

All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 258 – APRIL 2016

USMC Squadron VM-FAT 501 will be demonstrating the new F-35B stealth jet Lightning II at the Royal International Air Tattoo at RAF FAIRFORD this summer. This will be the British public's first chance to see the new strike fighter.

In with the new and out with the old.

HMS HERMES, RN flagship in 1982 was sold to India soon after and has still operated Sea Harriers until now. Re-named INS VIRAAT She has now lowered the Indian Ensign for good; Her farewell performance was at the recent Indian Navy's International Fleet Review. HMS DEFENDER was there, a break from escorting FS CHARLES DE GAULLE and USS HARRY S TRUMAN in the Gulf.

JUTLAND 100 UPDATE

Jutland 100 on 31st May 2016! The venue is the Royal Naval Museum, the Heritage Area of Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth. I would like to thank everybody who has volunteered so far for the playtest on 16th April and for the 31st May.

Rules and Playtesting. My first go at doing the rules has been round and thank you very much for the contributions which will make the event go more smoothly. We will be using General Quarters 2 with some limited modifications, some of which will speed up play, some will add a bit of complication to try and capture the command and control issues that the admirals fought with. Players will need to be willing to lose their traditional "gods eye" view in the interest of making the battle more believable. The Museum is keen that these challenges are borne out in our game. I would now like to see them play-tested to ensure they survive contact with reality. This is also an opportunity for those who want to get involved in the event but can't make the day itself. Callow End Village Hall on Saturday 16th April for the play-test. Can you make it?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Stuart Machin at stuart.machin@hotmail.co.uk.

Thanks to Rob Morgan for the Sea Quiz.

Answers to Sea Quiz 50, the non-naval one.

1. Well, when the famous ‘Cleopatra’s Needle’ broke adrift from her tow on passage to the UK, these men lost their lives in the event.
2. Because there were Royal hunting kennels there in medieval times.
3. Aboard John Masefield’s dirty British coaster in the poem ‘Cargoes’.
4. He built the first Eddystone Lighthouse.
5. Harland and Wolff at Belfast with 18 slips....18!

How did you do?

SEA QUIZ 51....

Well, it’s back to ‘normal’ questions this month.

1. In 1898, *NADEZHDA* was the only effective warship of what navy?
2. Which two turret ships were at the bombardment of Alexandria?
3. Accepted in 1861 and discarded in 1867. What was it?
4. Name all four Admirals in command of the Home Fleet in WWII.
5. Odd one out? HMS’s Alexandra, Devastation, Minotaur, and King Edward VII.

I must say I stumbled over question 4.

HMS VICTORY

The year 2015 marked the Sestercentennial (a period of 250 years) for HMS Victory. She stands proud in Portsmouth Dockyard representing all the line of battle ships from the age of sail which have gone before her. Every year 400,000 visitors walk the decks of the oldest commissioned warship in the world. BAE Systems Maritime Services has been providing survey, repair, maintenance, conservation, design and research services to HMS Victory, on behalf of the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN), for more than 10 years. To understand the stresses imposed on HMS Victory through sitting on her keel and cradles in a dry dock since 1922, her entire structure has been laser mapped. From this, a 3D model has been created providing an accurate, in-depth picture of the ship’s

material state. This has enabled evaluation of alternative ways of supporting the ship in the long term and design of a new system is currently underway.

Major conservation work has been in progress for a couple of years and will be required for many years yet to “stop the rot”. The top two thirds of the masts are away for repair and maintenance; their return is eagerly awaited.



VICTORY in dry dock with HMS DIAMOND in the background.

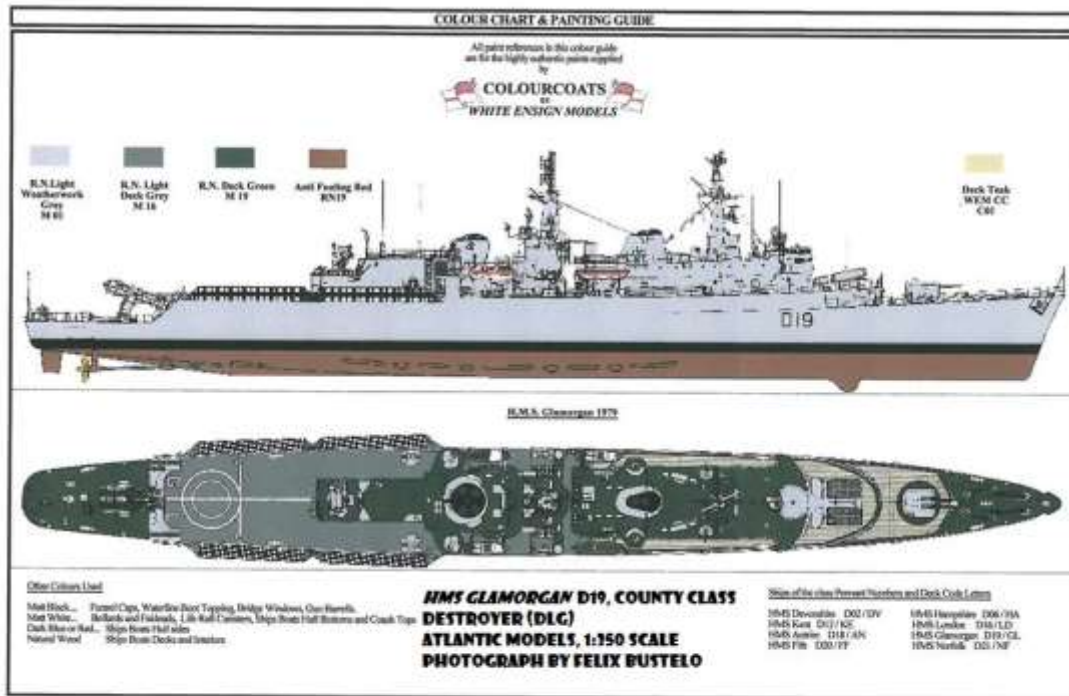
The above is an edited article from the 2015 Year Book of Her Majesty’s Naval Base PORTSMOUTH.

Considered by Lord Nelson as his favourite ship, HMS Agamemnon was a two-deck third rate warship, lighter and faster than most 74s. Launched at Bucklers Hard in 1781, she saw action in many great battles, among them the Battle of Ushant, the Battle of Copenhagen and Trafalgar, by which time she was a veteran of 24 years service.



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The USA Battleship OHIO, completed 1903. Photograph taken from the excellent War Times Journal website.



HMS GLAMORGAN was a County Class Guided Missile Destroyer, armed with Seaslug and Seacat Missiles. She was 520.5 feet in length with a beam of 54 feet. With a crew of 471 she displaced in excess of 6,200 tons possibly as much as 8,000 tons.

The keel was laid in 1962 and She was launched on 9th July 1964. On 3rd April 1982, Admiral Woodward sailed from Gibraltar in HMS GLAMORGAN. She was accompanied by HMS ANTRIM, HMS GLASGOW, HMS COVENTRY, HMS SHEFFIELD, HMS BRILLIANT, HMS ARROW, HMS PLYMOUTH, RFA APPLELEAF and RFA TIDESPRING. Arriving at Ascension Island on Easter Sunday, the Admiral transferred to HMS HERMES before sailing to The Falkland Islands. On 1st May she took part in the bombardment of Stanley Airfield in company with ARROW and ALACRITY. Harrier aircraft controlled by GLAMORGAN destroyed one Mirage and seriously damaged another which was shot down by Argentine anti-aircraft fire as it attempted an emergency landing at Stanley. She subsequently took part in a diversion bombardment in support of the SAS attack on Pebble Island. She again was a diversion at Choiseul Sound to cover the landings at San Carlos Water. On 12th June, HMS GLAMORGAN gave supporting gunfire to 45 Commando attacking Two Sisters. As she withdrew, she was struck by a land launched Exocet Missile. The missile was detected 8 miles out – less than 1 minute flight time. There were fatalities but a greater disaster was avoided by last minute ship manoeuvres and damage control by the crew. The Exocet narrowly missed the Seaslug Magazine; as it was, flames were 100 feet

above masthead height. She was the only ship to survive an Exocet hit and returned to Portsmouth on 11th July 1982.

In November 1983, accompanied by HMS BRAZEN she supported British troops on peace keeping duties in The Lebanon.

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Hallmark 1:2400 scale models are worth a look. Available singularly at typically £3.40 or if you want to splash out on a Fleet £218 for 72 Ships for Trafalgar, £44 for the British at the Nile, £54 for the French at the Nile 15 and 17 ships respectively. An American 7 Ship pack is £21. Prices are from the Magister Militum website and must be exclusive of p&p. How are your painting skills? I know mine are not up to much but this scale does remove the need for a banqueting table playing area.

I have recently bought my first US comic book for 45 years! (OK, I sometimes indulge in the odd *Commando* comic from WH Smiths if it's on the war at sea!) This one is different though and I think that it may appeal to NWS members. I bought mine on-line, at a certain "Market Place" for only £5.95, plus postage, although you could pay up to £12.99

Stan Glanzman is famous in the comic book world for his excellent drawings in a range of comic books. He was also a sailor aboard USS *Stevens*, a *Fletcher* class destroyer in World War 2. So what better way to tell his story than in comic book form. "A Sailor's Story" is a highly readable and informative story of the Pacific War on a destroyer, seen through the eyes of one of its crew. *Stevens* was one of the destroyers which carried a scout plane for a time, and Glanzman tells of this. He recounts the actions, including the Kamikaze attacks suffered by US ships, but also the routine of painting ship, the boredom, the crushed expectation of watching mail lost in a transfer between ships and the "at sea" liberty.

A Sailor's Story was originally published as two volumes in the 1980s. Dover Publications now reprinted them, combined into this one volume. I'd recommend this book, and the forthcoming *USS Stevens*, stories originally published in Marvel comics and based on his wartime experiences, (currently priced at £18.99 on-line) for anyone wanting a different approach to a 'tin-can sailor's' life during the Pacific War. Images are available from

Google, and if you want to see more before deciding to buy, have a look and see what you think.

**A Sailor's Story by Stan Glanzman
Dover Publications 2015**

Andy Field.



RFA BLACK RANGER at Scapa Flow 1942. Note the dazzle paint, her guns and the dummy funnel by the foremast.
Copyright IWM.

Lt Cdr Nathan Gray RN, the last Brit to fly the British Harrier photographed before flying the Korean War era Soviet MiG 15 at the US Navy Test Pilot School, Patuxent River, Maryland.



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The UK Armed Forces Day this year is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Cleethorpes, North East Lincolnshire is the lead location.

<https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/get-involved/afd-national-event/>

<https://www.armedforcesday.org.uk/find-events/>

Cleethorpes will be buzzing with family fun with open air performances from a variety of musicians and entertainers throughout the afternoon and early evening on Armed Forces Day. Exciting military demonstrations will include displays from the Red Arrows, who are based at nearby RAF Scampton as well as demonstrations from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, parachute display teams from the Royal Navy, Army and RAF, and the Royal Navy Black Cats helicopter display flight.

With the sea in sight, Cleethorpes will also play host to an array of military vehicles for visitors to explore including the Sandown Class, Mine Countermeasures Vessel HMS BLYTH and the AS90 artillery tank and Warrior and Terrier armoured vehicles on the promenade. Cleethorpes has strong links with the Armed Forces with RAF Cranwell the headquarters of the Air Cadets, RAF Coningsby the RAF's Southern Typhoon Main Operating Base, and RAF Waddington, home to RAF Air Command surveillance and reconnaissance assets, all situated near the town.

Topside Miniatures are offering 50% reduction on orders without the wooden bases, in order to reduce shipping costs for overseas customers. This means that UK customers can buy the ship counters and mount them on card or foam board if they wish. Worth thinking about.

Andy Field.

### **SIGNAL PAD!**

Saturday/Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Explosion Museum, Gosport, Hampshire.

The Naval Wargames weekend is taking shape. Weather permitting the Battle of the River Plate will be outside! Indoors will be Napoleonics (Inshore Squadron's impressive models), pre-dreadnoughts in the Med and "Smoke on the Heavy Water" 1/700 WWII Norwegian, which I'm guessing must be something to do with The Heroes of Telemark, plus a few more goodies. There is still time to put on a game on the Saturday or Sunday or both days. Contact David Manley to say what size table you would like. Well done to David and all those that have already booked their spot. More details will be in AGB when known.

The following is an extract from David Manley's gaming blog. It's called, "Don't Throw Bloody Spears At Me!" Check it out.



My game at the 2016 Naval Wargames Weekend is going to be the battle of the River Plate, using 1/600 scale models and using the same ground scale as model scale. I scratch built a model of Exeter some years ago along with an Airfix Graf Spee, so now I'm doing Ajax, Achilles and Cumberland. They are renovations of old models that I've had for some time, so they are a bit rough and ready - they certainly won't be winning any prizes - but they will be fine for what I have in mind.

<http://dtbsam.blogspot.co.uk/2016/03/works-in-progress.html>

<http://jutland.org.uk/>

"Jutland. The Unfinished Battle" by Nick Jellicoe is available from all good bookshops.

Recent wargame shows have had the following price details:

|                             |                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Cavalier                    | £5, women and children free                |
| Hammerhead                  | £5, £3 children and under 9 year olds free |
| West Midlands Military show | £3, children £1                            |
| Salute                      | £20 on the day, £12 in advance             |
| Campaign                    | Free                                       |

The above leads me to wonder if Salute is overpriced and therefore will it survive. And that organisers in general appreciate that reasonable prices are one way of bringing the next generation into the hobby.



## **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