Humble.

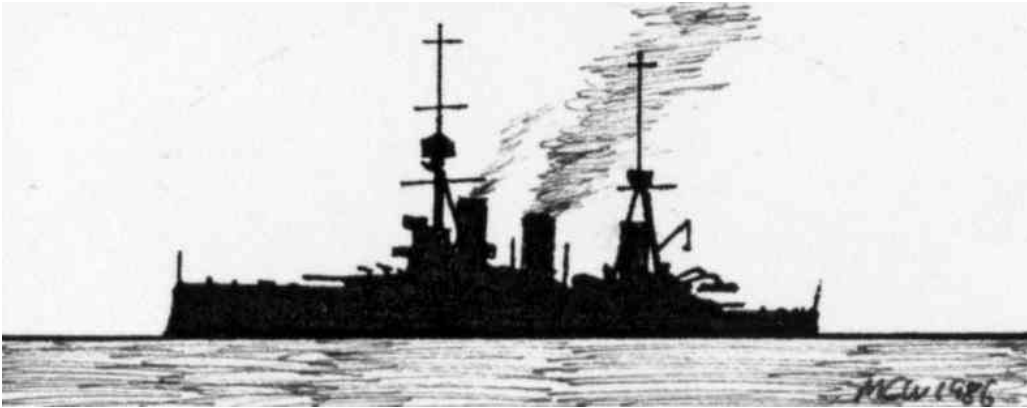
Charles I (1625-1649) authorised the building of *Sovereign of the Seas*, a magnificent 100 gun three decker "ship of the line" forerunner of every British battle ship built for the next 200 years. Built to the appalling cost of £58,586 16s 9 1/2d (the original estimate of her architect, Phineas Pett had been for £13,000) the *Sovereign* was fourteen times as costly as Elizabeth I's "*Revenge*". At least a quarter of the *Sovereign's* cost was devoured by her ornamentation; she blazed with gilded carving from stem to stern. Appropriately, the crowning symbol of this marriage of brute force and beauty was the elaborate figurehead: none other than the Saxon King Edgar "The Peaceable", anachronistically depicted on horseback, in the act of trampling his subject kings. But as long-term value for taxpayers' money the *Sovereign*, with her fifty-nine years of Fleet service, was second only to Nelson's *Victory* (seventy years). The *Sovereign* served in the fleets of Charles I, The Republic, Charles II, James II, and William III; in 1696 she was laid up Chatham, awaiting her fourth rebuilding, when she was destroyed by the wooden warship's eternal enemy: accidental fire.

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Any Great War Naval Miniatures War Game rules should include a rule to reflect the effects of smoke on spotting and ranging.

[http://malwrightblog.blogspot.co.uk/2010/12/blog-post\\_06.html](http://malwrightblog.blogspot.co.uk/2010/12/blog-post_06.html)



HMS INVINCIBLE.

Visit Mal Wright's blog for more artwork and other goodies.

Another website of interest.

<http://www.odinartcollectables.com/cnc-miniatures.aspx>

Many models available for the gamer or collector.

100 years on from the coal burning, smoke belching Dreadnoughts of Jutland, ship design has moved on.



The future USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) is underway for the first time conducting at-sea tests and trials in the Atlantic Ocean. The multi-mission ship will provide independent forward presence and deterrence, support special operations forces, and operate as an integral part of joint and combined expeditionary forces. U.S. Navy photo courtesy of General Dynamics Bath Iron Works.

At present I'm working on a short piece about Sluys for 'Hobilar' the medieval journal, and the base model for the battle will be an old one. Bill Lamming's 1/3000th metal one-piece Cogs date from the 1970's and I have about a hundred of them all told, with supporting small craft and galleys from a number of long forgotten manufacturers. Enough for a decent crack at Sluys I think! Bill's long retired of course and the moulds are now with Tony Barr at ERM, though he hasn't yet released what is still an attractive and useful model, but we can only live in hope. The models are 10mm long and about 10mm high, castled at bow and stern, and with a sail which cries out to be painted heraldically. I began my own fleets in this scale after reading a long forgotten series of three articles in 'Military Modelling' almost forty years ago, written by Lance Railton, on medieval warfare in the Channel. This prompted me to more research, and a much larger range of ships, including Italian City States, Hanse and Crusaders. As shore fortifications I use a simple plastic castle made by Games Workshop years back as part of their 'Mighty Empires' product. There are villages and towns too, which have some use in the scenario, though not 1/3000th by any means.

Rob Morgan.



Any articles for the next edition of "Battlefleet"? There is still time to send them to David Manley. Word format preferred but other formats acceptable.

HMS Defender is on a nine month deployment to the Middle East and will continue to work with the French Carrier Task Group well into 2016.

HMS Defender's state of the art radars are able provide a clear picture of an area stretching over 300 miles.



A photo of HMS MANCHESTER TYPE 42 DESTROYER in 1985. She was recently turned into razor blades.



HMS MANCHESTER's Steve Moffatt by Ernest Shackleton's grave – Grytviken 1983.



The previous HMS MANCHESTER was one of ten Southampton Class Cruisers built between 1934 and 1939. The first group consisted of SOUTHAMPTON, BIRMINGHAM, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE and SHEFFIELD, followed by, GLOUCESTER, LIVERPOOL and MANCHESTER, with BELFAST and EDINBURGH subsequently completing the class.

Four of the class were war losses, SOUTHAMPTON, 11th January 1941, GLOUCESTER, 22nd May 1941, EDINBURGH, 2nd May 1942 and MANCHESTER, 13th August, 1942, while five were subsequently scrapped. The sole survivor being HMS BELFAST which is moored in the Pool of London on the River Thames as part of the Imperial War Museum and is of course open to the public.

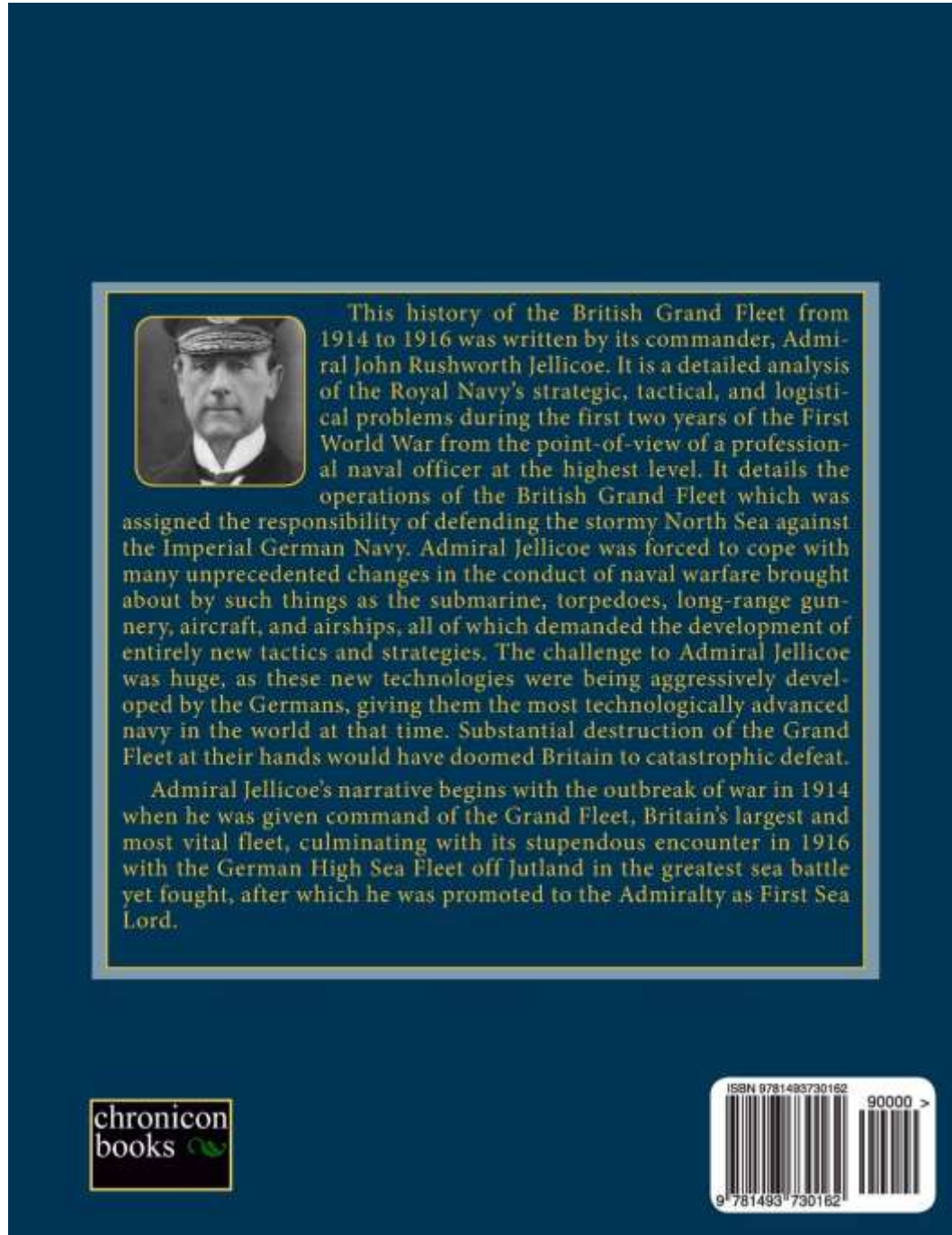
The above is a copy and paste from the HMS MANCHESTER website. <http://www.2ma.org.uk>

Website of interest: <http://www.melbournestar.co.uk/> Melbourne Star, one of the surviving merchantmen of Operation Pedestal, the website is well worth a visit.

“The Grand Fleet 1914 to 1916”, is available from Amazon, and other good bookshops.

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Grand-Fleet-1914-1916/dp/1493730169/ref=pd\\_sim\\_14\\_41?ie=UTF8&dpID=51n1gt6DCrL&dpSrc=sims&preST=AC\\_UL160\\_SR124%2C160\\_&refRID=0XNNVV99CFCQAHVA425Q](http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Grand-Fleet-1914-1916/dp/1493730169/ref=pd_sim_14_41?ie=UTF8&dpID=51n1gt6DCrL&dpSrc=sims&preST=AC_UL160_SR124%2C160_&refRID=0XNNVV99CFCQAHVA425Q)

This is the back cover.



Check out Nick Jellicoe's book on "Jutland" also.

Just when you thought the RN could not get any smaller...

The Royal Navy has cut plans to build 13 Type 26 frigates to eight ships only and will launch a concept phase to design a new class of lighter warship to fill the gap. The existing 13 Type 23 Duke Class Frigates will not be replaced on a one - to - one basis as previously stated. The Type 26 will not be ordered until BAe Systems has, “further matured the design.” This means that the first metal cutting for the Type 26 may slip from 2016 to 2017. The government and BAe had pinned great hopes on the Type 26, (also known as the Global Combat Ship) becoming an export success but its complexity, size and cost have shrunk the pool of potential buyers to just a handful of countries like Australia, Canada and Germany.

The current plan remains for the Royal Navy to field a 19 “strong” fleet consisting of six Type 45 air defence destroyers, eight Type 26 anti-submarine frigates and now five general purpose frigates along with a fleet of offshore patrol vessels.

*Spare a thought for those members of the armed forces of all nations that were not at home for Christmas, so that we could sleep safe in our beds.*

For the first time in nearly 80 years the Royal Navy has a presence in the Ross Sea as HMS PROTECTOR has sailed from Hobart for the Austral summer. The Royal Navy’s Ice Patrol Ship has begun a 2,000 mile journey down to the Antarctic region – the first time a Royal Navy, or UK Government, vessel has travelled to the Ross Sea since 1936. This expansion of her operating area is in direct support of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s desire to demonstrate the UK’s presence across the entire Antarctic continent.

As a founding signatory to the Antarctic Treaty, the UK takes its responsibilities in the region seriously and is determined to uphold the key tenets of the Treaty of protecting the environment and preserving the area for scientific research. PROTECTOR will conduct inspections of fishing vessels within the Ross Sea under the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and is travelling with six specialists from Australia and New Zealand.

During her deployment she will complete eight separate work periods to the Antarctic as well as conducting regional engagement with allies and partner nations across Australasia, South America and Southern Africa.



The Quiz is from Rob Morgan. And they are not getting any easier. Answers in February's AGB.

### SEA QUIZ 48.....

This time, readers early-ish questions from 'The Navy's' quizzes, and Number three brought a small avalanche of remembrances, this was in 1949 of course.

1. Name three early RN gunboats named after fish.
2. In 1878 the Coast Defence Ship HMS Hydra was tender to...?
3. What was the code name for anti-destroyer exercise by the Grand Fleet?
4. Name the first warship to be given a pylon mast.
5. Name the first armoured warship built at Devonport.

Best of luck!

## **JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup> 1861.**

The steamship "Star of the West" is fired on by Confederate troops from Morris Island and Fort Moultrie as she attempted to enter Charleston Harbor, S.C. These are the first pre-Confederate shots fired at a northern-based vessel.

We all know about the (Merrimack) CSS Virginia and Monitor, there are other naval wargame ideas from the American Civil War. Why not exercise the imagination and write a few words for AGB or Battlefleet!

## **JOINING THE NAVAL WARGAMES SOCIETY**

If you have been lent this newsletter and would like to join the Naval Wargames Society, please follow this link to join our Society:

[www.navalwargamessociety.org](http://www.navalwargamessociety.org).

Membership secretary: [simonjohnstokes@aol.com](mailto:simonjohnstokes@aol.com)

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## **NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2014**

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

Kenny Thomson, 12 Craigs Way, Rumford Grange, Rumford, Stirlingshire, FK2 0EU

Tel: 01324 714248

e-mail: [kenny.thomson@hotmail.com](mailto:kenny.thomson@hotmail.com) - Website: <http://falkirkwargamesclub.org.uk/>

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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)
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### **Devon and the West Country**

Naval Wargames afternoon/evening/all day on a regular basis.

Contact Stuart Barnes Watson to arrange the details.

[stuart\\_barnes\\_watson@hotmail.com](mailto:stuart_barnes_watson@hotmail.com)

3 Clovelly Apartments, Oxford Park, Ilfracombe, DEVON, EX34 9JS

Tel: 01271 866637