

All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 260 – JUNE 2016

EDITORIAL

June already. So much has gone on already this year but there is still the Naval Wargames Weekend at “Explosion!” Museum to look forward to. July 2nd and 3rd at the Gosport museum, get there if you can. After several years of organising the weekend, David Manley would like to pass the baton. If you can take this on once a year, then please let David know either directly or through me and All Guns Blazing. I’m sure David has notes that you could have and he would be available for help and advice for next year’s event.

Jutland 100 happened on 31st May. Stuart Machin took the lead in arranging the event and also produced large wall displays, showing the ships and the damage when appropriate. Someone had the good idea of putting a length of tape down at the front of the public viewing area to show the public the range of Battleship, Battlecruiser and Cruiser guns. There were about 15 helpers on the day including Ric from Australia - well done to everybody. “Midway” next year has been suggested!!! Hopefully those members that took photographs will send them off to Stuart Fieldhouse for inclusion in the next Battlefleet. My photographs below leave room for improvement. See also the NWS Yahoo Group.

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

Norman Bell

The arrival of HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in HMNB Portsmouth has slipped from November 2016 to April 2017. Also it has been announced that the F35 Lightning Aircraft will not be available until 2023.

Rob Morgan supplies the Quiz each month.

Answers to Quiz 52.

The compiler suggested that some of these names were “difficult foreign words simplified for the lower deck”.

1. HMS AMPHITRITE
2. HMS VENERABLE; as in Venerable Archdeacon, I presume.
3. HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH in WWI... Battleships, Battle Cruisers and heavy cruisers were commonly known as, “big stuff”.
4. I thought this was straight forward... HMS CONQUEROR.
5. This was the name given to the Russian Light Cruiser, “Zemchug” in 1914. She was, if I’m right, one of Emden’s victims.

SEA QUIZ 53.

Slang again, and plenty of nick names. Number 3 brought a response from scores of ex-officers and men, some of whom must have been very elderly then.

1. What was ‘*The Crystal Palace Army*’ in the Great War?
2. What and where was ‘*The Inland Navy*’ in WWII?
3. What was known as ‘*The Jellicoe Express*’?
4. Which RN Warship was ‘*The Lord’s Own*’?
5. What were ‘*Winnie*’ and ‘*Pooh*’, and where would you find them?

The most famous convoys of World War II after PQ17 in the Arctic must be Harpoon, Vigorous and Pedestal relief convoys to Malta, June and August 1942. Pictures from Wikipedia.



Torpedo hits OHIO.



SS OHIO limps into Malta.
Pedestal Convoy August
1942. The tanker was vital to
the continuing resistance of
Malta.



HMS LIVERPOOL being
towed by HMS
ANTELOPE, 625 miles
to Gibraltar at 9kts. A
Savoia Torpedo Bomber
has blown a 24ft by 19ft
hole in her starboard side
abreast the after engine
room.



The Brisbane Star torpedoed by
the Italian Submarine ALAGI, was
able to make Malta under her own
steam. Pedestal Convoy August
1942.

If you do not have the miniatures for a table convoy war-game, you may like to consider one of the following boxed games:

Avalanche Press ARCTIC CONVOY, one of their Second World War at Sea series.

GMT Games PQ17, a Rise of the Luftwaffe expansion.

Vae Victis OPERATION PEDESTAL, a solo game where you play the Axis.

High Flying Dice, GAUNTLET.

Clash of Arms, DEADLY WATERS The Gibraltar Run 1941 – 1942.

Perhaps you could write a review for AGB or provide a complete play through for Battlefleet?

The Junior General website provides free to download ships etc. to enable a cheap as chips game to be tried before spending hard earned cash on a game or miniatures. Also check out the Topside Minis; Harpoon, Vigorous and Pedestal Battle Sets.

If you have not seen it, try and catch the black and white film, “Malta Story”, a young Alec Guinness plays a spitfire pilot flying reconnaissance missions from the battered Island. (More bombs were dropped on Malta than on London during the Blitz).

Great book about Operation Pedestal, Larsen and Dales:

At All Costs: How a Crippled Ship and Two American Merchant Marines Turned the Tide of World War II, by Sam Moses. New York: Random House, 2006 [Book Review](#)

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

There are many Armed Forces Day events taking place across the UK from Lochgilphead in Scotland to Jersey in the English Channel. The USA’s Armed Forces Day has been the 3rd Saturday in May since 1950 when it was authorised by President Harry S Truman. The UK’s Day has only been going for a few years but it is growing every year. This year, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire is the lead location – Armed Forces Day 25th June.

Naval Guns in 'The Artilleryman'.

The US ordnance journal often contains gems for the naval wargamer, many relate to the American Civil War, not surprisingly, as it's published in Georgia. The current issue Spring 2016 (Vol 37, no.2) is more than interesting. Two well illustrated articles on the shells and guns of the Ironclad ram *CSS Virginia*, one of which includes an account of the screw frigate *USS Merrimack*, whose timbers lay under all that armour. In the second, Wm. E. Lockridge considers a mystery surrounding the use of one of the ram's 7in Dahlgren rifled guns. There's also an interesting note on two Blakely rifled cannon from a blockade runner *SS Georgiana*. Not front-line wargaming material, but if you are fighting Hampton Roads...? 'The Artilleryman' sells at \$5.95 quarterly in the USA, and can be found on www.artillerymanmagazine.com

Rob Morgan.
May 2016

NWS Member Angus Konstam is an author and historian. Angus' new book, *Jutland 1916: Twelve Hours to Win the War* has just been published by Aurum Press



E-mail: anguskonstam@aol.com

My website gives more information, and includes two audio extracts.
www.anguskonstam.com ... and of course an Amazon link.

The book launch is up in Orkney Monday 30th May. There's also one in Blackwells in Edinburgh on 14 June. Their website has all the details.

Angus.

31st May 1916 2:35pm. HMS GALATEA flashes a signal that galvanised the Grand Fleet. “Urgent. Have sighted large amount of smoke as though from a Fleet. Bearing East-North-East”.

Admiral Rheinhard Scheer. Dynamic, confident and optimistic. He died in 1928 and was buried at Weimar.

Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. Quiet, confident and unassuming. He died in 1935 and was buried in St Paul’s Cathedral.

Vice Admiral Franz Hipper. Excellent tactician, who commanded effectively during the Battle of the Dogger Bank. He died in 1932.

Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty. Charismatic and dashing. He died in 1936.

Lt William Chalmers, one of Beatty’s staff officers described the horrors played out in Q Turret, HMS LION. “The Armoured roof of Q Turret has been folded back like an open sardine tin..... the shell detonated inside the turret, killed the entire gun crew and caused a fire in the gun house..... fire set alight some cordite charges..... resultant flash passed down the trunk into the magazine handling room..... the crew of the magazines had just closed the doors. Some of them were found dead afterwards with their hands on the door clips”.

Johannes Groth, gunnery officer in the B Turret, Battle Cruiser SMS LUTZOW – “Shooting continued at an increased tempo. Hardly had the guns been loaded than the firing bell was sounded again..... heat from discarded case shells and the glowing barrel became unbearable for the loaders..... men had collapsed unconscious in the middle of loading..... after just 20 minutes the reserves also collapsed”.

When it was all over, 25 Ships 14 British, 9 German, were at the bottom of the North Sea and more than 8,500 men were dead. More than 1,000 of those were on HMS INVINCIBLE when she blew up. A German shell plunged through the roof of her Q Turret and the magazine exploded.

The Navy News in the May, June and July editions includes pull outs and supplements about Jutland.

Navynews.co.uk/subscriptions

The following “coal” article came my way courtesy of Andy Field,

<http://www.worldwar1.com/tripwire/smtw.htm> an American based, online journal devoted to WW1. As James Goldbrick points out, the coal issue doesn't always get the attention it deserves.

Was There a Coal Gap?

Pre-war Sortie by the High Seas Fleet

Most of the big ships that fought 100 years ago at Jutland, except the Queen Elizabeth-class battleships of the Grand Fleet's battlecruiser squadron, were powered by coal. According to Royal Australian Navy admiral and historian James Goldrick, German coal was of an inferior quality throughout the war. All things being equal, this should have given Royal Navy ships an operational advantage throughout the war. But there has not been a lot of research on this matter.

Coal-burning ships were absolutely dependent upon the quality of that coal in reaching their designed speeds and maximum endurance. The best coal was Welsh. There was good coal in other parts of the world, such as Southport in New Zealand, but the majority of countries did not have access to such stocks – German coal certainly does not seem to have been of the same quality for steaming coal.

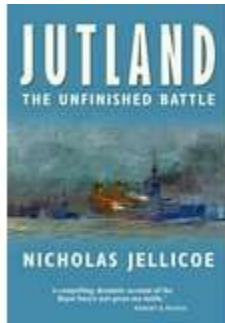
The difference could be extraordinary. At an extreme, trials in the battlecruiser *Australia* demonstrated that, while she used 10 tons of Welsh coal and 15 boilers in an hour to achieve just over 16 knots run (her designed speed was 25 knots), she required all 31 boilers and 16 tons per hour — supplemented by a large amount of oil — to achieve the same speed and distance run using Australian coal.

Differences of this magnitude meant profound differences in the operational capabilities of both individual ships and of fleets, but we know very little of how the issue worked itself out in their employment — even with evidence such as the battlecruiser *Von der Tann*'s plaint during the abortive High Seas Fleet sortie of April 1918 "Cannot do more than 21 knots on account of bad coal, coal consumption 50% higher than usual!"

In any case, Admiral Goldrick thinks this coal gap has been neglected in earlier naval histories of the war and is worthy of further study.

"Austro-Hungarian Submarines in WWI" at £16.99 can be found in the bargain section of "The Works" Bookshops says Rob Morgan.

"Jutland The Unfinished Battle" by Nicholas Jellicoe, NWS Member and Grandson of Admiral Sir John Jellicoe is available on Amazon.



The UK Government, in collaboration with Orkney Islands Council and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, has hosted two events to mark 100 years since the largest naval clash of the First World War.

The commemorative events included a morning service at St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, followed by a ceremony at the Lyness Royal Naval Cemetery at Hoy, where over 400 Commonwealth servicemen and German sailors from the First World War are buried - some as young as 16.

The Princess Royal, Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, Mr Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, Prime Minister David Cameron and First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon attended the commemorative event alongside descendants of wartime sailors and local residents. Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport John Whittingdale and First World War Minister David Evennett also attended the event.

Over the wrecks of HMS Invincible, HMS Queen Mary, SMS Lutzow and SMS Pommern, their modern day counterparts HMS Duncan and FGS Brandenburg held a moments silence to honour all those lost during the Battle of Jutland. In a remembrance service, sailors from both navies scattered symbols of remembrance – British poppy petals and German

forget-me-nots — into the water. HMS Kent, visible from the Royal Naval Cemetery in Lyness, fired a 21-gun salute.



HMS SUTHERLAND, Type 23 Duke Class Frigate keeps an eye on our friends as they transit the English Channel.
Picture: PO (Phot) Carl Osmond

Culdrose Air Day tickets now on sale



Tickets are now on sale for this year's Air Day at Royal Navy Air Station Culdrose. The event, which will be held on Thursday 28 July 2016, has become a firm favourite in the Cornish calendar, and enables the general public to experience life on board of one of Europe's largest helicopter bases. It is one of only three military air shows in the country.

Everyday life for Royal Navy pilots could include hunting for enemy submarines in state-of-the-art helicopters, simulating threats to ships in fast jets, transporting troops of Royal

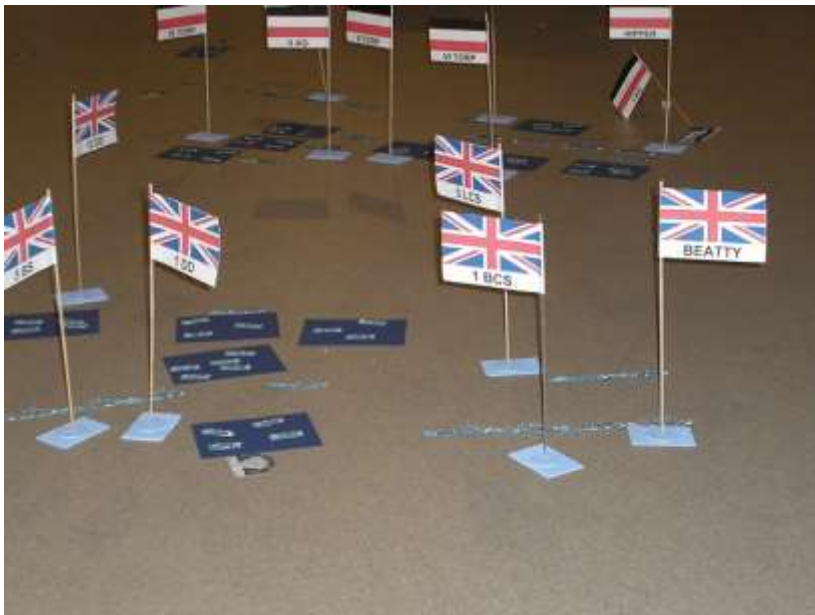
Marines Commandos or rescuing casualties from stricken vessels. Air Day enables budding fighter pilots, and those who once dreamt of flying, to learn about this exciting 'world of Culdrose' and see what happens behind the security gates.

The organisers of this year's event are working hard to make it a day to remember. As jets, helicopters and military aircraft zoom across the skies, visitors will be able to meet aircrew who have served on frontline squadrons all over the world, pilots who have just earned their 'wings' and those who use cutting edge technology to train future naval aviators.

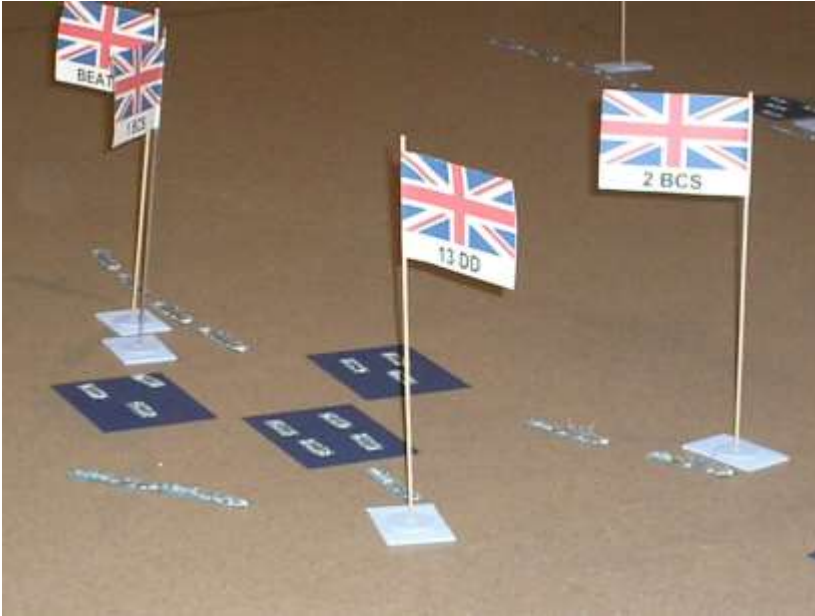
Advance tickets at a reduced price (£15 for adults, £5 for children and £40 for families (2 adults and 3 children) are now on sale online (www.ticketzone.co.uk) and by phone (08444 99 99 55). Visitors can also purchase tickets at various tourist information centres in Cornwall and the Gweek Seal Sanctuary.

SIGNAL PAD!

Try and get to the Explosion Museum, Gosport for the Naval War Games Weekend, 2nd and 3rd July.



Jutland 100. The playing area was about the size of a badminton court and my pictures fail to do the day justice but will give you a flavour of what went on.



Coming in July's AGB: Gen Con 2016, the Sea Quiz, Drew Jarman and Rob Morgan contributes again, and lots more, he says confidently.

Welcome to new Members, Michael Sharpe, Martin Small and Mike Woolnough.

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.

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