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# All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society  
No. 271 – MAY 2017

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Is that George Clooney standing at the back? No, wait a minute – it's me!



Two of many of David Manley's photographs from the Naval Wargames Weekend 2016. See his blog, "Don't Throw Bloody Spears At Me," for other photographs and plenty of Wargame info. Let's make the 2017 Wargame Weekend as good as previous years.

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In the past 14 months North Korea has conducted two nuclear tests and launched over 20 ballistic missiles, including from a submarine. How long before they can miniaturise a nuclear warhead to top a missile? The Taepodong 2 missile with an estimated range of 8,000km could reach much of Europe, Alaska and Canada. The Carrier Task Group, USS Carl Vinson, USS Wayne E Meyer, USS Michael Murphy, USS Lake Champlain and at least one Los Angeles Class Submarine is poised near Korea just in case. Present day / near future wargamers may ponder a Korea/China/USA/Japan scenario.

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The Victory Point Game, "Fleets 2025" pits the USA v China in the South China Sea. It is an introductory level game with 4 pages of rules and three supplied scenarios. It is not rocket science to design additional scenarios.

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Rob Morgan first brought L'Invincible to my notice in July last year. The Daily Telegraph and Daily Mail have recently had a couple of very good articles about the salvage operation which could start this summer.

The ship was launched by the French in 1744 as L'Invincible. With two decks and a crew of 700, she was one of the most impressive vessels of its time. (Several vessels based on her design were present at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805). One of 12 French warships captured by the British at the Battle of Cape Finisterre, she was renamed Invincible and sent to places as far away as the West Indies and Nova Scotia. Her 14-year service came to an abrupt end on February 19, 1758, when she ran aground on the Horse Tail Sands three miles off Portsmouth.



Map from the Daily Mail.

Plans to recover (thousands of) artefacts and possibly a large part of the Ship herself have existed since 2012. This summer, divers get set to take part in the biggest underwater rescue mission for more than 30 years. Hopefully a sufficiently large part of the Ship can be raised before too long, (as shifting sands have now exposed the remains to damage by the tides); and displayed similarly to the Mary Rose.

## Naval Wargames Weekend 2017

This event will be taking place in 2017 on the 8th & 9th of July from 10 am to 5 pm. The venue will be the same as usual, the Conference Room at Explosion! Museum in Gosport.

Unfortunately, this year the museum is not willing to host us for nothing so there will be an entry fee. This will be £5 for one day or £7.50 for both.

In return for this, not only do you get two days of naval wargaming, but free entry to the museum (normally £11). We are also planning, thanks to Nick Hewitt, to have a guided tour of the reserve collection (2 buildings not normally open to the public) on each afternoon.

Could anyone wishing/willing to put on a game for the weekend please send details (nature of game, space required, which day(s)) to Dave Sharp

(no spaces) dave (underscore) sharp @ talktalk.net  
([dave\\_sharp@talktalk.net](mailto:dave_sharp@talktalk.net)).

HMS WESTMINSTER is the latest Type 23, Duke Class Frigate to have a mid-life update. She now has a new Artisan 3D radar capable of monitoring 800 contacts 124 miles away. She has the Sea-Ceptor air defence missile replacing the Seawolf. The 4.5 inch Mk 8 Gun has been refurbished and more importantly, the galley and mess decks have been upgraded.

Battle of the Eastern Solomons: Attack on *Ryujo*, 24 August 1942. The Game was played by the Florida based Historical Miniatures Gaming Society and ended with the *Ryujo* ablaze which caused a magazine explosion.



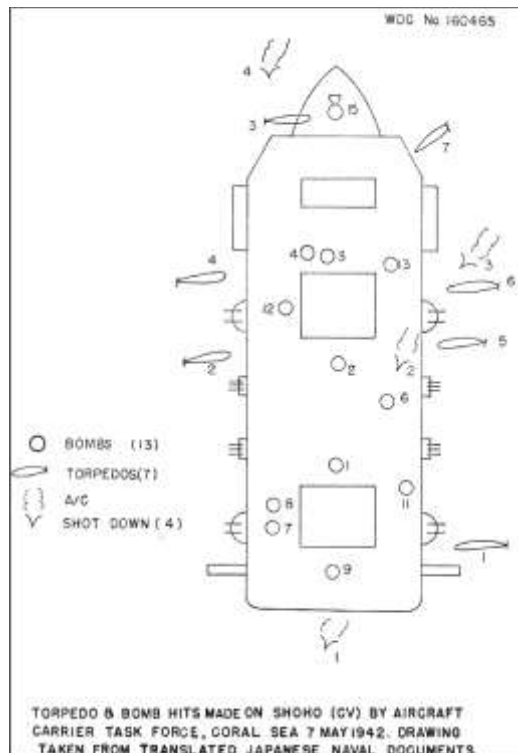
The US strike approaches the Japanese screen, HIJMS *Amatsukaze* and *Tone*.

The Japanese were seemingly unstoppable in their expansion across the Pacific. Until that is, the Battle of the Coral Sea.



USS LEXINGTON – BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 1942.  
(Pictures from Wikipedia)

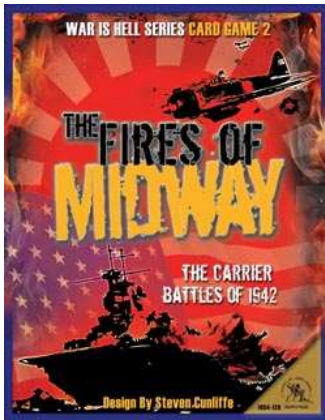
USS LEXINGTON burning and abandoned after several explosions and out of control fires.



There are many ways for naval gamers to fight the battles of the Pacific. Topside Minis have many battle sets, one of which is the Coral Sea.

<http://topsideminis.com/product/coral-sea-battle-set/>

Avalanche Press have a boxed game “Coral Sea”. An introductory level game Coral Sea is part of the “Second World War at Sea” series. It covers this key battle and is intended as a gateway for players new to the popular series of naval board games.



Clash of Arms’ The Fires of Midway, includes the Ships and aircraft for a Coral Sea battle.

### SEA QUIZ 60 reminder of the questions.

1. Name Rooke’s flagship at the taking of Gibraltar.
2. Which nation’s fleet did Duncan fight at Camperdown?
3. At which 17<sup>th</sup> century sea-fight did the sloop Fan Fan achieve glory?
4. Who gave ‘The Dragon’s tail a damned good twist?
5. What was the first Ark Royal renamed in 1608?

Sea Quiz 60 answers....

Not that difficult this month but the little sloop caused some concern; so did ‘Was Holland ever regarded as the Batavian Republic’ in Britain?

1. She was the ‘Royal Catherine.’
2. “The Batavian Republic.”

3. The St. James' Day Fight 1666.
4. That was Captain Carpenter at Zeebrugge 1917.
5. She became Anne Royal.

### SEA QUIZ 61.

Here we are again...some debate over the answer to Question 3, you may agree - or disagree. Question number four might surprise you.

1. Name five RN ships named after English County towns.
2. What did USS San Jacinto 'hold up'?
3. What was the last three funnelled Cruiser in service?
4. How many Admirals flew their flag in HMS Victory during her active service?
5. In which year was the Royal Navy first supplied with Bully Beef in tins?

Best of Luck

Rob Morgan



<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/studiocapitan/post-captain-10mm-tactical-naval-rules-plus-ships>

Tactical Naval Wargames rules plus 10mm ships & Crews

Created by

Studio Capitan Ltd

<http://shop.capitangames.com/index.php>

Two websites NWS Members may find of interest.



[http://www.wargamevault.com/product/209214/Sails--Powder-Trafalgar-1805--FREE-sea-surface-game-mat?src=latest\\_rule\\_sets](http://www.wargamevault.com/product/209214/Sails--Powder-Trafalgar-1805--FREE-sea-surface-game-mat?src=latest_rule_sets)

If you are aware of websites that may be of interest to NWS Members, they can be included in future AGBs.

The new Osprey Catalogue for July to December has arrived, and there are a few gems in it as far as we naval enthusiasts are concerned.....

Three good New Vanguard WWII titles, first on Imperial Japanese Anti-sub escorts ( still so few Japanese light units around in 1/600th or 1/300th sadly, and the Hasegawa 1/700th stuff's gone through the roof in terms of price.); another on US Escort Carriers, and a third on British Wartime built classes of Destroyer.

There are a couple of interesting 'pocket manuals' at under ten pounds. One on HMS Belfast, and the second on the 1812 USS Constitution. While another caught my eye....'Mapping Naval Warfare', described as a visual history of conflict at sea, by Jeremy Black at £30.00 hardback, but only 192 pages and so it may turn out to be, well, 'selective'.

By the way, given the fact that the series grows so frequently, in naval terms, it's always surprised me how few titles are actually reviewed in the Society's organs. Don't NWS members buy 'Ospreys'???

Rob Morgan.  
April 2017

<http://faraftandfaintly.com/> website of interest from NWS Member Ken Ball.

# Battle of Midway 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Refight

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017



The Tudor Arms Pub  
Slimbridge  
Gloucestershire GL2

7BP

0900 hrs – 1800hrs (or later)

The game is free to enter but is a fundraiser for the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity service charities so there is a £5 “recommended donation” The pub is making the skittle alley available for the day (our local wargames club meets there weekly and runs various weekend events so we have good relations with the pub management)

The food at the pub is good and reasonably priced, so we are encouraging players to purchase from the pub rather than bringing their own. There is also a good range of beers. They are quite keen to know numbers so that they know whether they need to bring in a few extra staff for the kitchen, so if you could let me, David Manley, know if you are planning to attend please let me know a.s.a.p. The pub does B&B so handy for those travelling and there is also an attached caravan park, rooms and pitches available for those who want to stay over the night before or on the night of the game – contact the pub direct for details.

Commanders Briefing at 0900 and first moves as soon as possible after that, with play until 1800 or later (that said there are no other bookings so we could even go on until closing time).

Email David to confirm your attendance. [davidmanley1966@btinternet.com](mailto:davidmanley1966@btinternet.com)

‘All Guns Blazing’...One for the ‘Letters Page’.

Well, I was thinking about some work for another journal earlier and wandering along the shelves I came upon this. It’s an ancient model of a WWI Cruiser, HMS Good Hope. (See below) Made back in the early seventies by ‘Trafalgar’ which had



a small but useful range of models in 1/1200<sup>th</sup> scale and cost only a matter of about fifty pence if I recall! Mick Yarrow has the moulds these days, and sells most of the range. Good value too.

Back then, although this casting has no super detailing or delicate 'bits' this is what we used to wargame with, and found them perfectly acceptable. I think either Mercator or STAR, someone like that made a similar cruiser at the time for about fifteen quid, so no contest. Anyway, it crossed my mind that among the now vast and daily growing, list of members of this auspicious society, there will be many who actually own model warships in recognisable scales, like this one, and with which they fight table-top wargames.

Why doesn't anyone, everyone, photograph their wargames or their models and send them in to the newsletter? It might be interesting to actually know what people are doing? One of the veteran members sent me some photocopies of old issues of 'Battlefleet' a long while back, and in most of them appeared the words, illustrations, cartoons and 'wants' and even photos from time to time, of at least eight or ten members in each issue, sometimes more and, well, the Society seemed very active.

What's stopping people now?

I'd like to encounter some photos and comments from anyone who wargames with medieval cogs and galleys, someone must have taken it up after the excellent articles and rules which appeared in 'Battlefleet' a couple of years back. Or who's managed to build a fleet of river monitors like the ones the Austrians had in WWI. Or who converted a fleet of remarkable one offs like the Brazilians had in the 18760's and 70's. I wonder if anyone has actually managed to make a wargame out of those big Airfix sailing ship models, like the 'Golden Hind' and 'Revenge'?

Maybe we should have a letters page? Or one like the Ordnance Society just for holiday snaps!

Rob Morgan





HMS Audacious prepares for launch in Barrow. The fourth Astute class submarine entered the water for the first time last Friday. Copyright BAE Systems

## USS Indiana (SSN 789) is christened.

April 29 at 11 a.m. EDT at Huntington Ingalls Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. [Vice President Mike Pence](#), who previously served as the 50th governor of Indiana, delivered the ceremony's principal address.

SSN-789 is the 16th [Virginia-class fast attack submarine](#) and the sixth Virginia-class Block III submarine. The submarine, which began construction in 2012, will be the third U.S. Navy ship to be christened with the name Indiana. The first Indiana (BB 1), the lead ship of her class of battleship, served in the North Atlantic and later participated in the blockade of Santiago de Cuba during the Spanish-American War. The second Indiana (BB 58) was a South Dakota-class battleship that earned nine battle stars for her service in the Pacific Theatre in World War II. BB-58 fought in the Battle of the Philippine Sea and participated in the invasions of Tarawa, Kwajalein and Okinawa, and bombarded Saipan, the Palau Islands, the Philippines and Iwo Jima. This next-generation attack submarine provides the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea superiority well into the 21st century.

### Sea-Fights in May.

This month is an interesting one as far as naval wargamers are concerned, since there are a dozen anniversaries of major encounters in just thirty one days. The First of course, sees the Battle of Bantry Bay 1689, in which Torrington managed to escape with the weaker Williamite fleet from a far better handled French force. I've never seen this gamed, but with only twenty three or twenty four ships a side it could be easily played out. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Anson in 1747 trounced a French squadron and convoy off Finisterre, taking six escorts, and capturing six merchants, enormous prize money!

On the tenth, in 1918, the Blockship operation at Ostend. While on the 15<sup>th</sup> Rodney, 28 sail, and the French Admiral de Guichen, 23, fought and failed to obtain a result off Martinique. A few days later, the 19<sup>th</sup> sees two encounters, first in 1652 when Blake with 21 ships fell in with Tromp's Dutch fleet of over 40! The same day, forty years later, Russel commanding an Anglo-Dutch fleet of almost a hundred defeated the far smaller French fleet of 44 sail in the Battle of Barfleur.

The 27<sup>th</sup> May is of course the Bismarck's final battle in 1941.

Another of those vast, complicated seventeenth century battles is remembered on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, Solebay in 1672, the Third Dutch War. The Duke of York with 90 ships taking on the Dutch under de Ruyter with 75. A year later another encounter with de Ruyter 79 Anglo-French ships to 52, saw Prince Rupert lose decisively.

The last day of this month of course sees Jutland, probably the most fought action in wargames terms in the entire history of the Naval Wargames Society. I haven't mentioned the other anniversaries with serious naval implications, Dunkirk, the Falklands events, the taking of the Taku forts in 1858, or Byng's fateful fight with the French off Menorca in 1756. Or the attack on the Otranto Barrage in 1917.

A busy month, May!

Rob Morgan.

**MAY 3** 1864 - During the Civil War, the side-wheel steamship USS Keystone State and the iron screw steamship USS Massachusetts captured the British blockade-runner Caledonia south of Cape Fear, N.C.

## **SIGNAL PAD!**

May 27<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup> Comsim World Expo. Tempe, Arizona.

Welcome to new Member, Christopher Lambert.

Coming in June's AGB: Sails of Glory – postponed from May's AGB. Cannon, Cross and Crescent, a new set of rules reviewed.

### **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, 2017**

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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