

LIVERPOOL ECHO

Tactical School Teaches Navy How To Be Sunk By U-Boats

BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

“NOT GOING TOO WELL”

SIX MERCHANT SHIPS LOST TO WOLF PACK ATTACK

Tragic scenes at sea today when Convoy ONS-506 came under sustained attack by Wolf Pack Finch in the life-and-death struggle that is the ~~Battle of the Atlantic~~ Professional Wargaming.

The moon was treacherously bright, assisting nefarious U-Boat aces Brynen, Mouat and Ward in their villainous enterprise.

Mouat made the first attack, sinking a merchant ship before Cdr Feeny's Escort Group knew what was upon them! A desperate struggle for life-and-death ensued as Feeny's destroyer hunted down the wily Mouat, forcing him deep. Depth charges



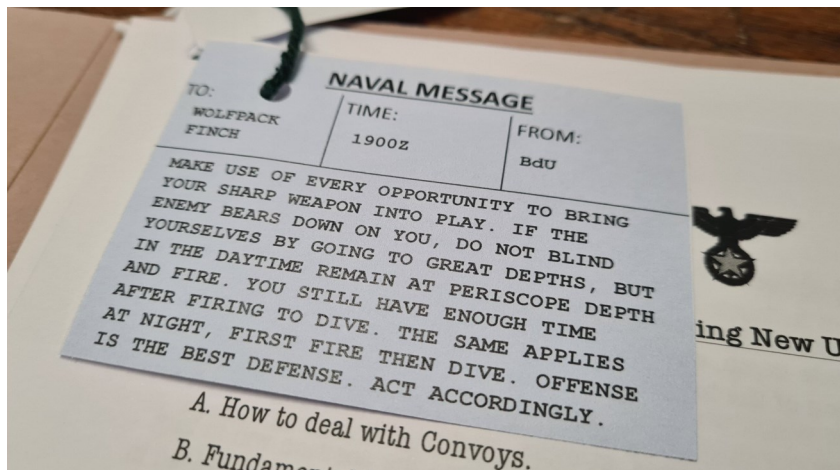
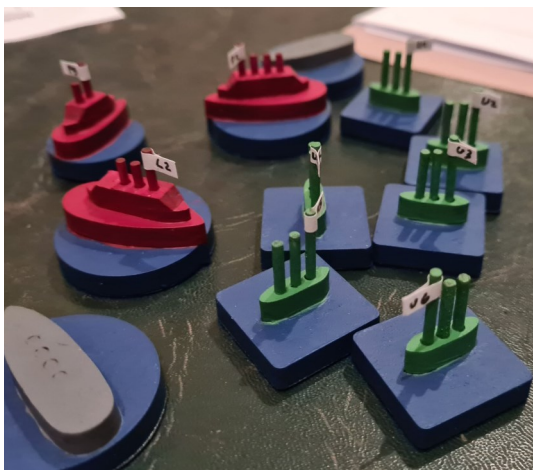
OH THE HUMANITY

rained down upon the dastardly U-Boat, but evasive manoeuvres kept her alive to fight another day, more's the pity!

Meanwhile Brynen took full advantage of the situation to creep in on the starboard bow of the convoy and launched a series of devastating pattern-running torpedo attacks. The first snaked in front and behind Feeny's destroyer before sinking a merchant ship! The second snaked in front

and behind Feeny's destroyer before sinking a merchant ship!! The third snaked in front and behind Feeny's destroyer before sinking a merchant ship!!! However, Enigma decrypts show the Germans failed to recognize the third kill, too busy congratulating themselves over the success of a third U-Boat at the rear of the convoy, so we certainly aren't going to credit this one to them if they don't! :-P

Meanwhile, to the rear of the convoy, Ward's U-Boat came to a rather sticky end, Squid, Hedgehog and Depth Charges raining down, rammed as she came to the surface, and engaged in a desperate gun battle by the heroic Sloop L1, assisted by the valiant corvette P3.



Game pieces lovingly recreated from the contemporary record: the ships are wooden replicas of an original game piece Cpt Roberts gifted to Leading Wren Helen Coop on demob. Players' briefing packs included the actual Atlantic Convoy Instructions (with original cartoon illustrations) and Enigma decrypts.

AFTER ACTION REVIEW

WE NEARLY SANK TOM!

Kit Barry points to the spot at which Tom Mouat's U-Boat found herself making an emergency surface slap bang in the middle of Sloop L1 (closest) and Corvette P3, at the rear of the convoy. One more turn would likely have seen him mercilessly dispatched. It's a shame the traditional WATU wargame Sinking Of Tom Mouat didn't happen *before* he sank half the convoy!

In fairness to the Escort players, the purpose of the WATU game, to quote CO

Cpt Roberts, is to "make you don't make them at your mistakes here, so that sea." We certainly did that!



DEFENCE ANALYSTS BLOW RASPBERRY AT U-BOATS

In a spirited defence of the convoy, Escort Group B7 managed to follow the Atlantic Convoy Instructions, correctly issuing orders by R/T: on a ship being torpedoed at night, make the codeword RASPBERRY.

There were definite signs of the escort ships turning outwards from the convoy, fir-

ing starshell, and sweeping back in, hoping to catch a U-Boat on the surface or with Asdic.

Contact was gained ! U-boats were attacked. But not before those rotters had fired off a spread of torpedoes each, with devastating consequences for Britain's supply lines.



ADJUDICATION OF TORPEDO ATTACK IN TURN 3

DERBY HOUSE GAME PLAYED IN DERBY HOUSE



Authors and signatories of the Derby House Principles for diversity and inclusion in professional wargaming were delighted to play the WATU wargame in the very Derby House which the Principles are named after!

Players included wargaming royalty and new graduates; current and retired professional analysts; current and very-soon-to-be professors; hobby wargamers; civilians and armed forces personnel, many from the direct descendant organisations of WATU: Maritime Warfare Centre, HMS Collingwood, Dstl, and HMS Eaglet.

ABSOLUTE SCENES IN THE CONVOY

“Don't Worry, It Won't Be One For Much Longer!” Says Wallman, RNWR

That's the spirit! The Navy doesn't let a few dozen torpedo attacks get them down! They can be relied upon to keep up the plucky defence of a convoy even when there are more escorts afloat than

merchant ships. They'll show Jerry what for. Though apparently they struggle to show Rex, Tom and Josh what for, and this might be a more pressing problem for the safe and timely arrival of

the convoy. Serious questions will no doubt be asked in the coming days about the Senior Service Wargamers. Questions like: OMG that was so much fun, when can we do this again ?!