



All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 315 – JANUARY 2021

EDITORIAL

The start of another year! Let us hope that it is not as interesting as 2020 but I'm not holding my breath. (I can't at the minute). Lock downs with various tiers of restrictions, curfews, appear to be with us for a while yet.

May your anchor be tight,
Your cork be loose,
Your rum be spiced
And your compass be true.

The above was seen printed on a t-shirt.

Keep safe and if you have a single household neighbour make sure that they are OK.

Norman Bell

The Royal Navy has run a Fisheries Protection Squadron for years, boarding trawlers and checking that the nets have the correct size holes and that fish quotas are not exceeded. At the time of writing, the four Royal Navy Offshore Patrol Ships will not be needed from 1st January to help the UK protect its fishing waters as a no-deal Brexit, appears unlikely. Memories of the "cod wars" in the 1970s - David Manley will not need to produce a supplement for "Cod War". (Scallop War came out almost overnight).

https://www.wargamevault.com/product/249082/Cod-War?manufacturers_id=6867
https://www.wargamevault.com/product/251130/Scallop-War?manufacturers_id=6867

Norway has closed its waters to fishing vessels from the UK and the EU from 1st January. In the Pacific China has a large fishing fleet which travels as far as the Galapagos Islands. 300 vessels including refuelling and fish processing vessels. Columbia, Ecuador and Peru have used the phrase "raping" the Galapagos on an industrial scale.

The Times newspaper has a reputation for quality and accuracy. Eagle eyed Rob Morgan spotted an error in a recent article about the possible discovery by Polish divers of the wreck of the freighter *Karlsruhe* in the Baltic. The freighter may have the "Amber Room" in the hold. Unfortunately, the picture accompanying the article was of the Kriegsmarine 1929 light cruiser *Karlsruhe*, torpedoed by HM Submarine Truant in April 1940 during the Norway campaign.

Intelligence reports indicate that North Korea is working on a submarine capable of launching ballistic missiles. The *Pukguk-song-3* missile could have a range of 1,900Km / 1,200 miles, which would put Japan and South Korea (and China) in striking distance.

I know some NWS Members read Mariners Mirror Journal; Toby Ewin brought to my attention an article which will be in February's edition.

James W.E Smith, 'Wargaming, the Art and Theory of War and Sir Julian Corbett', in Mariners Mirror Journal (forthcoming February 2021), <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rmir20>

"James details research efforts that update the narrative, particularly the founding of naval wargaming and its development. Using new evidence and sources he argues that naval wargaming needs to be viewed with more significant importance to the development of the theory, art and science of war, rejecting land-based dominance of the field and that 'land' was solely or as responsible as currently believed to the roots of modern wargaming."

The Times on 26th October included an article on the mutiny on HMS Hermione and Angus Konstam's book. Readers of AGB would have read all about it at the beginning of the month. AGB is ahead of the Times.

The New Year Sea Quiz...No 101....

Well, let's hope for this year shall we? Anyway, a bit of a rag-bag of quiz questions this month. Odd ones left over from sets I've used before, and to answer a question I have been asked from time to time, the Sea Quiz would usually be around twelve questions. Some quizzes were larger, twenty or so, and from time to time a big forty question quiz would crop up, usually by "Sea Mew".

1. Which British Cruiser was sold to Nationalist China in 1948?
2. What establishment, for Petty Officer training was commissioned in 1947 at Corsham?
3. Who or What was 'Old Dreadnought'?
4. How were *HMS Agincourt's* seven main turrets identified?
5. Name the first enemy cruiser to be sunk by British dive bombers?

As you might imagine, question two brought one or two comments about shore establishments post-war, I didn't have a clue about number 5, but I did manage to get the campaign right!

Happy, or should I suggest Happier, New Year...

Rob Morgan.

John Collison writes:

I recently came across a reference to an old US TV series that I had never heard of - The Silent Service. So, I looked it up on the internet and found it on youtube. There were two series, filmed around 1957-8, each of 39 episodes. Of these, series one appears complete and series two has about 3 episodes missing. There may be more missing as I'm sure at least two episodes cropped up a second time under a different title. Each one lasts about 25 minutes, the commercials have been removed but not the boards stating - 'insert commercial break', quaint! Each episode is introduced by the same retired Admiral and he does the commentary, as well as introducing a special guest at the end of most of the episodes. Each episode is a re-enactment of a real event that occurred, mainly in the Pacific against the Japanese. We see the same depth charge roll off the end of an unknown ship at least once every episode!!, sometimes they reverse the film to give the appearance of a different ship! Four things stand out for me - first, why is it necessary to know the full name of every member of the crew who is highlighted in the particular episode and where he comes from. Does it really matter if he comes from a big city in California or a small town in Iowa, I think not - are we that interested? - no. The second thing is - these series were filmed around 12 years after WW2 ended. At the end of most of the episodes there is a 'special guest', usually the Captain or First Lieutenant of the actual sub featured. Well, most of the actors playing the roles look around 26 - 35, but the majority of the guests look like they are nearer 60 or more. Most of the guests are unbelievably 'wooden', they might have faced great danger in the war but in front of the camera they seem traumatized. Third - even though the technical advisors to the series include naval officers, including the Admiral, they tend to leave the periscope up for far too long. I seem to recall reading somewhere that 7 seconds was the max, but here they are quite liberal with their use of the scope even when they are in the midst of a convoy. Fourth - it was fun for me spotting the 'familiar' faces that cropped up throughout the series. As someone who grew up in the late fifties and sixties watching TV that had only two channels, (plus half a channel when BBC2 came along around 1965) we were fed a diet of mainly US shows and films and quite a few in the series featured in the programmes I knew as a kid.

After watching all the episodes, I could clearly see where author Craig DiLouie got most of his Lt Charlie Harrison ideas from. (See December's AGB). I can recommend the books as an enjoyable read and the TV series was watchable because I didn't know an awful lot about the US sub war against the Japanese naval and mercantile fleets other than the fact that they sank most of them!

[FFS Campaign Pack 1 - Genoa 1941 - Long Face Games | Wargame Vault](#)

"Genoa 1941" is a free download the first in an occasional series of operational campaign and scenario packs for "Find, Fix and Strike".

The USA and the UK are experimenting with drones. Royal Marines on exercise in Cyprus were resupplied by drone and the Ohio class USS Henry M Jackson was visited by drone mid Pacific recently. Early stages of things to come. The USN is selling US\$600 million worth of MQ-9B Sea Guardian drones to Taiwan. Rob Morgan asks if modern warfare rule writers are including drones in their rule sets.

Sea Quiz. 101...answers.

1. This was *HMS Aurora* of the 'Arethusa' Class. Under Nationalist colours she was named *Chung King*.
2. This was Royal Arthur, and it apparently moved and had varied training responsibilities during and after the war.
3. Easy, you all got this. Admiral Edward Boscawen 1711-1761.
4. They were named after the days of the week.
5. It was the Kriegsmarine's *Konigsberg*, off Bergen, in 1940. She was sunk by FAA Skuas.

I don't ever recall encountering a Nationalist Chinese fleet of the Civil War period in model form, but it would certainly be straightforward enough to build. Anyone know of one?

Rob Morgan

SIGNAL PAD!

Rob Morgan brought to my attention an article in the Times newspaper by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Boyce about the appeal to raise £300,000 for the Submariner Memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum. Approximately 5,500 RN Submariners have died defending the UK and freedom in the last 119 years.

Coming in February's AGB: Cape Esperance by John Collison, a book review from Andy Field and lots more.

The pbem game of First Battle of Narvik will be starting soon. If you require a repeat of the joining instructions there is time to sign up as a Destroyer Captain.

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.

Membership secretary: simonjohnstokes@aol.com

NWS Events and Regional Contacts, 2021

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 - 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

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 • 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

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

NWS Scapa Flow – Orkney

Lindsay Bailey (Chair, Orkney Wargames Club) E-mail: OrkneyTGC@gmx.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/248206695192960/>

Also see www.orkneywargames.com

Orkney Wargames Club meets each Thursday evening from 6pm and caters for all kinds of wargames. Naval games are popular, with at least one game run each month. We also host an annual wargaming event, **Northern Invasion**, involving other clubs from the North of Scotland.

- Popular periods: The Age of Fighting Sail, Pre-Dreadnought, WW1, WW2 and WW2 Coastal.