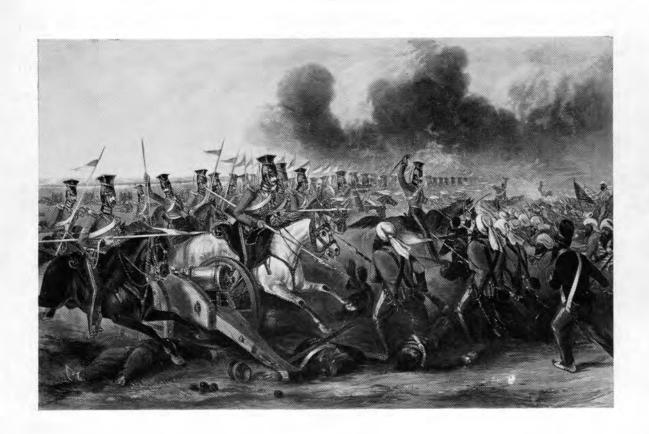
WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER



A MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR THOSE WHO FIGHT BATTLES WITH MODEL SOLDIERS

THE LITERATURE OF WARGAMING

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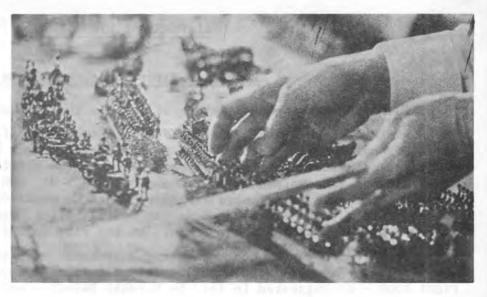
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WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER

No. 73 APRIL 1968

FDITORIAL



In this issue is an article by American Pat Condray dealing with the rules used for Wargames Championships. I must say that I completely agree with all that Pat says on this subject and, by implication, so do all the older and more experienced wargamers in this Country! Their absence from participation in these Conventions indicates that they are not attracted by battling under perhaps esoteric rules that conflict greatly with their own rules and ideas. It seems obvious that all Wargames Championships can never be what they are purporting to be because the combatants are usually the younger element and the lesser known members of the wargaming fraternity, so that the winner is in no way truly representative because the best men have not entered. It may be a reflection on human nature, but the more immersed one becomes in wargaming the less tolerant one is towards rules other than those of one's own devising.

On the subject of Conventions, I think it should be pointed out that the Airfix Trophy being publicised in connection with a forthcoming Convention, was originally given to the Wargamer's Newsletter by Mr. J.A.S. Gray of Airfix Products Limited, to be presented at the first Wargames Club Championship organised by this Newsletter at Southampton in October 1966. Subsequently, it was awarded at the London Wargames Convention last year and is being put up again this year by mutual arrangement between myself and the organisers of these Conventions.

In connection with my 1968 Editorial, I have been asked by the British Model Soldier Society to mention that their Wargames Section seceded from the Society because they wished to be governed by rules of their own making and this was not possible under the constitution of the B.M.S.S.

DON FEATHERSTONE



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Brigadier Peter Young, D.S.O., M.C.

There has been heavy fighting of late in the Sandhurst-Yateley area.

During the week-end 17th-18th February two teams of Officer cadets refought the battle of Borodino in the foyer of the Woolwich Hall at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. This exploit, sponsored by the Military History Department, was organised and umpired by D.G. Chandler, Esq., MA, FRHistS, with the able assistance of that experienced wargamer, Cadet Corporal Charles Stuart Grant. The latter alleges that he now has some ten years' sevice, having first defeated his honoured parent, Charles Grant senior, at the ripe age of nine.

At Borodino the French, operating a somewhat more enterprising plan than his late Imperial Majesty, Napoleon I, scored a decided victory. They carried out a right hook - as suggested in 1812 by Marshal Davout - and owing to a culpable lack of patrolling on the part of their opponents managed to appear in the Russian flank and rear with a column strong enough to make a break-out virtually impossible.

The Russian commanders, five in number, operated after the fashion of a Council of War. The French commander knew his own mind and stuck to his plan, which in the judgment of the present writer was not only more enterprising but sounder, tactically, than the frontal attack and consequent blood bath in which the French actually indulged.

Colonel Lawford has turned the searchlight of his law-giving mind to naval warfare. There are those who, unkindly, attribute this to his ill-success on land! Others believe that he was counting on his usual opponent knowing nothing of the sea service. But it was not for nothing that I have spent so many happy hours with Hornblower. What other man-of-war can parallel the record of the SALOME (Lawford's flagship), which was compelled to strike twice in one week and on the third occasion was left a mastless hulk with but one gun in action? I fancy you will be hearing more of our maritime activities, but to be truthful our rules are still at the experimental stage. One advantage of our naval game is that it is very much shorter than the average land battle, and it is not at all impossible to fight to a finish in a single evening.

The last action I have to record is the battle of Dettingen, fought on my 10×8 foot table this last week-end (24th-25th February). In this battle Lawford had the assistance of his son, Nigel, while I (as the French commander) was supported by Charles Stuart Grant and one John Mackenzie, who, like the younger Lawford, is an undergraduate at Southampton University.

De Noailles, the French commander of 1742, opined that he had King George II in a mouse-trap. Though he was disappointed in the outcome, the war game confirmed the soundness of his strategy. A spirited attack (right hook) on Dettingen was held by the French left, which gave the trap (the right wing under Grant) time to close. The end of the day found the Lawfords with their guns silenced and all but two of their units (one of horse and one of Light infantry) below half stength. Indeed, it is a long time since my old eyes have peered down upon an army in such disarray. A Te Deum was sung in the French camp by my pious tin followers, while decorations were handed out on an unusually lavish scale. In justice to a resolute opponent it must be said that at one time he was within measurable distance of slipping a battalion into Dettingen, and, no doubt, had he succeeded in doing so he would have claimed the victory. Despite the disparity of forces I think Dettingen can be recommended as a battle to reconstruct on the Wargame table, and, although this is not a commercial, I feel compelled to

remark in passing that details of the forces engaged and a map of the field are to be found in my "The British Army, 1642-1970" (a book which should be on every wargamer's shelf - if only to increase my royalties).

Next stop Mollwitz, which is to be fought next week-end (2nd-3rd March) at Dover. I have elected to command the Prussians, and since once more I am to have the assistance of my veteran colleague, the cadet corporal, I hope shortly to be able to send you a bulletin announcing a satisfactory result. But one cannot skin the rabbit before one has caught it

(Fired by the Brigadier's enthusiasm, an illustrated article dealing with the Battle of Dettingen will be in next month's Newsletter. Editor).

BACK ISSUES.

The following back numbers of WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER are available at 2s.6d. each (30c). Write for requirements but do NOT send cash - an invoice will be enclosed with the copies if they are still available.

From June 1966 to December 1966. All 1967.

There are NO January, February or March 1968 Newsletters remaining.

It is still possible to obtain a copy of WARGAMER'S ANNUAL - 1967 for 7s. (\$1) and there are a few remaining copies of the electronically stencilled "LITTLE WARS" by H.G.Wells at 21s. (\$3).

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K. G. WYNN

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Looking forward to hearing from you in 1968.

K.G.WYNN, 42 ESHER DRIVE, LITTLEHAMPTON, SUSSEX.



GENTLEMEN! HAVE A CARE!

I am indebted to Aram Bakshian Jr., for the following information concerning the last of the Pike-and-Musket Wars - Christian versus Turk (1680 - 1720).

The Pike-and-Musket period is steadily gaining ground among military enthusiasts; the Turkish campaigns of Austria and her allies in the late 17th and early 18th centuries fit well into a period which is a curious combination of many aspects of warfare usually separated by time and geography. Numerous native levies, drawn from all over the Ottoman Empire, were on the side of the Turks. They were usually armed in an almost medieval fashion with bows, spears, swords and bucklers. Egyptians, Babylonians, Transylvanians, Wallachians and Albanians were represented fighting as mounted and foot archers, heavily armoured cavalry, camel-borne artillery, spearmen and swordsmen.

The prominence of the pike as a major infantry weapon was already diminishing, but it was still a fairly common weapon among European foot soldiers and, along with other edged weapons, was a major part of Ottoman weaponry. The regular Turkish establishment were the Janissaries, crack infantry adept in the use of matchlock, grenade, dagger and scimitar; they were renowned for fanatical and repeated frontal attacks on regular European infantry. Their mounted counterparts were horsemen equipped with lances, swords, shields, bows and chainmail, known as Spahis.

Many factors weakened the Turkish army. They never moved without thousands of camp-followers; cabals and fueds between ranking commanders were common and led to problems of disunity and poor morale. Despite the training given by European renegade soldiers of fortune, the Turkish artillery never managed to equal that of the Christians. A few years later, the celebrated Bonneval Pasha, a French adventurer who served successively under Louis XIV, Prince Eugen and finally the Porte, would westernize some aspects of the Turkish war machine, but by then the Austrian "Drang Nach Osten" had already succeeded.

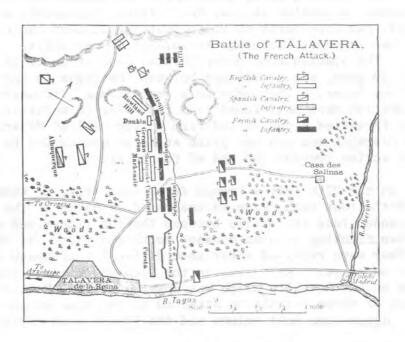
The Turks were opposed by the "Holy League" - a coalition of Christian states led by the Hapsburgs, sanctioned and fostered by the Pope. Louis of France who tacitly supported the Turks to weaken Austrian influence in the west, vainly protested against this Papal support. The league included Austria, the Venetian Republic, Poland and a number of lesser states such as Saxony and Bavaria.

The theatre of war spread from the heart of Eastern Europe to the Morea — where Venice freed much of Greece with the help of German mercenaries and Papal war galleys. Usually enjoying a superiority in numbers, the Turks had to rely on a small nucleus of Spahis and Janissaries to do most of the real fighting. In general their tactics were less sophisticated and their leaders unequal to opponents of the calibre of Jan Sobieski of Poland, the Duke of Lorraine and later Eugen of Savoy.

It is a fascinating period and one that offers great scope for mixing different types of troops and some really interesting and provocative rules.

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I am informed that the holder, Tony Bath, was rather decisively beaten at the Final of this year's Society of Ancients Wargames Championship. The new Champion - NEVILLE DICKINSON (of MINIATURE FIGURINES).





Incident in the 48th's famous action at Talayera. The fatally wounded Donellan hands over control: "Major Middlemore, you will have the honour of leading the 48th to the charge."

RE-FIGHTING THE PENINSULA WAR No. 5 - TALAVERA

27th/28th July, 1809.

Wellesley commanded about 20,000 men, consisting of about 16,000 infantry; 3,000 cavalry and about 30 guns. The French force under Joseph and Jourdan was formed of about 36,000 infantry, 7,000 cavalry and 80 guns.

The battlefield was on a level plain which was terminated abruptly by a ridge of high ground. A shallow stream, the Portina, (crossable at any point even by artillery), ran from north to south, cutting through the ridge and dividing it into two segments, forming two lozenge-shaped hills — the Medellin and the Cascajal. The Spanish army under Cuesta, consisting of 28,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry and 30 guns, was positioned between the Tagus in the south and a slight eminence, the Pajar. They were in a very strong, virtually impregnable position. The British were positioned from the Pajar to Medellin, their right flank in a partly fortified stone walled farm on the hill of Pajar. North of the Medellin and Cascajal was another plain at first unoccupied by either side but the scene of some action towards the end of the battle.

At 10 p.m. on the 27th July a French force consisting of three columns formed of three battalions each, made an unopposed crossing of the Portina. The centre force descended into the defile between the two ridges and ascended the Medellin. The two flanking columns crossed north and south and then converged on the Medellin. They were repulsed after some difficulty although the British force had been taken by surprise. At 5 a.m. on the 28th there was a heavy French artillery barrage on the Medellin which was answered by the British guns. Then three French columns ach of three battalions attacked in the same manner as on the previous night. Again line beat column and the French were repulsed.

At 1 p.m. on the 28th the French artillery between Pajar and the Cascajal opened fire and the French division advanced on Pajar through an area of groves and enclosures in three columns formed of 4,500 men. Simultaneously, the main French attack consisting of 15,000 men in two 12 battalion divisions crossed the open plain between Pajar and the Medellin. They were beaten back by weight of fire and dispersed, to be chased by the British Infantry, who were, in their turn, cut up by French battalions in the rear of the French position. This left a hole in the British line towards which 10,000 French infantry supported by cavalry and artillery moved optimistically. Wellesley moved four British battalions to close the gap and repulsed the French infantry who were, at the same time, charged in the flank by British cavalry.

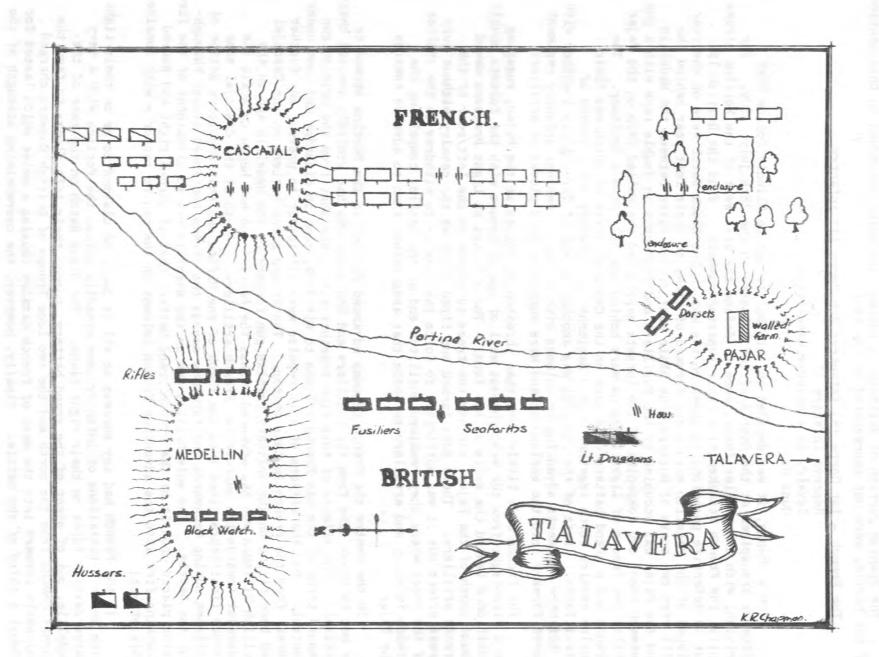
At 2 p.m. a further French attack consisting of three columns of infantry (9 battalions) advanced north of the Cascajal. They were attacked by the British cavalry who, as usual, got out of control, some being brought down by a hidden water course. The remainder of the cavalry were dispersed by French infantry formed in square, who were, in their turn, shelled heavily by British guns from the Medellin.

There was no more action on that day and by daylight on the following morning the French had gone.

RE-FIGHTING THE BATTLE OF TALAVERA AS A WARGAME

As no action took place in the actual battle in the area south of the Pajar down to the River Tagus, where the Spanish troops were almost impregnably positioned, it was decided to omit this area completely from the map and subsequent battle. The terrain, laid out on a $8' \times 4'$ table, was as shown on the map. The opposing forces were as follows:

The British - 1st; 2nd; 3rd; 4th Divisions. Total 164 infantry (including 12 riflemen). 29 cavalry and 3 guns.



The Spanish portion of Wellesley's forces not being concerned in this section of the battle, were not represented on the table.

The French - 1st Corps 183 infantry; 4th Corps 142 infantry.
Reserve infantry 51.
Cavalry 22 - Reserve cavalry 63.
Guns 8.

For a change, it was decided in this battle not to blindly follow what actually transpired at the Battle of the Talavera on the 28th July, 1809. British, with the smaller force, were to defend the area west of the Portina stream Thus the British laid whilst the French attacked with their superior numbers. The Black Watch were on the rear out in defensive positions as shown on the map. slopes of the Medellin with a gun forward of them; to their left rear behind the hill were two trays of Hussars, the plain west of the river between the Medellin and the Pajar was occupied by the Fusiliers and Seaforths in double rank with a gun between them; two companies of the Dorsets garrisoned the walled farm on the Pajar whilst two Troops of Light Dragoons were behind the hill with a Howitzer. French had a grand battery of 4 guns on the Cascajal north of which was their entire cavalry force together with 2 Regiments of infantry and a screen of Left of the Cascajal was another screen of Tirailleurs together with 4 infantry regiments advancing in columns with 2 guns. Another infantry regiment moved forward into the enclosures and were supported by 2 pieces of artillery.

The French made little more than threatening noises at the Pajar, engaging in a fire-fight from the western-most wall of the enclosure with the Dorsets snugly positioned behind the walls of the farm. The 2 Troops of Light Dragoons moved round south of the Pajar, through the trees to appear in the left/rear of the French artillery. These guns turned and fired grape at the cavalry without very great effect but it was sufficient to force the cavalry to withdraw to the shelter of the trees where they remained until the end of the battle, compelling the French infantry and artillery to watch that area rather than to advance towards the Pajar.

In the centre the French columns advanced forward to the Portina stream to be met by heavy fire from the Fusiliers and Seaforths who had stolidly awaited their arrival. The effects of this fire together with grape shot from the British gun caused three of the six French columns to withdraw, some in disorder and some under But the effects of this repulse were sufficient to prevent any further threat from the French in this sector. The French grand battery on the Cascajal had been firing on the solitary British gun forward on the Medellin and on the British Riflemen who had advanced across the Portina and had begun to scale the Cascajal towards the unprotected French artillery. South of the Cascajal some French Tirailleurs fired into the flank of the Rifles and this desultory action of Riflemen moving backwards and forwards across the stream continued almost through-The sole British gun on the Medellin was so disdainful of the fire out the battle. being placed upon it by the French grand battery that it turned right and poured flanking fire into the advancing French columns in the centre sector - with considerable effect!

If the French had any success at all it could be claimed to be on their right wing where 2 battalions of infantry came steadily across the Portina with a very large cavalry force on their right flank. The Black Watch on the rear of the Medellin, out of sight of the grand battery, turned their left flanks to face the threat coming from the north and the two lone Troops of British Hussars charged valiantly forward into the mass of French cavalry causing a melee which lasted for almost a third of the battle. Finally, however, the overwhelming strength of the

French cavalry prevailed and the Hussars were either wiped out or captured

Ten game-moves had taken place at this stage and it was decided that nightfall had arrived to put an end to any further fighting (actually, this game rather dragged over a period of three nights interspersed over six weeks!) It was clear that the French had not obtained their objectives nor were likely to except possibly in the area of the Medellin where they still had to face a completely unbroken Black Watch in their laborious climb up the steep slopes. Therefore, it was decided that the honours of battle should go to the British, as in real life. Two points were awarded to the British for retaining possession of the Medellin and one point for retaining possession of the Pajar farm whilst the French took one point for being still in possession of the Cascajal.

At this stage in the campaign the British were well ahead on points-having a total of $9\frac{1}{2}$ points ($2\frac{1}{2}$ for Rolica; 3 for Vimiera; 1 for Corunna and 3 for Talavera). The French had a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ points ($1\frac{1}{2}$ for Rolica; 1 for Vimiera; 1 for Corunna and 1 for Talavera).

COLUMN AND LINE by Ray Jackson.

An article by Peter Gouldesbrough in a past issue of the Newsletter concerns the Austrian use of column and line in the Napoleonic Wars. Recently, I have been investigating this subject in conjunction with the development of realistic wargame rules.

My principle sources are: (1) Der Feldzug von 1809 - Valentini and (2) Die Schlact von Aspern - Menge and (3) Geschiechte der k.k. Osterreichen Armee - Meynert, all,

unfortunately, in German.

According to Valentini, the favourite (beliebste) formation of the Austrian Army was the Battalion Mass (Schlactordnung) even when opposing enemy cavalry. This formation was formed out of the manoeuvre Column (on which I have no information) massing on the Battalion's centre, and was on a half-division or company front.

Valentini claims that it was the formation adopted in almost all situations; each

Battalion would form into it's own Mass and move about in it.

In the attack at Aspern, Menge mentioned an incident to which I think Mr. Gouldes-brough alludes in his comment on Austrian columns being attacked at Aspern. An Austrian Regiment of three Battalions formed in three Battalion Masses, on the Austrian right - probably in their VI Corps, was attacked by four Regiments of French cavalry, backed by infantry and artillery. The French attack was beaten off. It would not be hard to describe such a formation as a column.

The Austrians did not adopt the line extensively because their troops were not sufficiently trained or disciplined to make it effective. However, Bellegarde's I Corps at Aspern was deployed with the first rank of battalions in mass and the second in line. Archduke Charles' orders, prior to the battle of Wagram, specified the Battalion Mass or Square for all infantry units. No doubt this was prompted by the large numbers of Landwehr, Freicorps and Vienna Volunteers incorporated into the army.

The Square was used to some extent by the army. It was formed with two companies one behind the other - on each end, six men deep. The flanks were formed by one company
each in close order, four ranks deep. When attacked by cavalry, the first rank reserved
fire until the moment of impact but the second rank fired when the enemy was 300 paces
away and maintained fire, using weapons supplied and reloaded by the third and fourth
ranks.

Austrian Army units had a subdivision, known as a division, composed for infantry, of two companies. Cavalry regiments divided into divisions varying, according to the type of cavalry unit, in the number of squadrons. Heavy cavalry had two divisions of three squadrons each - total six squadrons. Light cavalry had four divisions of two squadrons each - total eight squadrons. Hussars had five divisions of two squadrons each - total ten squadrons. The term Division was also applied to a formation of one or more brigades and which was the immediate sub-unit to the Corps (Heerhaufen)



COUNSELS OF WAR.

This collection of odd items of a military nature are offered in the hope that they may materially aid, or vaguely interest, wargamers.

French and English Soldiers.

There is no less candour than justice in the following remarks, for which we are indebted to the pen of a French Officer:— "The attack with the bayonet which so long availed us against troops who were paralyzed by a long series of reverses, was attended with fatal consequences when we came to face the English Infantry, who had been trained at great expense, and taught to fire with calmness and precision. On the shores of Calabria, at Mount Busaco, Vimiera, Talavera and Waterloo, the elite of our ranks were swept down by the murderous volleys of Wellington' phalanxes. Deployed into line, they stood firm, and coolly awaited the onset

of our masses, which were not masked by swarms of Tirailleurs; nor, when the encounter took place, did the English need any other ally but that same want of caution which gave them the victory at Cressy, Poitiers, Agincourt, and Verneuil. The English Infantry repelled our attacks by adopting a principle analagous to that which we ourselves adopted in the opening campaigns of the Revolution; their power of resistance, like ours of attack, was derived from the preliminary effects of The British line, deployed at an early hour, and posted, wherever it was practicable, on undulating ground, or behind the crests of eminences, was covered by swarms of sharpshooters, who, by the very act of retreating upon the line, gave the signal of our advance. Soon as the heads of our columns were completely unmasked, the English saluted them with a volley almost within pistol-shot; and dreadful was the havoc which it dealt amongst us. Instantly upon this discharge, the enemy's line broke from their ground, bayonet in hand, assailed our broken ranks at every point, and seldom failed in driving us before them. this operation did not at once succeed, the English soldiery fell back with admirable celerity behind a second line, which was posted in a similar manner to the first; and here we had to pass through a second ordeal. The affair in which Marshal Soult involved himself on the 21st July 1813, for the purpose of raising the blockade of Pampluna, affords an instance in complete proof of the system pursued by the English, when exposed to the attacks of the French.

"United Service Journal, November 1833."

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FRENCH UNIFORM, 1532.

"There stood the Captain with the soldiers in good order, and above them stood a hundred Switzers of the French King's Guard, in their doublets and their hose of yellow velvet cut, goodly persons; and above them stood two hundred more of the French King's Guard, Scots and Frenchmen, in coats of yellow, blue and crimson velvet, bearing halberts in their hands; and above them stood two hundred gentlemen, being in their gowns and richly beseen, every man having a battle-axe in his hand and their captains standing by them."

At Them with the Bayonet!

The First Sikh War

DONALD FEATHERSTONE

With his two recent books of military history Donald Featherstone has established a reputation as an author who can combine thorough research with a fine narrative sweep, and this account of the First Sikh War demonstrates these gifts at their best in a story of bravery, stupidity and treachery played out under the blazing sun of the Punjab.

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By the middle of the 19th century the Sikh army, trained by ex-officers of Napoleon and equipped with high-quality artillery, was an outstanding military force — and the Sikh leaders, alarmed by the army's dominance, sought to break its power by throwing it against the British in India.

As the native troops of the British East India Company were in awe of the Sikhs, the bloodiest work in the campaign which followed had to be done by the greatly outnumbered white soldiers of a few English county regiments — led by the incredibly brave but tactically inept Sir Hugh Gough, who scorned such subtleties as artillery and who had orders countermanded by the Governor-General, who was constantly at his elbow.

Out-gunned in the field and sustaining heavy losses, the English soldiers won four pitched battles in a month to defeat not only an army but also a race of fanatics.

With illustrations and maps

30s

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Jarrolds, 178-202 Great Portland Street, London W.1.

by

PADDY GRIFFITH

I have just fought a wargame which I believe to be unique in the hobby - the war between the Germans and the Danes in 1864. Steve Connolly at Widnes has recently been researching its history, and painting up armies - excellent conversions from Airfix W.W.I Germans and French respectively.

The rules he has evolved reflect not only the weapons difference between the needle gun and the Danish Minie rifle-musket, but also the tactical preconceptions of armies still imbued with Napoleonic ideals.



THE PRUSSIANS ATTACKING THE DANISH BREASTWORKS

The Prussians, with their breechloaders, could lie down to fire, and could fire four shots per turn, compared to the Danes' one; although slightly inferior in , accuracy. Nevertheless, the discrepancy in fire power was so obvious that for our battle the Danes (commanded by myself) had to be given nearly twice as many men. Even then, as in the actual war, they were compelled to stand on the defensive, and make full use of brick walls and buildings. In such conditions it might seem to experienced wargamers that the whole thing would degenerate into a long range shooting match, with the Prussians on top; or that it would turn into a European version of "Rorke's Drift". This did not happen, partly because both Steve and I had recently fought a disastrous 1,000 man-per-side reconstruction of Wagram, and were tactically incautious as a result, (realistically, for the period) and partly because the balance of forces was luckily about right.

I was able to beat off his attacks, but it was a "damned near run thing"; I threw in all my cavalry to stem the advancing spike-helmeted hordes, but as was only to be expected against needle guns, it was shot down before it ever made contact. One regiment of Cuirassiers panicked almost as soon as it received the order to charge, my artillery was finding the weaknesses of the Prussian manoeuvre columns. Their "tactical manual" laid down a fighting formation with a deployed fighting line, supported by an intermediate line and a heavy reserve column in rear.

My only hope of stopping their advance was to land shell on the reserve masses which I was able to do effectively during the approach march of the enemy right wing brigade. Even so, my first line was completely swept away by fire before the enemy ran out of men.

On my right my first line survived a little longer because the two enemy battalions attacking it were inadequately co-ordinated. Luckily the crack guard battalion which spearheaded the advance was slow in seizing a vital brick wall, and resorted to a bayonet charge against a whole regiment under cover. In this action I was able to capture their standard and disorganise their offensive.

Early in the battle the Prussian staff had been disrupted by a shell exploding in their midst, leaving a great shortage of couriers. Partly as a result of this the Commander-in-Chief himself visited his left wing to urge it to greater efforts, but was slain by a concealed sniper. This coincided with a precipitate enemy movement to the rear, and the battle was won.

Obviously the battle would have been decided far quicker if the men had been bunched together in the open where the enemy could have been impressed by their steadiness and determination. Using the skirmish system the Danish lost twice as many casualties as the enemy, and if the Prussians had had even one reserve battalion they might have had to withdraw.

EDWARD SUREN

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FIRING INTO THE BROWN!

Suggestion No. 2.

That an enterprising and competent model-maker sets up a service to make, to special order, "off-beat" military vehicles to 20 and 30 mm scales - such as the G.S. Horse-drawn wagon used by the British Army pre-1914.

Richard Brooks of Southampton says: "Dr. Atwell mentions the effectiveness of Persian arrows at Thermopylae; Herodotus in "The Struggle for Greece" makes no mention of Persian archery - the Persians attacked the Greeks at close quarters. The heavy losses are attributed to the longer spears of the Greeks and to the Persian lack of training. Dr. Atwell's surmise about the Spartan's lost shields is quite correct, by the later stages of the three days battle, the Spartans were reduced to using their bare hands."

Chris Beaumont of Cheltenham writes:- "Re the February "Gentlemen! Have a Care! "concerning obstacles stopping cavalry charges - I think the idea about drawing cards is slightly overdoing it! Surely, ditches, streams, ravines etc., are really taken into account because in most rules cavalry must throw to see if they charge home? If charging cavalry have three chances of falling headlong into streams, tripping over fences or tree stumps, with the possibility of being shot to bits and repulsed by the defenders, no one is going to risk using them.

A compromise is to have usual rules for infantry repulsing the cavalry but give the horsemen less chance against the defenders who have been in position for, say, two or more moves, thus having time to pick a position behind a hidden gully or marsh. Cavalry ran into obstacles because of faulty reconnaissance, bad leadership or plain haste. The real answer is to let an umpire put only the most basic features on the field (hills, rivers and woods) and make a map showing the obstacles and other minor features. During the battle, commanders only discover terrain features when they reach them, being able to mark them on their own maps without revealing them to their opponent. This might make for a long, cautious battle."

W.T.Thurber comments on the February Newsletter. "Mr. Chamberlin in his review of James Leasor's "Singapore" refers to Singapore as the first major defeat of a European Nation by an Asiatic one - but isn't he overlooking the Russo-Japanese War?

Dr. Atwell's comment on archery is interesting. I suppose there is no easy answer. The Persians were noted archers - they taught their young men to ride a horse, to shoot with the bow and to speak the truth. But one would like to know more about the archaeology of weapons: and the technological stage reached by the Persians: particularly in making arrows - a more difficult job than making bows.

Probably the "Old Contemptibles" and the Finns in the Russo-Finish War of 1939-40 were (with the exception of the Boers) the finest shooting armies of modern times. but both were up against huge numbers. The archers of Crecy and Agincourt, the British infantry at Mons, and the archers of Surenas at Carrhae were all

fortunate in having massed targets at which to aim.

Trained marksmen (archers or riflemen) are the result of years of practice - how much time was spent in the pre-1914 British Army in perfecting the musketry training that produced the "mad minute"? And, it took years of training from early youth to produce the English archer of the 100 Years War. Archery practice was not a recreation but a form of heavy labour.

Successful marksmen, without too great a disparity in numbers, were the result of a highly trained army finding a co-operative target. When this situation did not apply, neither archer nor rifleman alone could win a decisive victory.

Incidentally, the reference to the effect of ground on cavalry in "Gentlemen! Have a Care! might also have referred to the Lancers at Omdurman

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Another piece of evidence has turned up concerning whether the armour worn by Napoleonic cavalry was bullet proof.

The book 1812 by Anthony Brett-James (1966) is made up of statements from diaries, etc., of participants in Napoleon's invasion of Russia.

On page 125 is a remark made by the ten Lieutenant Roth Von Schreckenstein who was serving with the Saxon regiment of Zastrow Cuirassiers. He stated that these cuirassiers wore a black, heavy, <u>bullet proof</u>, iron cuirass. From his statement, we can see that this armour was indeed considered bullet proof by contemporary military men, and so I feel wargamers are justified in taking this into account in their wargame rules.

Except at close musket range, some sort of saving throw should be allowed for armoured cavalry and armoured sappers.

Fred Vietmeyer.

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George Gush writes:- "Recently there has been a lot of controversy about the ability or inability of French Napoleonic cuirasses to stop musketry. Well - it was tested. In Professor Michael Lewis's "History of the British Navy", he mentions that there was a test on this after Waterloo. A cuirass was fixed to a post, and a standard 'Brown Bess' was clamped to a rest and aimed at it, at a range of 200 yards. Unfortunately, despite being clamped down, the musket proved totally unable to hit its target! Eventually, the officers present started firing hand-held muskets, and one of them succeeded in scoring a hit. INFURIATINGLY, Lewis (who is merely concerned with the inherent inaccuracy of smooth-bore weapons) not only fails to say what the effect of this hit was, but also fails to give his source, and, so far, I have been unable to discover it. Perhaps someone else may be able to."

--- 00000 ---

<u>Bulletin</u> (of the British Model Soldier Society) - February 1968. Contains details of forthcoming Branch Meetings of B.M.S.S. Area Groups. Details of new models, albeit mainly 54mm and prints, publications, and books. A Flat figure review; illustrated information of Elite Gendarmes 1804-14 plus other items of interest to model soldier collectors.

THE AMERICAN SCENE by Pat Condray



Regarding recent comments on the rules used in Wargames
Championships I do not believe that wargames are susceptible
to elaborate tournaments; of course they can be held but
they will never resemble the true championships in other sports. Take any fifty
wargamers in a convention tournament - probably fifteen or so are not primarily
competitive players. They come up with sets of rules designed to make the armies
act with a minimum command influence. Some of them are just wargamers with means
of displaying well painted figures and as an impetus to the organisation of their
collection.

Another group are devoted to exciting competitive games, the rules of which are designed to produce dramatic results. This usually means wild dice, with benefits for odd things, double moves for new shoes and a blithe explanation, when the rules seem absurd, that, while rather whimsical, they make for a good game!

Of the remainder, probably half the rules are known only to a handful of people, and the other half play by rules related to families of rules known to somebody else, with extensive local modifications.

Get all those people together, add dice and you have got to have problems if you make an organised tournament out of it.

Bob O'Brien commented in a recent article that he regretted a lack of some of his most respected opponents. I do not know the cause of this but I suspect many people might avoid participation if confronted by a twenty-seven page book of new rules. An Editorial in the Newsletter commented on this feature of the recent London Convention and I have to agree that any detail or sophistication in a set of "standard" rules will make for trouble.

It is probable that the most skilful wargaming is done by local groups who know each other and the rules. The chances are that if there were an area or National co-ordinator and a set of Convention or Tournament Rules you will get a group of players who devoted their efforts primarily to making a good showing at the tournaments and a larger group who insisted on going their own way. This would dramatically accentuate tendencies towards over-organisation and isolationism already evident. All in all, the pretentions, flurries and bickering would probably be amusing from a psychological point of view, if you do not happen to be interested in the hobby.

Wargames are NOT susceptible to elaborate tournaments; not that these events cannot be held, merely that they will never be what play-offs (finals ED.) are to other sports.

If you have comments or criticisms on this article send them direct to Patrick Condray, 4936 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.

THE NOTICE BOARD

I have been asked by Brigadier Peter Young, co-author of the book CHARGE! reviewed in the March Newsletter, to mention that "... your excellent review is not quite correct in saying that our rules were originated by Charles Grant. Would it surprise you to know that it was I that first introduced Charles Grant to wargaming before World War II? Still, I admit that I owe a lot to Charles Grant's game, but many of our rules are different."



If any back issues of the Wargamer's Newsletter prior to June 1966, No.51, should come to hand, especially runs, I am interested in purchasing them. R.F. Corbett, 11 Osborn Road, Fareham, Hants.

Anyone interested in wargaming, military history and model soldiers, please contact Messrs. F. Hallam and D. Mann at 89 Hartland Avenue, Wyken, Coventry, C.V.2 3 E.P., with a view to forming a group.

A.A. Johnston of Pitney, Langport, Somerset, issues a very tempting monthly list of secondhand military books. You might easily find that elusive volume you are seeking!

"HISTORY TODAY", a very attractively put out monthly magazine, is worth noting by military collectors. Often, it contains articles of interest and value. In the March issue reviewed at length is "CUT AND THRUST WEAPONS" - Edward Waynes Paul-Hamlyn 105s - vastly illustrated by experts of Prague Museum of Military History. Also reviewed - and praised - K. Fowler's "THE AGE OF PLANTAGENET AND VALOIS" - Elek Books 100s. Many illustrations - "describes and analyses medieval warfare" Also John Rogers "TUDOR MILITARY ENGINEER" by L.R. Shelby 0.U.P. 75s.

Do you live in Hampshire? A Wargames Club with an unusual and fascinating "Club Project" is being formed in Southampton. Meeting place available with good facilities, can be used whenever there is sufficient demand. Write Editor for details.

Have you an advert or a notice you would like to be shown on this page? Send it in - 2d. per word - and it has to be received not later than the 1st of the month preceding the issue you require.

FOR SALE 296 Hinton Hunt and Miniature Figures for sale; 17 guns. Most painted. Includes 43 cavalry. Cost £16.12. Od. Sell for £12.

Alan Hansford Waters, 12 Carrington Way, Bocking, Braintree, Essex.

Printed by CORNELL BUSINESS SERVICES 30, Palmerston Road, Southampton.

LOOKING AROUND

AIRFIX MAGAZINE - March 1968. German assault gun and Sherman-dozer conversions by Chris Ellis; bridging variants of the Churchill Tank; Airfix figures - the German Army 1914; plus all the usual illustrated features.

BATTLE FLEET - February 1968. Contains reports on Naval wargames and model ships suitable for wargaming.



THE BAYONET - February 1968. Articles on uniforms and colours of troops of the 19th century, plus other features.

THE GRENADIER - February 1968. The Bulletin of the Cheltenham Wargames Club. Contains the reports of the Modern, Ancient and American Civil War battles fought against the Bristol University Wargames Club together with battle reports and maps of Club activities.

MECCANO MAGAZINE - March 1968. Has an article on conversions of ROCO Minitank besides the usual illustrations and features.

MODEL BOATS - February 1968. Part three of an article on H.M.S. Furious - the longest-serving Aircraft Carrier; article and plans on the French battleship Dunkerque; and an illustrated article on German U-Boats together with a plan and instructions for making H.M.S. Glatton a converted East Indiaman. This is a good copy for those interested in Naval wargaming.

- March 1968. Plans and details of German Pocket Battleships "Deutschland"; "Lutzow"; Admiral Scheer" and "Admiral Graf Spee"; history and construction details of the frigate "Indefatigable" (late 18th century) and illustrated article on U-Boats.

STRATEGY AND TACTICS - a Journal of American Wargaming. Jan-Feb 1968. Articles on the Brittany Campaign; the Grand Fleet at Jutland; an analysis of the strategy of guerrilla warfare; Ray Johnson's Wargamer's Notebook; an interesting article by Fred Vietmeyer "Introduction to Napoleonics" plus features dealing with board games.

<u>VEDETTE</u> - Number 5. Contains an article by Wargamer's Newsletter subscriber Aram Bakshian on the Bavarian Army in the early eighteenth century plus another article on wargaming by Pat Condray.

TRADITION - Number 25. Getting bigger each time and always glossy - contains interesting illustrated articles on armed trains in Egypt in 1882 and illustrated articles on the uniforms worn during that war. Illustrated details of Prussian uniforms; two full size colour plates of Prussian Hussars plus two coloured plates of Russian Infantry of Napoleonic period; illustrated article on the German Army in 1914; and a very attractive account of a wargame fought between Charles Grant and Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholson, Editor of Tradition.

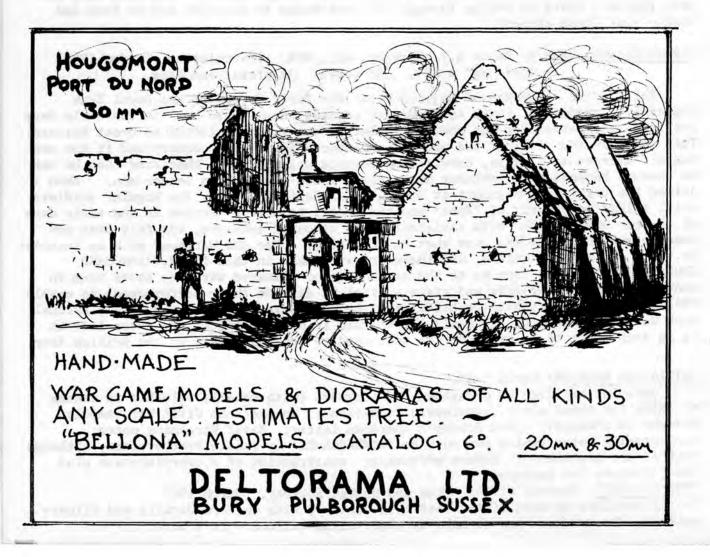
We have more than 5,000 names and addresses of wargamers throughout the world. If YOU are in dire need of a wargames opponent (and you are a subscriber to WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER) then we will be pleased to put you in touch with someone in your area. Send stamped addressed envelope, and mention your age.

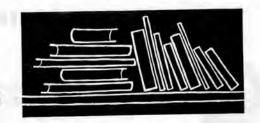


A Regular soldier when first we met, Roger is now a Civil Servant in Colchester - with an unabated interest in wargaming! He is very experienced in the field as one would expect from an ex-opponent of Captain Digby Smith and Sergeant Brian Baxter. Roger's main interests are Napoleonic and American Civil War, plus moderns. He has a son who is being relentlessly groomed as a future opponent. Before going to Colchester, Roger Moores resided in Hampshire and was one of my regular across-the-table enemies - his departure left a sad hole! To anyone whom he might challenge - Roger has a bad habit of taking a long time making up his tactical mind and then pursuing, with all his energy, the wrong course!

Nevertheless, he is a sincere enthusiast who can be relied upon to invariably be a cheerful, sporting "enemy" general. As an ex-member of the R.A.S.C., Roger has some interesting ideas concerning logistics

in the field of wargaming.





Book Reviews

"IMPERIAL GOVERNOR" by George Shipway. (Peter Davies, London 1968 35s) $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{3}{4}$ ". 398 pages. End page maps.

If you find military history hard to read then this is your book! Here is an enthralling account of the Roman Army in Britain in the middle of the 1st century A.D. with colourful and authentic details sugared by the true-to-life story of Suetonius Paulinus, Imperial Governor of Britain. It is a novel in the highest traditions that obviously required painstaking and lengthy research - it gives descriptions and details of Roman military methods, equipment, tactics and operations in a manner that brings them to life. If you are contemplating forming a Roman wargames army then you MUST have this book because, not only does it stimulate the ideas, but it tells just how to go about the matter. There is an invaluable appendix giving the Order of Battle for the Roman Army in Britain. As a writer, I was singularly impressed with the way in which Mr. Shipway has caught the essential loneliness and primitiveness of Britain in those early times. Read this book and save yourself hours of wading through dry text-books to discover how to form and handle your Roman armies!

"ARMOURED CRUSADER" by Major K.J. Macksey, MC., RTR. (Hutchinsons, London 1968. 60s) $5\frac{1}{2}$ " x $8\frac{3}{4}$ ". 348 pages. 34 plates and maps.

This is the biography of Major-General Sir Percy Hobart of the Royal Tank Regiment, a pioneer of tanks and armoured tactics whose 'know-how' in the early days provided inspiration for our enemies whilst it was being neglected in Great Britain. This is truly the story of the prophet unhonoured in his own country and if the man himself emerges as a stern, unrelenting perhaps unsympathetic character then he can be excused because the treatment he received would have broken lesser men. joined the Royal Tank Regiment at Bovington in September 1939, the Regular soldiers still talked reverently of 'Hobo' and his recall to active service in the early days of the war was received with satisfaction by armoured soldiers, who felt that now someone was in charge who knew what he was doing! For the wargamer with an interest in tanks and modern warfare, and there are very many in this field, 'ARMOURED CRUSADER' enlightens them as to the beginnings of armoured warfare, shows them in many plates the early AFVs and gives sufficient data on their performances to enable realistic rules for table-top battling to be formulated. This is a sound, factual work unembellished with 'flannel' and written by a Tank officer who never lets it be in doubt that he is aware of the debt owed to General Hobart by the British Army.

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'MINIATURE WARFARE! March 1968.

Contains articles on crossbows and longbows (with details valuable in making up rules for their use); Napoleonic formations; an American Civil War campaign (fought in Ireland); Jack Scruby's American Letter; Naval Wargaming notes; Airwargaming notes (which owe much to 'AIRWARGAMES' by Donald Featherstone, although this is not mentioned); Modern wargaming; construction of a carrying-case plus usual reviews and features.

'THE BAYONET', Journal of the Horse and Musket Society. March 1968.
Useful articles on wars of the late 19th century, with uniform details and illustrations. Do you know how to make an observation balloon - it's here!

CHARBERS

OR HOW TO PLAY WAR GAMES

Brig.P.Young & Lt.Col.J.P. Lawford



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It is hardly necessary to refer wargamers to those exquisite plastic kits for making 54mm model soldiers turned out by HISTOREX — in the relatively short time they have been available in this country, they have achieved a reputation and character second to none. At present, these kits represent the foot and mounted troops of the 1st French Empire, with artillery. Cast in white polystyrene, each figure is composed of a number of separate pieces making it possible to personalize the figure to your own liking. Our wargames figures might look well in mass, but it is very pleasant to have a real connoisseur's piece proudly exhibited in a place of honour. It is possible that, through such admirable displays, the non-collector can be attracted to the hobby and eventually become a much needed wargames opponent. See advert in this issue for address of supplier.

Here is some news that will cause talk! What Airfix are going to bring out next is always a good talking point amongst wargamers, who rarely fail to pray for a range of Napoleonics! Mr. J.A.S.Gray, the enterprising head of the firm tells me that Ancient Britons will shortly be available to combat the Romans AND "...after that I think I must pay attention to all the hundreds of letters I have received over the last few years regarding the Napoleonic Wars... I have not made a final decision on what type to produce but I am at the moment looking at sketches and reading books before making a final decision". Well, there you are! Looks hopeful, doesn't it?

Last week was National Book Week and many shops had displays of books very much reduced in price. Amongst those of interest to wargamers was that 'coffeetable display item' 'GUNS' by MacQueen Pope, published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson at 6gns. Rather along the lines of their superb 'GREAT MILITARY BATTLES' the book 'GUNS' can be obtained at 35/- now! This is a very good buy

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MUST List



That very wonderful set of books by Sir Winston Churchill on his ancestor "Marlborough" can now be obtained in a four volume paperback set at 50s. Od. This is a good buy. Whilst on the subjects of books I have received from the Arms and Armour Press of 150 Broadfields Avenue, Edgeware, Middlesex, an advance copy of a book The "Sherman" - an illustrated history of the M4 medium tank. This is by Peter Chamberlain and Chris Ellis, both very well known to readers of Airfix Magazine. Their articles on armoured vehicles in that magazine have given them a reputation which makes them authorities in their field. This book is a series of articles from Airfix Magazine, with new material and obviously on a very much larger scale than was possible within the pages of the magazine. It contains all that anyone could possibly want to know about this most valuable tank of World War II and is illustrated with innumerable photographs. A good buy at 30s. Od.

The latest Airfix offerings of wargames figures arrived just as the March edition of the Newsletter was going to the printers hence they were only able to be dealt with They are of course the Royal Artillery World War I (1914) period and Before you giggle at the latter, may I point out that this set contains eleven very excellent figures of natives armed with spears and shields which can be made up ideally as warriors for your Zulu wargame or even as worthy opponents for massed formations of Romans. And the animals came as manna from heaven to my children! The Royal Artillery set has excellently animated horses for the gun-team although I feel that the provision of a second gun and crew (less a limber) is not such a good idea as having mounted officers and outriders for the original gun and limber. It might have been better to have put out guns less limbers and crews as a separate item. However, we should not carp at such remarkably cheap offerings and, painted up, these guns and limbers look excellent. There is, however, a slight snag in my mind that with six horses plus a rather long trail to the 13pdr. gun, the whole appears to take up a little more room on the wargames table than I like to allocate to my gun teams! that the unavoidable pressure of whatever it is has put up the price of these Airfix sets to 2s.6d.

Ted Suren of 'Willie' Figures has turned out what are perhaps as good 30mm figures as I have ever seen. They represent Napoleon's campaign in Egypt - French infantry - Caribineers, Grenadiers and Fusiliers (Syria); General Officer and Junior Officer also the young Napoleon himself. British include Abercrombie, Officers, Line Infantry in a variety of positions and Marines. Ted says there are more to come, including camels and "Savants on donkeys"! These are really masterpieces of the figure-maker's art and made to measure for the connoisseur who is gradually building up his army of the more expensive top-class figures. A very fine example of such a set-up is that portrayed in "CHARGE!", the recent wargames book by Brigadier Peter Young and Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford. The pictures in this book ideally show wargames armies of the highest possible quality.

Bellona have sent me a fine new terrain-piece - the Redan. Priced reasonably at 10s9d. (plus 1s0d. postage) it is $16\frac{1}{2}$ " by $10\frac{1}{2}$ " in size and is an earthwork with wicker gabions, revetments, sandbags etc., that could be the centre point for many a fierce melee! It fits into ANY period and has a centre "dug-out" with a removable roof.

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This updated price list was stuck over the original one.