

All Guns Blazing!

Newsletter of the Naval Wargames Society

No. 327 – JANUARY 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!

EDITORIAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Fingers crossed that the World can get back to something like normal in 2022. What a year 2021 was – and for all the wrong reasons. This time last year I was struck down with the dreaded virus. 3 jobs later we are waiting to see how bad the latest variant will be and the UK TV news mentions that preparations are being made to open “Nightingale” hospitals.

Australia are enjoying the victor’s laurels in The 2021/2022 Ashes. The segway I’m looking for is a link to the crew of HMS Queen Elizabeth playing cricket while on a break on the island of Guam. The Guam Cricket Club have been unable to play a game for over two years and had difficulty finding a cricket ball. Crew from the QE took part in numerous activities during a two week ship maintenance period; football, judo, golf, kayaking, paddle-boarding and mountain biking. It’s not all hard work in the Navy. The crew of USS Emory provided friendly opposition where necessary. The UK’s Carrier Strike Group 21 returned to the UK in time for Christmas after a seven month cruise to the Pacific.

Welcome to new Member Darren Hubbard. But the sad news is that one of our Members has passed away. Thane Duffield died shortly before Christmas.

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

Norman Bell

The “We have ways of making you talk” podcast has gone through the 400 episodes barrier. Episode 398 is “The Atlantic War” and I recommend the podcast to anyone interested in the Second World War. James Holland and Al Murray have an easy going presentation style, discussing various aspects of the war; sometimes with broad strokes and sometimes zeroing in, in more detail. Sometimes they have an expert guest or talk with someone “who was there”. Past episodes are available and it is free unless you sign up for the whistles and bells.

The F35 lost on take-off from HMS Queen Elizabeth last November when the ship was in the Mediterranean, has been recovered in a joint effort by the UK, the USA and Italy. Sensitive aircraft systems and technology have thereby been prevented from being salvaged at some future time by Russia.



Langton Miniatures has a large range of 1/1200 scale models.

SEA QUIZ 112.

Happy New Year everyone. A mixed bag of questions this time, as I've been pottering through the quizzes looking at the odd bits I've left out over the years! Question 4 is from 'Octopus' and gets you 8 points, by the way.

On we go.....

1. Which German raider laid the mines which sank *HMS King Edward VII* in 1916?
2. Name the First Sea Lord who won the VC in a battle (ashore!) with the Dervishes in 1884.
3. Only one award of the George Cross was not gazetted at the time. Which?
4. What did the Navy acquire from the Royal Engineers in 1905, and what did it become?
5. The first landing of what type of aircraft took place aboard *HMS Furious* in 1935?

I must say, over the years, assembling these quiz questions, I've come to admire the burrowing skills of the original compilers, no stone unturned.

Rob Morgan.

Does anyone in the club want the magazines of the International Naval Records Organisation (Warship International)? I have a nearly complete collection from mid 1970s to mid 2000's

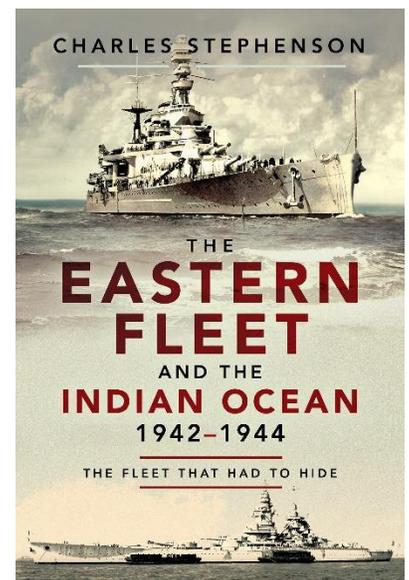
Free to anyone who can collect them from Eastleigh near Southampton.

I am also getting rid of my collection of 1:1200 scale models, some Narvis/Neptune which I would like some recompense for, others made from kits or scratch built which are free to anyone who can collect them. Also some unbuilt kits of County and Tribals and some wooden ships in the same scale.

I am also getting rid of my extensive collection of 1:3000 scale models, mostly Japanese and American with some British and German running from circa 1900 to 1945. They are currently in a wooden typeface cabinet about 3 to 4' tall. I haven't counted the trays but there are approximately 24 of them - 1 tray missing, currently residing with Bob Kirk along with some of my Japanese ships. Again free to anyone who can collect them.

Clive Essery
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If you have any money for the January sales, you may wish to consider this book. 336 pages published by Pen and Sword Maritime.



On 1 June 1813, Captain John Lawrence, mortally wounded, issued his final command from the deck of the U.S.S. Chesapeake:

“Don’t Give Up The Ship!”

“Captain’s Sea” from Legion Games, is a low-to-moderate complexity game for two players who take the roles as captains of the original American frigates (Chesapeake, Congress, Constellation,

Constitution, President, and United States) or their opponents from the British or French navies during the turn of the 19th Century. Included with the game are ten scenarios, including such classic engagements as the Constellation vs. L'Insurgente (9 February 1799), Constitution vs. Guerrier (19 August 1812), and Chesapeake vs. Shannon (1 June 1813). Even those ships that did not fight a major engagement get the opportunity to play out a historical opportunity missed. Additionally, players will find it easy to create hypothetical pairings to see what might happen.

I visited the Chesapeake Mill, Wickham, Hampshire, England, last November. The flour mill was constructed in 1820 using the timbers of HMS *Chesapeake*, which had previously been the United States Navy Frigate USS Chesapeake which had been captured by the Royal Navy. The Mill is now an antique emporium and I resisted the temptation to spend any money. If I had remembered to take my camera, I wouldn't have had to use this photo from the web.



This photograph of the Grade II Listed Building is by Richard Thomas, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6636389>

I was recently given a copy of "*Clash of the Capital Ships; From the Yorkshire Raid to Jutland*" (Naval Institute Press 2021) by Eric Dorn Brose as a gift. Unfortunately it appears to have been 'the runt of the print run', as many of the pages look smudged, as if they're printed on a spirit duplicator, and some of the illustrations are feint. I think that it's readable, but just looks poor.

I did contact the publishers and received a replacement copy, but they didn't want the poor copy back, in case it made its way back into the marketplace. So I am offering it up, free, to anyone who wants to take it.

Please contact me on andy1805@echointernet.net. First person to contact gets it.

Many thanks
Andy Field

SEA QUIZ 112.....Answers.

Well, I have to admit that, cold, I got just one answer right. Still this is an educational quiz, and whatever 'Octopus' awarded in pints, no-one ever got a prize!

1. This was the *Mowe*, off Pentland Firth on New Year's Day 1916. A remarkably successful raider, sinking 15 ships on her first voyage and 25 on a second. She survived into WWII as a merchant vessel.

2. Admiral of the Fleet Sir Arthur Wilson, in the Sudan. He was merely Captain of *HMS Hecla* at the time, and went along as an observer. Only to find himself in the face of a collapsing square, and rallying its defence!
3. It is of course Malta, 1942. You ‘gazette’ personnel and Malta is an island.
4. Yes, it was Fort Blockhouse, which became *HMS Dolphin*, still in active use. There were plenty of short notes on experiences at the base published. One from an officer who sailed from her as part of a beach recce unit almost a week before D-Day, and spent the time sitting on the bottom of the Channel, waiting.
5. It was an Autogyro, flown by an RAF pilot. The landing was successful, but I wondered why the experiment wasn’t continued? Or was it?

More next time.....

Rob Morgan.

SIGNAL PAD!

Well done to Simon Stokes and the contributors to the last edition of “Battlefleet”.

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 Regional Contacts, 2022

NWS Northern Fleet – Falkirk East Central Scotland

Kenny Thomson, 12 Craigs Way, Rumford Grange, Rumford, Stirlingshire, FK2 0EU

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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.