



# All Guns Blazing!

## Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

### No. 287 – SEPTEMBER 2018

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Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August was International Naval War-Gaming Day, celebrating the birth of Fred Jane, father of naval wargaming. Last year games were played all around the world (the first started in Australia at just after midnight), ancient to ultra-modern, solo players to big groups. I hope this year was as good or better but as yet I have not seen anything to support it.

Rob Morgan regularly brings to my attention articles in newspapers with naval links. Like the €1bn Spanish submarine that is too long for the dock at Cartagena resulting in additional expenditure for dock works and infrastructure. Another article was about the Australian invitation to China to join in the biennial Kakadu exercises and wargames. See also the book review about the “Indianapolis” which will be in next month’s AGB.

WW2 shipwrecks are being plundered for scrap metal in Indonesia and Malaysian waters. The ten ships consist of HMS Prince of Wales, SS Loch Ranza, HMS Tien Kwang, HMS Banka, HMS Repulse, HMS Encounter, HMS Electra, HMS Exeter and HMS Thanet. The UK government absolutely condemns the unauthorised disturbance of any wreck containing human remains, and always has done. A military wreck should remain undisturbed and those who lost their lives on board should be allowed to rest in peace. The UK will work closely with the Indonesian and Malaysian Governments and local authorities to investigate.

Somewhere in the world, the sun is over the yardarm.

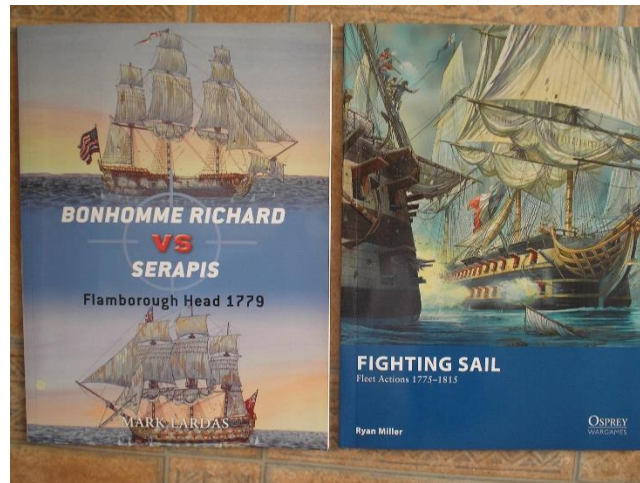
Norman Bell

#### [EAST CHINA SEA \(Aug 2018\)](#)



A Mark 45 5-inch gun weapon system fires ordinance during a live-fire weapon training exercise aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Antietam (CG 54). Antietam is forward-deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations in support of

security and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class William McCann (Released) 180821-N-HE318-1064



On September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1779 Captain Pearson placed his ship across the bows of the enemy. “Has your ship struck?” he confidently called to his opponent. His opposite number, a short man with a pugnacious temper, immediately replied, “I have not yet begun to fight.” Osprey Publishing have done it again with Bonhomme Richard vs HMS SERAPIS in their Duel Series. First published in 2012, it is educational and entertaining at the same time – find out about how the limitations of wood dictated the design of ships. And just how do you decide how far from the bow (or stern) do you position your masts? With chapters on the strategic situation, the combatants, the actual combat and the aftermath, quite simply I cannot recommend this book highly enough.

ISBN 978-1-84908-785-8  
[www.ospreypublishing.com](http://www.ospreypublishing.com)

Fighting Sail is Osprey’s rules for gaming 1775 to 1815. Glossy pages, many high quality photographs. The author, Ryan Miller is obviously a fan of GHQ Models judging by the subject of the photographs. Scenarios are provided and re-playability almost infinite by changing nationalities or choosing pirates and privateers. Will your captain be a swashbuckler or authoritarian? Of course you can always exercise your imagination and come up with your own scenarios.

ISBN 978-1-4728-0770-0

Norman Bell

SEA QUIZ....74.

I must admit that question 3 intrigued me, the general area seemed apparent, but...hm? Number 2 was a typical tongue-in-cheek question intended and succeeding in bringing a response from readers; fortunately, no-one seemed to be able to recall (early in 1953), any relevant anecdotes from 1854!

1. What Medal was first issued in 1847?
2. What eventually straightened last year?
3. Which branch of the Royal Navy was established in January 1920?
4. Which fleet was captured by camel troops in 1918?
5. What first sailed in 1854?

Rob Morgan

USS John C Stennis.  
John C. Stennis, currently homeported in Bremerton, Washington, will change homeports to Norfolk in advance of its midlife refuelling, or reactor complex overhaul (RCOH) at Newport News Shipbuilding. John C. Stennis was commissioned in 1995; Nimitz-class carriers are built to last 50 years.



Surely only the Americans could come up with “Pukin’ Dogs” as a Squadron nick name.

An F/A-18E Super Hornet from the Pukin' Dogs of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 143

prepares to make an arrested landing on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Jeff Sherman (Released) 180810-N-FQ836-2188

Type 45 destroyer HMS Diamond shadowed two Russian warships as they passed through the English Channel



*HMS Diamond escorting Russian ships Severomorsk and Marshal Ustinov through the English Channel*

Picture crown copyright

The Udaloy-class destroyer Severomorsk and Slava-class cruiser Marshal Ustinov have finished taking part in the Russian Navy Days event in the Baltic port of St Petersburg and are deploying out of the area. As the ships entered the busy shipping lanes between the county of Norfolk and continental Europe, Diamond manoeuvred into formation alongside. The ships were then escorted towards the Straits of Dover. HMS Diamond continued to monitor the ships, remaining with them as they transited past Dover and along the south coast of England.



**HMS QUEEN ELIZABETH** leaves HM Naval Base Portsmouth for RAS trials in the Atlantic and soon to receive for the first time F35B Lightning aircraft. Eight years since a British aircraft carrier last flew a fast jet from her decks, the 65,000-tonne carrier will embark two F-35B test aircraft, from the Integrated Test Force (ITF), based out of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, which are expected to conduct 500 take offs and landings during their 11-week period at sea.

One of Russia's newest warships was monitored sailing through the English Channel by the crew of Portsmouth-based minehunter HMS HURWORTH.

The Admiral Makarov, a 4,000-tonne Admiral Grigorovich-class frigate joined the Russian Fleet at the end of last year. HMS HURWORTH and a Wildcat HMA2 helicopter from 815 Naval Air Squadron based at Yeovilton were both sent out to monitor the movements of the Makarov. They are the latest Royal Navy assets to be activated over the summer to monitor the activity of Russian surface ships sailing in or close to the UK's sphere of interest. Patrol ship HMS MERSEY, destroyer HMS DIAMOND and frigate MONTROSE have all been dispatched to observe Russian vessels passing the UK in the past two months.

### Sea Quiz 74....answers.

Away we go,

1. It was the Naval General Service Medal, awarded on a vast scale for actions as far back as Bonaparte's wars, not for individual gallantry.
2. The 'stripes' of the RNR and RNVR! 1952 was the year.
3. It was the Dentists.
4. The Turkish-German Dead Sea Flotilla. Before anyone asks, camels can, apparently, swim.
5. A Royal Navy fleet entirely under steam power, commanded by Napier.

The possibility of a wargame based around the camel action somehow appeals to me.

Rob Morgan.

### **SIGNAL PAD!**

The third annual Los Angeles Fleet Week (LAFW) began as ships arrived at the Port of Los Angeles World Cruise Terminal followed by the event's opening ceremony Aug. 28. Fleet Week is a tradition in several cities across the U.S. that helps to raise public awareness of the role that sea services play in national prosperity and security as well as an opportunity to engage with local communities. This year's LAFW, will include more than 800 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen as well as Sailors from the Royal Canadian Navy. The service members will be arriving on the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey (DDG 105), the Avenger-class mine



countermeasures ship USS Scout (MCM 8), the Independence variant littoral combat ship, USS Manchester (LCS 14), the Coast Guard cutter, Alert (WMEC 630) and the Royal Canadian Navy Halifax-class frigate HMCS Ottawa (FFH 341). The event is free to the public and offers a chance to learn more about Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and what they do. Opportunities include public ship tours, military displays and equipment demonstrations, a kids' STEM Expo, aircraft flyovers, live entertainment, the 10th Annual Conquer the Bridge Race over the iconic Vincent Thomas Bridge, and the Galley Wars culinary competition between military branches. Another feature of Fleet Week this year is the Jack Ryan premiere, a red-carpet event that will be held on the Battleship Iowa. The event is free to the public and offers a chance to learn more about Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen and what they do. Opportunities include public ship tours, military displays and equipment demonstrations, a kids' STEM Expo, aircraft flyovers, live entertainment, the 10th Annual Conquer the Bridge Race over the iconic Vincent Thomas Bridge, and the Galley Wars culinary competition between military branches. Another feature of Fleet Week this year is the Jack Ryan premiere, a red-carpet event that will be held on the Battleship Iowa.

For more news on Los Angeles Fleet Week, visit <https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/LosAngelesFleetWeek2018>.

**Portsmouth Naval Base welcomed international ships at the end of August.**

The first ship, the ITS Amerigo Vespucci, a tall ship launched in 1931, is the oldest ship in service in the Italian Navy. Shortly after two Japanese warships arrived, the JS Kashima and JS Makinami. The Japanese ships are currently sailing around Europe.

NWS will be running a game at Colours this year which is on Saturday 15th September at Newbury Race Course. It will be the last outing for the Zeebrugge Raid game. There is still one slot left if anyone wants to help run the game, any takers should contact me directly.

Simon Stokes [simonjohnstokes@aol.com](mailto:simonjohnstokes@aol.com)

Well done to David Manley for "Cod Wars" and bang up-to date "Scallop Wars", right out of today's newspapers (in the UK and France) both available on "Wargame Vault".

Coming next month:

"Indianapolis", modelling the "Marder", a Spanish War Memorial, Osprey Elite 213 The Barbary Pirates and let's talk about the weather,

## 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)

## NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2018

### **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/>

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)

### **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

**Uruguay, SCOW: Southern Cone Orientales Wargamers** • Games erupt, inquire to set one off: Bill Owen US telephone is [217-619-0202](tel:217-619-0202), Uruguay 099 834 544 [WmOwen@aol.com](mailto:WmOwen@aol.com) • If Spanish speaking, email & I will get someone who speaks it better. • Soca, Canelones or in Montevideo we can arrange a "Graf Spee 3 Gun Salvo": see her 5.9" gun, anchor & rangefinder salvaged from the ship resting in the harbor, a Real English Tour conducted by British expat staff who were associated with the British Ambassador who won the post-battle diplomacy and subterfuge plus, of course, a GQ3 refight of the battle (fees for features like museum & tour). • Most of the Salvo can even be done during a cruise ship stop in MVD from a Round Cape Horn itinerary between Santiago<->Buenos Aires.

- [wargamecampaign.wordpress.com](http://wargamecampaign.wordpress.com)

THE NAVAL WARGAMES SOCIETY <http://www.navalwargamessociety.org>  
(Victorian Division "Cerberus") Email: [nws.victoria.au@gmail.com](mailto:nws.victoria.au@gmail.com) Membership by \$7/year e-Subscription to NWS BATTLEFLEET magazine.