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# WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER

No. 74. May 1968.

## EDITORIAL



A recent advert for another wargamers magazine was headed: "AT LAST! A MAGAZINE FOR WARGAMERS!" It may be ethical advertising practice to mislead to the borders of untruth but worse, in this particular case, is the implications behind the statement. It implies, or rather it states that there have been NO previous magazines for wargamers! Perhaps the writer of the advert was so new to the hobby that he was actually unaware that WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER has been regularly published for nearly SEVEN YEARS and that Jack Scruby, from America, produced the famous WARGAMES DIGEST twelve years ago and has continually published wargames magazines throughout this period!

In just the same way as they claimed a convention in London last year to be "the first ever ..." when SIX such events had gone before, this is all part of the calculated policy of a group of London-based "Johnny-come-latelys" who systematically seek to denigrate and blot out the invaluable work of pioneers who were wargaming when the London-lads had not even started school!

Without the uphill efforts of people like Jack Scruby, Tony Bath, Charles Grant, Peter Young and ... myself and many others ... there would be no popular hobby for these people to batten on to. It would be more appropriate if they showed some small respect for the achievements of people who gave them the fascinating pastime they now seek to control.

Writing of last month's Editorial on rules, Brigadier Peter Young says: "I am not against the younger generation or other people's rules, but I think there is a lot of wet stuff put over under a bogus cover of Championships!"

DONALD FEATHERSTONE.



THE BATTLE OF DETTINGEN FOUGHT AS A WARGAME

by

DONALD FEATHERSTONE

In June 1743, an Allied Army composed of British, Austrians and Hanoverians, under the command of King George II of England (the last occasion on which a British monarch led his army into battle) lay at Aschaffenburg, on the River Main, some 25 miles south-east of Frankfurt. Marshal de Noailles, the French Commander-in-Chief, had so manoeuvred his army that he believed the Allies to be in a trap. His nephew, the Comte de Grammont, had been sent with 28,000 men to a position in the defiles of Dettingen, barring the Allied retreat to their base at Hanau. There were also 5 French Infantry Brigades ready to cross at Aschaffenburg to harry the Allied rearguard and 5 batteries of Artillery had been posted on the west bank of the river along which the Allies must retreat to Dettingen.

On half rations, the Allies struggled back along a road that followed the east bank of the river through a narrow valley, never more than 2 miles across and in some places only 200 yards wide. The river lay to the west and rocky wooded hills rose very steeply on the east.

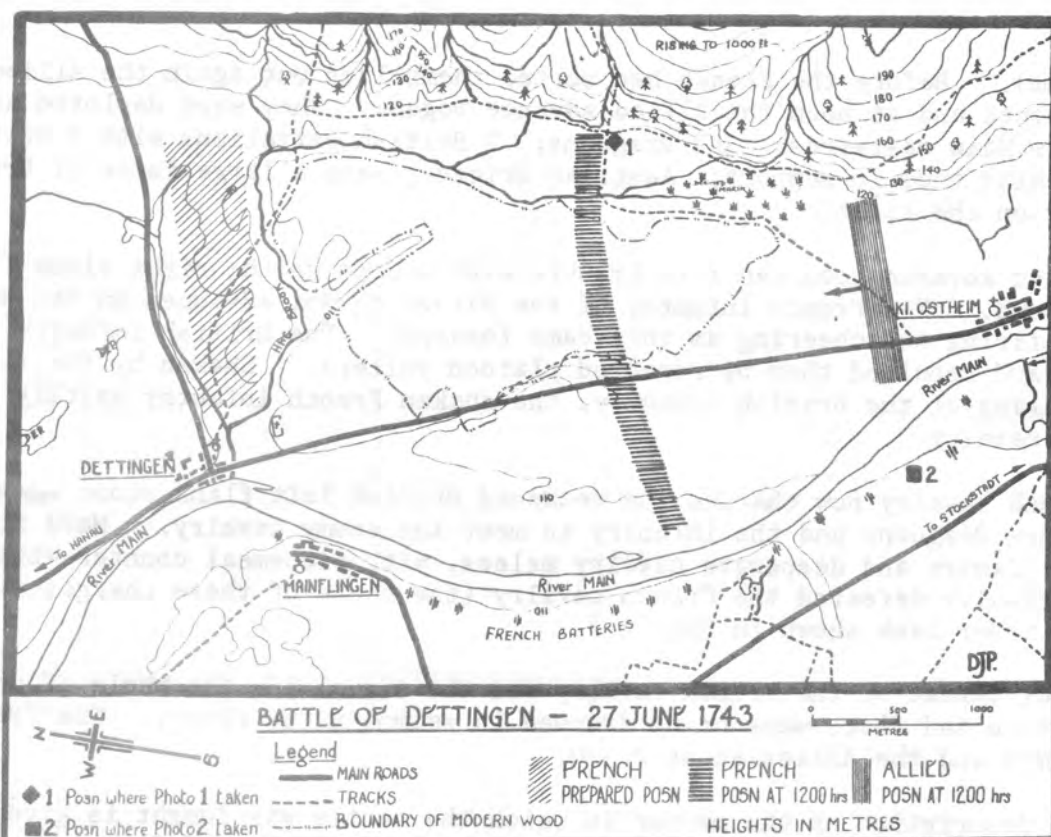
At 0800 hours on the 27th of June, the Allied advance guard found the French in position between the village of Dettingen and the Hag brook to the south (see sketch map).

There was only one road through the village of Kleine Ostheim and as the Allied column left the village it came under fire from the batteries across the river. With the enemy in position ahead of them, it was necessary to deploy the army as soon as they came from the village but the movement was very seriously delayed by the baggage being in the middle of the column and the guns at the rear. To cover this deployment, the British Cavalry was sent forward and wheeled left out of the village to stand for at least an hour under heavy fire from the enemy guns. It was noon before the deployment was completed, by then the cavalry had suffered severe losses. (Fig. 2 is a view taken from a French battery position and shows the batteries' field of fire with the British Cavalry formed up on the lighter area on the far side of the river.)

To the left of the field on which the battle was to be fought lay a steep wooded mountain; to the right front lay a wood some 2 miles long by half a mile wide; in front, a branch of the Hag brook ran away through fields, which were marshy at the time of the battle. Beyond the wood lay a featureless plain some 3 miles by 1 extending from Kleine Ostheim to Dettingen and bounded on the west by the river. The plain was overlooked by the west bank of the river, which was everywhere some 10 to 20 feet higher than the east bank. Marshal de Noailles had placed his batteries along this west bank at intervals from a point opposite Kleine Ostheim to Dettingen so that they were able to pour a devastating enfilade fire into the Allied left flank.

Before Dettingen, de Grammont's confidence and impatience grew as he watched the confusion of the Allied deployment; finally, he could contain himself no longer and ordered his army to advance. They left their strong position, crossed the brook and advanced to higher ground some 1,500 yards to the south, so losing their initial advantage (Fig.1 is a view taken from a point on the left flank of the new French position, looking down towards





Taken from the left flank of the French line at the start of the battle looking towards the British lines. The French prepared positions were some 1,000 yards to the rear of the photographs. The wooded mountain is on the left. The ground slopes down to the old marsh in front, with the Church of Kleine Ostheim in the distance. (Fig. 1)



(Fig. 2)

Taken from the French battery position commanding the exit to Kleine Ostheim.

4.

Kleine Ostheim). Before the French had sorted themselves out again the Allied deployment was complete and at noon the Allied advance began. They were deployed as follows, from the River Main eastwards: 3rd Dragoons; 7 British Battalions with 5 British Battalions behind them in support; Austrian Brigade; and a large force of British Heavy Cavalry on the right.

The Allied advance soon ran into trouble with troops on the right flank floundering knee-deep in mud. The French infantry of the Maison du Roi advanced on the British left centre, firing and cheering as they came forward. The British infantry stood their ground and repulsed them by repeated platoon volleys. Shaken by the fire and by the loud cheering of the British infantry, the shaken French infantry hastily drew back within their cavalry.

The French cavalry now charged the weakened British left flank whose commander ordered the 3rd Dragoons and the infantry to meet the enemy cavalry. Hard fighting by the British infantry and desperate cavalry melees, with piecemeal counter-attacks from both sides, finally defeated the French cavalry (the scene of these charges was the plain by the river bank shown in Fig. 2.)

The final defeat of the French cavalry was the signal for the whole of de Grammont's infantry to turn and flee, many being drowned in swimming the river. The French lost about 5,000 men and the Allies about 2,500.

A vivid description of the manner in which the battle was fought is given by James Wolfe, then an ensign of 16 years of age undergoing his baptism of fire.

"The second attack was made on their left by their Horse against ours, which advanced for the first time. Neither side did much, for they both retreated; and our Horse had like to have broken our first line in the confusion.

"The Horse fired their pistols, which if they had let alone, and attacked the French with their swords, being so much stronger and heavier, they would certainly have beat them. Their excuse for retreating - they could not make their horses stand the fire!

"The third and last attack was made by the foot on both sides. We advanced towards one another; our men in high spirits, and very impatient for fighting, being elated with beating the French Horse, part of which advanced towards us; while the rest attacked our Horse, but were soon driven back by the great fire we gave them. The Major and I (for we had neither Colonel nor Lieutenant-Colonel), before they came near, were employed in begging and ordering the men not to fire at too great a distance, but to keep it till the enemy should come near us; but to little purpose. The whole of them fired, when they thought they could reach them which had like to have ruined us. We did very little execution with it. As soon as the French saw we presented, they all fell down, and when we had fired, they all got up and marched close to us in tolerable good order and gave us a brisk fire, which put us into some disorder and made us give way a little, particularly ours and two or three more Regiments, who were in the hottest of it. However, we soon rallied again and attacked them with great fury, which gained us a complete victory and forced the enemy to retire in great haste. 'Twas luck that we did give way a little, for our men were loading all the while, and it gave room for an Austrian Regiment to move into an interval, rather too little before, who charged the enemy with great bravery and resolution."

As a wargame, the Battle of Dettingen gives great scope for a "potted" campaign. Draw a map covering an area from Dettingen on the left with Kleine Ostheim in the centre

and Aschaffenburg on the right, with the River Main running along the bottom of the map and curving upwards on the right to Aschaffenburg which will be about two-thirds of the way up the map. At this latter village place a bridge across the river because it is over this bridge that the French force harrying the British rearguard will advance. The map is now divided down the middle so that it represents two wargames tables - on the table containing Dettingen itself will take place the actual battle whilst the right-hand half of the map can either be fought as a wargame with the French force attempting to destroy the Allied rearguard or else it can be used for map-moving to see if the same result is achieved, with subsequent effects on the actual battle taking place on the Dettingen table.

Timing must be very carefully considered - first it has to be decided when de Grammont moved forward from Dettingen towards the slowly deploying Allied force emerging from Kleine Ostheim. Second, the timing of the attack on the rear has to be considered and third, there is the timing to be considered of whether or not de Grammont holds up the Allies long enough for Noailles (whose camp is on the west bank of the river at a point between Kleine Ostheim and Aschaffenburg) can either move north to support de Grammont or west to provide a force of overwhelming strength against the British rearguard.

In the actual battle, the French only employed between 20 and 30,000 of their total strength of 60,000. The Allied strength was about 40,000 men, with the British force totalling 16,000, but there is little record of much fighting being done by other than the British infantry and cavalry.

This game will pose a pretty problem of morale. In the first place it must be decided just how much the presence of King George II uplifted his troops and whether or not he had the same effect upon his Austrian and Hanoverian allies. Secondly, must be considered the high morale of de Grammont when moving forward from Dettingen and its subsequent deterioration when his attacks failed. Thirdly, the morale of the cavalry sitting stolidly under the artillery fire without the opportunity of replying for more than an hour, has to be considered. This latter situation tends to govern the amount of time the Allies had in which to deploy from Kleine Ostheim. Both sides had Guard Regiments in action, the French had the Maison du Roi and the British had their Foot Guards, who were at the beginning of the battle posted on a height well to the right rear of the army.

A suggested method of commencing the battle is for the British to come on to the table as they deploy from Kleine Ostheim. First sending on their cavalry, as in the actual battle, to cover the deployment under the heavy fire of the French guns on the west bank of the river, then bringing forward their infantry in the column on the single road, interspersed with the remainder of the cavalry (the Heavies) who move across to cover the British right flank.

If any wargamers fight this out, I will be delighted to print the report of their battle together with the map they used.

Brigadier Peter Young has already modestly suggested his own book "History of the British Army 1642-1970" (William Kimber) for details of this battle and if you wish to read anything else Volume 2 of Fortescue's "History of the British Army" is particularly interesting and there is a good concise description of the battle in Volume 2 of David Chandler's "Battlefields of Europe" (Hugh Evelyn).

—ooOoo—

Not to be surprised at not obtaining victory, think only of defeat.

"Napoleon's War Maxims"



## WARGAMER OF THE MONTH -



24-year-old Keith Ford is a shipwright at Chatham Dockyard. He first became interested in "little wars" about three years ago and now owns about 500 model soldiers who are deployed regularly among the rivers, woods, hills and forts of a home-made wooden battlefield at his home in Lordswood Lane, Chatham.

So far he has confined himself to the American Civil War - he has about 20 different infantry regiments at his disposal as well as cavalry and artillery units - but intends to branch out into the Napoleonic period soon.

Talking of wargaming, Keith says: "There is nothing like it to bring home the complete futility of war. I know how I feel when I make a mistake and see my favourite regiment wiped out to a man."

His attractive 21-year-old wife, Yvonne, isn't exactly fascinated by military history and tactics. But she says, philosophically: "It keeps him out of trouble."

Keith would be very pleased to hear from any practising or would-be war-gamers because as he says: "It is rather frustrating fighting yourself all the time."

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Phil Barker writes:- "I'm afraid that Paddy Griffith must be getting his information on armoured personnel carriers from the wrong source.

"ARMOR" has printed several detailed accounts of actions in Viet Nam illustrating that even in such unpromising terrain, APC infantry have a huge fighting superiority over dismounted troops. No one hides inside a buttoned-up APC - it is not regarded as a vehicle to fight from.

Its own weapons, usually mounted behind armoured shields or in a turret, range between the 0.50 and two 0.30, plus a 30mm grenade launcher of the American M.113, by way of the German HS.30 with its 1000 round per minute turreted 30mm, to the single shot high velocity 30mm gun intended for the British Trojan. In addition, it has all the weapons of its own infantry; in the case of the Trojan, this amounts to 9 self-loading rifles, a belt-fed machine gun, and an 84mm Carl Gustav recoilless rifle. Other nations, including the Americans, have even higher close range fire power, thanks to their use of burst-firing rifles. A man must expose himself to fire from an APC, but less than he would firing from a trench.

So much for anti-personnel weapons. How vulnerable is the APC to armour-piercing weapons? The M.113 in Viet Nam is continually exposed to Russian RPG.2 equivalent to the Bazooka, and to Chinese 57mm recoilless rifles. These frequently penetrate its armour, but rarely knock it out, mainly due to the fact that an APC is largely empty space, not packed with machinery like a tank. The usual result of a penetration is one or two men wounded. Even if a fuel tank goes up, the APC by its very nature and having large doors and hatches, is easy to evacuate. Troops inside an APC are almost totally invulnerable to field artillery and mortar fire, which cause something like 80% of infantry casualties. Heavy machine guns are losing their value against the increasingly thicker-skinned APC, which is why America has a 20mm gun on future designs, and we are moving to a 30mm. These weapons are too heavy for infantry use and must be vehicle mounted.

Obviously, the riflemen must dismount for some types of action, but this is less frequently necessary than one might think. The Israelis practically never do it, and use obsolete half-tracks because there are plenty left over from the German war, and, being unwanted they are dirt cheap.

Paddy Griffith quotes the Indian/Pakistan war where American M.48 tanks beat Centurions. How about the Arab/Israeli war, where Centurions massacred M.48s? To call the Chieftain a complicated tank is also a little unfair. The American M.60, Sheridan and MBT.60, and the French AMX.30, all direct competitors, are much more complicated, and the simple Russian T.54 now developed into the slightly upgunned T.62 could not even cope with Centurions in Sinai!

On different subjects: Unfortunately for Derrick Atwell's theory, foot and mouth does not affect horses, which are not cloven-hoofed animals. However, the unaccustomed rich pasture of Western Europe may have given the Mongol ponies tummy-ache!"

---oo0oo---

D.B. Clark writes:- "Last months' "Counsels of War" shed some rather blinding light upon the capabilities of the Spencer repeating rifle.

A large share of the Northern victory is here attributed to these weapons though only 116,000 were distributed between the army and navy in the period 1863-1865. It is said that 5 regiments stopped the battle of Chickamauga from being a Confederate victory; it is generally considered that this was a Southern victory in which a large part of the Union army was routed. It is true that Thomas's corps stood it's ground, I do not know if it was armed with repeaters, but it exhibited courage not unknown to troops led by a cool-headed commander and holding a good tactical defensive position atop a steep, rocky hill. The fact that they held on after they had run out of ammunition proves that

it did not matter what they were armed with!

"The halting of the Confederate counter-attack in the Wilderness by repeater armed troops is another fallacy. The offensive halted because the officer directing the attack (Longstreet) was wounded, because of the state of the terrain and because of nightfall.

"Buford's cavalry brigade holding up the entire Confederate army on the first day of Gettysburg really set me laughing. On June 30th Buford's brigade repulsed Pettigrew's brigade (not the whole Confederate army) on the Chambersburg Pike. Next day when A.A.Hills' and Ewells' corps arrived and the battle of Gettysburg-proper began, Buford had been supported by Howards and Doubledays' Corps and the Confederates had a superiority of about 3-2.

"To prove, however, that I am not a true reactionary who spends his time sharpening sabres and extolling the virtues of 'Brown Bess', I would like to say that the Confederates who faced Buford's brigade "believed that we faced four times our own number". Also, the 'underwater victory' is a historical fact and occurred during Wilson's brilliant raid into Alabama and Georgia in 1864-1865, although the troops that the Union troopers shot at were only state militia and should be taken into account when appraising the reason for their flight.

"The repeater gave the Federal cavalry a great advantage over its Confederate adversary although the latter's plight was accentuated by poor mounts, poorer forage and the declining powers of J.E.B.Stuart, although this did not prevent Forrest from thumping the Federal cavalry almost every time he met them.

"I have used regiments armed with repeaters, allowing them two shots per move, in my wargames. Generally they destroy infantry opposition fairly quickly, and cavalry even faster, but most of their gains are quickly lost and then with it. I found it better to keep them back until a gap has been forced by more conventional means, in the enemy's defence and then pass them through the gap, after which they are generally successful. This is probably why Spencers were largely issued to the cavalry, to exploit gaps and not to create them.

"It should also be remembered by wargamers that only a relatively small percentage of Spencer repeaters were used in the Civil war and their introduction was gradual.

"Also a point worth mentioning is that the heaviest infantry fire laid down in the Civil war came from the Confederates lining the stone wall at Fredericksburg, who were armed with breech-loaders although, admittedly, this type of rotary-volley-fire was rare."

---oo0oo---

BATTLE FLEET - April 1968. This magazine of the Naval Wargames Society has been greatly enlarged and is full of interest to the Naval wargamer. Contains articles on Shell Guns; American Warships 1861-1865; Naval battle reports and other features of naval wargaming interest.

---oo0oo---

George Gush of 154D Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, urgently requires a copy of the February, 1968, Wargamer's Newsletter.

---oo0oo---

War on land destroys, in general, more men than war at sea; it is more perilous. The sailor in a squadron fights but once in a campaign; the soldier fights always. The sailor, whatever may be the dangers and hardships of his element, has less to endure than the soldier.

"Napoleon's War Maxims"

## COUNSELS OF WAR.

This narrative of the Battle of Vittoria (21st June, 1813) is by a soldier of the 71st Regiment.



On the 20th of June, we reached the neighbourhood of Vittoria. Next morning, the first pipes played for parade; the second did not play at the usual time. At eleven o'clock we received orders to fall in, and follow the line of march. We crossed a river and passed through a village, on the other side of the road we saw the French camp, their fires still burning just as they had left them. Not a shot had been fired at this time. A large Spanish column moved along the heights, on our right. We halted, and drew up in column. Orders were given to brush out our locks, oil them, and examine our flints. Being in the rear, these were soon followed by orders to open out from the centre, to allow the 71st to advance. The firing was now

very heavy. We charged up the hill, the piper playing, "Hey Johny Cope." The French had possession of the top, but we soon forced them back, and drew up in column on the height, sending out four companies to our left to skirmish. The remainder moved on to the opposite height.

Scarce were we upon the height, when a heavy column dressed in greatcoats, with white covers on their hats, exactly resembling the Spanish, gave us a volley, which put us to the right about at double-quick time down the hill, the French close behind, through the whins. The four companies got the word, the French were on them. They likewise thought them Spaniards, until they got a volley, that killed or wounded almost every one of them. We retired to the height, covered by the 50th, who gave the pursuing column a volley which checked their speed. We moved up the remains of our shattered regiment to the height. We were served sixty rounds a man, and kept up our firing for some time, until the bugle sounded to cease firing.

The French, on the opposite height, were getting under arms; they appeared to be six to one of us. Our orders were to maintain the height while there was a man of us. The engagement began in the plains, and the French were soon put to the right about, through Vittoria. We followed, as quick as our weary limbs would carry us. We continued to advance until it was dark, and then encamped on a height above Vittoria. I had fired 108 rounds this day. Next morning we awoke, dull, stiff, and weary. I could scarce touch my head with my right hand; my shoulder was as black as coal. We washed out our firelocks, and moved on again, about twelve o'clock, in the line of march.

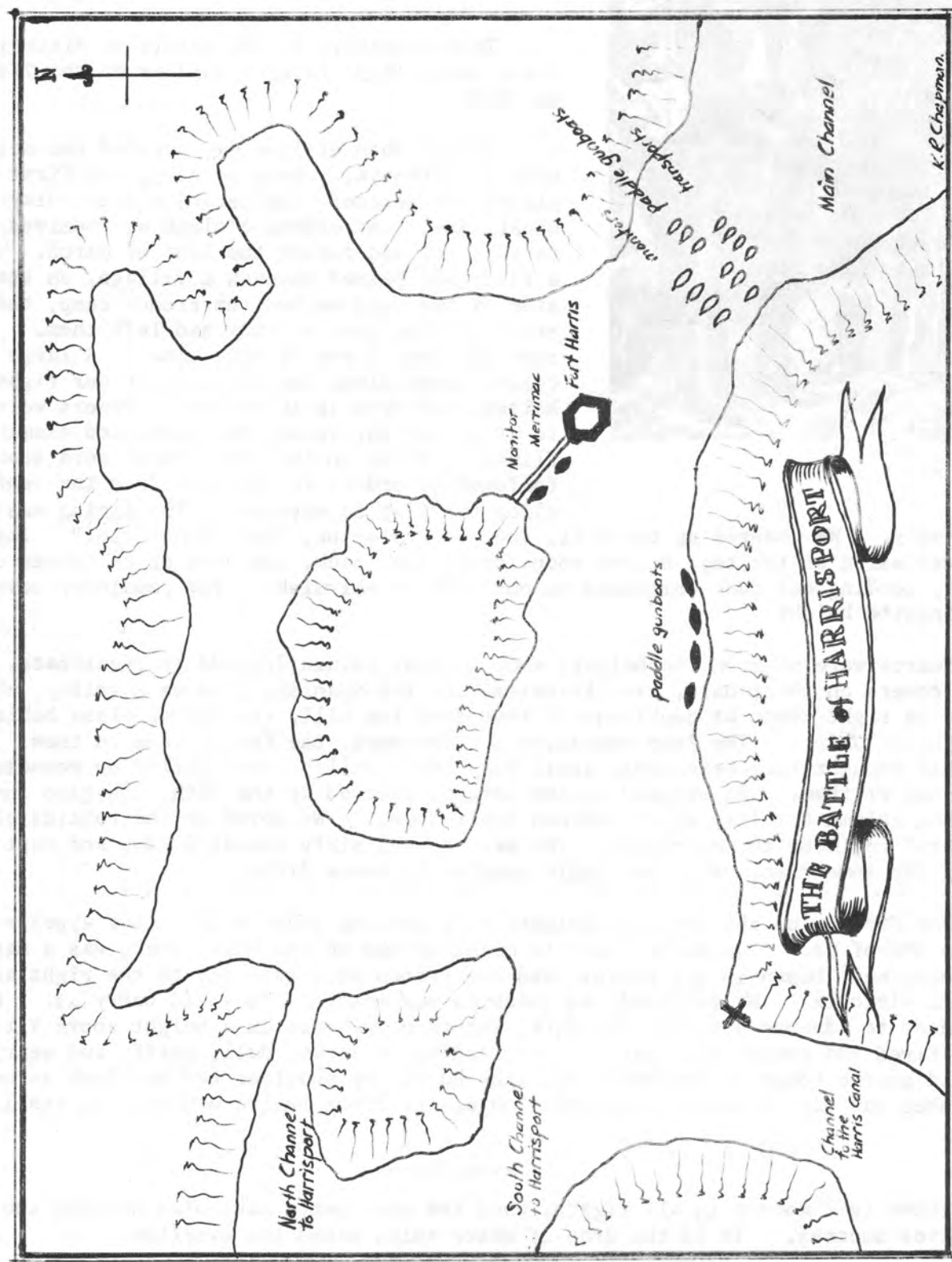
—ooOoo—

There is a moment in all fights, when the most petty manoeuvre decides the day, and gives success. It is the drop of water which makes the overflow.

"Napoleon's War Maxims"

—ooOoo—





The Naval part of the battle of Harrisport was organised by the Hayes Group. It was played on several tables as a small campaign of a battle split into component parts.

#### NARRATIVE

The important harbour of Harrisport on the east coast of the Confederacy was acting both as a refuge for blockade runners and as a supply point for the Confederate forces in retreat before the victorious Sherman. A Federal landing force was assembled to capture it, and if possible to combine this primary task with the following objectives:

1) To land a small force on the Fort Harrison island to force submission by land, and to keep water-borne CSA forces from reinforcing the fort by blockading the island on the opposite side to which the fort was situated.

2) When 1) is completed, to protect a force moving along the canal to attack Harrisport itself.

3) To destroy any Confederate Naval forces that might prevent the Federal Fleet from steaming up either of the two channels to Harrisport.

4) To steam up one or both of these channels and bombard Harrisport in conjunction with the land attack up the Harris canal.

5) After the complete submission of the Confederate forces in the area, to land sufficient army forces to march west, with a supply base at Harrisport, to join up with Sherman's forces marching through Georgia "to the sea".

Apart from the fort, the Confederates could muster a captured Monitor, a vessel similar to the Merrimac, and four paddle gunboats. The Federal Navy had four transports for their landing parties, four Monitors and six paddle gunboats. This gave them almost twice the fighting weight of the CSA guns, including these mounted in the fort.

#### THE ACTION

Initially the fleets of both sides were in the position shown on the map.

The first shots from the fort sunk a transport and damaged the turret of a Monitor in the Federal fleet, forcing it to break off the action. Only negligible casualties were suffered in the fort, the only target the Federal ships could see. Unaware of the positions of the hidden Confederate ships the Union fleet were forced, next move, to split either side of the island. Two transports and three paddle gunboats went to the north of the island, the remainder to the south. As the southern force steamed through the channel, Merrimac emerged and rammed another Monitor, damaging it heavily. All the other Confederate ships (with the exception of one paddle gunboat) were engaged and hit. Union casualties - a heavily damaged paddle gunboat.

Next move, Merrimac attempted to ram a Federal monitor being beaten off with heavy loss of life and damage to its armament. Both fleets suffered casualties; the Confederate Monitor sunk a Federal paddlewheeler aided by the fort, from which the northern force could no longer be seen.

The northern force reached its disembarkation point next move, and the escorting gunboats turned south. In the southern battle area a damaged Federal paddle boat was forced to steam back to Harrisport and two more Union paddlewheelers were put out by the combined guns of the CSA fleet, whilst the fort scored several hits on the Union monitors.

The Merrimac rammed a Union Monitor during the following move but could not back off and was severely damaged; both ships floated onto the southern channel shore. The fight was now almost out of sight of the fort, which scored a last success against a Federal paddlewheeler. For the last two moves, two of the damaged Confederate paddle gunboats had not played much part in the fighting. In this move, they sailed back to Harrisport, pursued by the last Federal gunboat, which had moved north of the island after landing the troops

Left, to the South of the island were a Federal and Confederate Monitor and a badly damaged Confederate paddle boat. The crews of the embattled Merrimac and Monitor had fought a "boarding" action on land when their ships finally grounded, and one Monitor gun was back in action at the point marked X. When we later fought the land battles it was clear that the fort was in Federal hands and now out of play. Targets could not be seen from it, anyway, so the Confederates retreated down the channels to Harrisport, leaving their wrecks to be taken over by the last Union transport of the Southern force. Repaired Union wrecks, and guns taken and remounted from fort Harris at "O" were enough to deter any future Confederate interference with Federal supplies, whilst the Union army advanced up the canal. Objectives 1, 2 and 5 were completed in spite of strong Confederate resistance. Harrisburg resisted for some time, eventually capitulating when it had lost 300 men and had engaged the attentions of a complete Union corps.

### CAMPAIGN OF HARRISPORT

#### RULES

Infantry move 1 sq. per day (cross-country), 2 on roads.

(one square equals a table, except in sea fights).

Boats 3 squares per move.

Cavalry 2 squares (cross-country), 3 on roads.

Only a 4-day march may be made cross-country before entering a supply town or a road with communications extending back to either coast or a supply town. Each unit drops a morale point for 10 moves, if a road is reached during those 10. Otherwise a further 10 are added, and the unit never regains lost points.

5 supply points come from each of three North roads, 5 from each town held and ten from Harris. Every tenth move it must be possible for the Confederates to send 50 points up the railway. Two failures only are allowed. The time during which the supplies are needed might be 20 trains, = 200 moves.

Up to 200 men may be fitted on each square's road.

Federals must be able to land, at any coast town, 5 points for each brigade in their army, or make the total up from the towns.

Confederates have 7 brigades of 2 regiments each, and a Cavalry division of 3 regiments. 6 Foot guns and two horse. A Monitor, a Merrimac and 4 gunboats.

Federals have 12 brigades and 12 foot guns. 4 Monitors, 6 gunboats and 10 transports. Transports can carry either a brigade or 5 points.

For every 5 points the Federals fail to land, a full infantry brigade (or the strongest surviving) loses one morale point on their dice. The Confederate commander may choose which.

Rivers navigable up to the 1st bridging point.

Fort has 6 guns per face (of the highest calibre and range).

—ooOoo—

American Wargamer, Keith Hubbard, wrote recently of his hectic adventures in the South Seas, whilst writing a book. He says:- "We were entertained (as visiting researchers) in the Samoan High Chief's residence, - Robert Louis Stevenson's house. While there I looked in vain for any sign of the miniature soldier collection he mentions in his writings, but saw no sign of them."

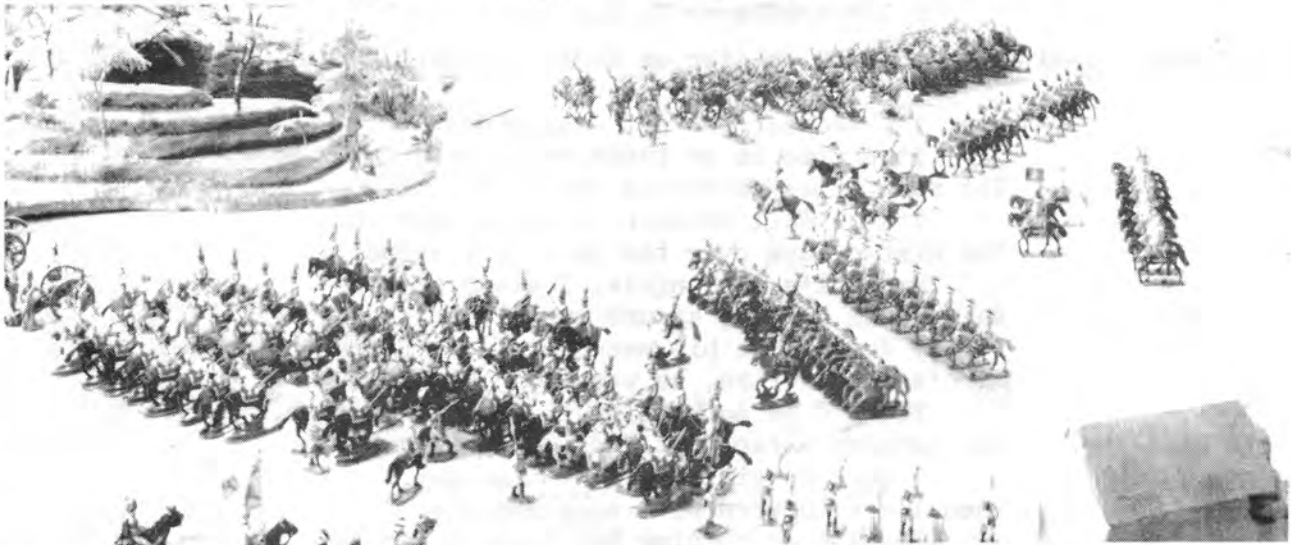
On his way home, Keith visited "Jack Scruby at Visalia - had dinner with him and I wound up purchasing a sizeable order of Roman legionaries, Gauls and elephants. The result is that my mountain retreat has been the scene of several interesting and bitterly contested ancient wargames, involving entrenched camps, fortresses, catapults, light and heavy horse engagements and of course melees between barbarians and legions (not to mention Greek mercenaries), the latter apt to change sides in the midst of a campaign!



# CHARGE!

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## FIRING INTO THE BROWN!

Do you know what WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER is in German? It is "Kriegsspielers Neue Zeitung". I rather like that!

---ooOoo---

W.H. Auden's poem about a Roman soldier on Hadrian's Wall.

Over the heather the wet wind blows.  
 I've lice in my tunic and a cold in my nose.  
 The rain comes pattering out of the sky,  
 I am a Wall soldier, I don't know why.  
 The mist creeps over the hard grey stone,  
 My girl's in Tungria, I sleep alone.  
 Aulus goes hanging around her place,  
 I don't like his manners, I don't like his face.  
 Piso's a Christian, he worships a fish,  
 There'd be no kissing if he had his wish.  
 She gave me a ring but I diced it away.  
 I want my girl and I want my pay.  
 When I'm a veteran with only one eye,  
 I shall do nothing but look at the sky.

Auden called his poem "Roman Wall Blues". For American families and American soldiers there are going to be a lot of blues on the Vietnam Wall. It is the price an empire must pay to establish some sort of peace - something just recognisable as peace - on its frontiers.

---ooOoo---

I am indebted to Francis S. Durocher for the following press cutting:-

"Games in School. Latest trend in elementary schools is to teach kids "critical thinking" and "methods of inquiry" by playing games. Some games use boards and men, like chess, to show how events occurred in history. Students manipulate their men against opposing armies or natural hazards, thus learning to make decisions and get the feel of real situations. Says Dr. Harold Wigren of the National Education Association: "Academic games add a new dimension to learning"."

---ooOoo---

### Suggestion No. 3

That model soldier manufacturers give a thought to the many wargamers using 30mm figures (who came into the hobby before 20mm scale figures existed). It is very difficult in Great Britain to find a reasonably priced range giving many varieties.

and 3A. Correspondents are reminded that, except in case of personal friends, any letters that require an answer must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

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APC 2S	Persian Horse Archer.
AAC 1S	Assyrian Lancer.
AAC 2S	Assyrian Horse Archer.
AAC 3S	Assyrian or Parthian Half Armoured Cataphract.
AGC 1S	Gaul Lancer.
AGC 2S	Gaul Javelinman.

## MEDIEVAL PERIOD

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NC 1S	Norman Knight.

## MARLBURIAN PERIOD

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## ENGLISH CIVIL WAR PERIOD

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ECWC 3S	Cuirassier.

AE 6.	Egyptain Charioteer
AR 13.	Roman Spearman throwing
AR 14.	Roman Auxillary
AGr 6.	Macedonian Phalangite

AA 13	Assyrian Charioteer
AB 7	Byzantine Javelinman
AG 9	Celt Spearman
AGr 7	Greek Peltast

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M 543



RMC 1



N 542



TMC 2



# THE AMERICAN SCENE

by

## Pat Condray



In spite of numerous efforts at "contemporary" wargaming - Arab-Israeli, counter insurgency, and all that, probably most of the "modern" period wargaming done is of World War II period. However, while some discussion has taken place in the wargame periodicals of British and German organisation tables relatively little has been done with the U.S. Army, so I thought I might pass along a few notes on that worthy organisation, based on researches and my own efforts to reduce American combat units to manageable wargame proportions.

The Second World War was a period of real innovation in the history of the U.S. Army. Planners, headed by General Leslie McNair (killed near Normandy by heavy bomber of the 8th Air Force) spent a great deal of effort trying to get the most punch per man out of each unit, and some of the major reforms were as follows:

1. The basic division (in theory at least) of infantry was stripped to the barest essentials, and surplus headquarters units scrapped. Thus the "triangular" pattern of 3 infantry and 1 artillery regiments was modified so that the 3 artillery battalions reported directly to division and had no regimental H.Q. per se.

2. Armoured Divisions, with the exception of the 2nd (which entered combat in the 1942 T.O.) were converted from 2 medium, 1 light tank regiments, 3 Armoured Infantry and 3 Armoured Artillery Btns. and supports to 3 Tank Btns., and Armoured Infantry Regiment, later 3 btns., mechanised cavalry squadron (recon), armoured artillery and supports.

3. Non-Divisional units were established for motor transport (Q.M. Companies etc.) anti-tank, tank, anti-aircraft and heavy artillery, as well as mechanised cavalry. These were usually battalions.

4. Non-standard divisions were discouraged, but cropped up anyway. Most prominent were the Mountain and Light Divisions, the parachute divisions and dismounted horse cavalry, the latter types being "square" (4 rifle regiments) which paid off for the airbourne at Bastogne when all around defence was involved.

The basic division, of course, was of infantry, based on a rifle company of three rifle, 1 weapons platoons, a battalion of three rifle companies, one weapons battalion, a regiment of three rifle battalions, 3 canon platoons (usually 105 howitzers, formerly called a "canon company"), a Q.M. unit with a varying number of trucks, the weight of which varied from 1-3 to 2-5 ton capacity, the former being specified, but the latter being scrounged. The divisions combat force included 2 battalions (3 batteries and H.Q.) of 105mm howitzers (towed) and 1 battalion of 155mm howitzers (towed).

While in theory no armoured units were organic to the standard infantry division, Division strength tended to range from 14,037 to as much as 18,000 due to the attachment of special battalions, almost always including an armoured (Medium Tank M-4) battalion when operating offensively in the European Theatre, and sometimes a Tank Destroyer Battalion and other units as on the line with armour, tank destroyer, and anti-aircraft battalions being massed at the threatened or decisive point.

To be continued.



## GENTLEMEN! HAVE A CARE!

When the forces of the average wargamer fighting horse and musket battles arrive on his baseline either at the commencement of a battle or during it as reinforcements, they usually come on in a group. This is unrealistic because the force would be moving in column stretched out over a considerable area of countryside. The different arms would be placed in the order they would be required to come into action. In this period, artillery were required in the early stages of the battle - therefore, its place was forward in the column.

Similarly the action of cavalry only comes into play when the other arms have produced some effect; its place on the march therefore would be in the rear. (This does not refer to the cavalry covering the advance). Tactical units should move complete; that is, the different arms should be within reach of at once affording each other mutual support. Thus if two divisions had to move on two roads, the infantry, the cavalry and artillery of each would move together on each road.

But when marching in this order the pace of the infantry must, as the slowest, regulate the whole. Therefore, this must be taken into account, together with the fact that it was a pace particularly fatiguing to cavalry and horse-draw artillery. In other words, when map-moving the column will move at infantry pace and subsequent table-top manoeuvres of cavalry and horse-artillery will be penalised.

It may well pay an adventurous commander to move each arm on a separate road, particularly if he has reason to believe that the enemy are not near at hand.

When on the march an equable pace should be carefully preserved; that is, if it varies, it should vary with regularity. It should be from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 miles an hour for infantry, 4 for artillery and 5 for cavalry. But the length of the column, the nature of the roads, the season of the year, the state of the weather, must all influence the rate at which troops can move. All these factors can be covered by the rules under which the campaign is organised.

Regular halts should be observed. The custom on this head varies in different armies. General Craufurd's orders to the Light division directed a halt half an hour after starting and once every hour afterwards. The halt to last at least 5 minutes, or such further time as the commander may direct.

In the Prussian Army the first halt was three quarters of an hour after starting, and when the whole march was under 14 miles (English) there was a second halt of half to three quarters of an hour when half of the march had been completed. When the march exceeded 14 miles there was a halt every 2 hours.

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"Napoleon's War Maxims"



# MUST LIST

WHAT NOT TO MISS



Neville Dickenson of Miniature Figurines is my regular Thursday night wargames opponent. Rarely do we get a battle finished in an evening because at some stage of the proceedings Neville will produce a new batch of 'masters' that are about to be moulded and put on the market. Because he and his master-model maker are so prolific, this happens every week and last Thursday was no exception. If anything it was worse than usual! My eyes were dazzled by a galaxy of cavalymen, ranging from Macedonians to Roundheads and Cavaliers, through Byzantines, Greeks, Persians, Assyrians, Gauls, Teutonic Knights, Normans and Marlburian Troopers and Dragoons. Having spread that lot out before me, he rummaged around under the table and then produced a range of Ancient Infantry - Egyptians, Assyrians, Romans, Byzantines, Celts, Macedonians and Greeks. Obviously feeling that as we were fighting a Napoleonic war game he had better keep in character, Neville revealed three nice little French Engineers (Sapeurs). By now I had given up all hope of continuing the game and settled down to see the next offerings - cross-bowmen firing from behind mantlets and Civil War musketeers with their weapons on rests. At precisely the same moment as his attractive wife walked in with the coffee, Neville, with a dramatic flourish, revealed his latest 54mm figures - a Polish lancer, an Italian Renaissance drummer, a Russian Garde du Corps, 1831 and a nude Greek Hoplite. Mrs. Dickenson blushed prettily and fled the room. There is much that can be said about these figures, suffice to say that they are part of a rapidly increasing range, cheap and of high quality and, most important to the impatient wargamer, posted off to him almost by return mail.

Airfix have brought out yet another box of figures - this time British Commandos of World War II. This is a very nice little range of warriors, clad in the well-known commando woollen hat and including two items particularly of value to wargamers. These are a two-man canoe (kayak), complete with paddle-bearing two man crew, also a pair of scaling ladders with carriers and with climbing men. The latter will be very useful for siege operations and no doubt ingenious fingers will convert the carriers and the climbers to suit the period in question. The kit also contains men throwing grapnels, radio operators, rifle and tommy-gun armed infantry, grenade throwers and men operating barge-detonators. A worth while and very cheap kit for the modernist.

Last month I described a terrain piece 'the Redan' sent me by Bellona Ltd. I have now painted up this earthwork, it took about fifteen minutes and the result surpasses all expectations. This is really an excellent piece and one that would grace any wargames table. I am convinced that Bellona have struck an excellent field here and can visualise, in the not too distant future, our wargames tables being compactly and quickly built up with light, cheap and easily packed away pieces of terrain. There are, of course, many other similar pieces of varying positions such as the Menin Road, gun positions, etc. etc.



R.W. Spencer-Smith of 66 Long Meadow, Warren Estate, Frimley, Surrey, is the maker of a ridiculously cheap range of 30mm plastic wargames figures. Because of the time factor, Ronald Spencer-Smith is unable to plug this excellent range as much as is justified. Nevertheless, he brings out new items at regular intervals and his latest is worthy of note. It consists of a set of three 30mm scale Naval guns of the Nelsonian period - wooden stepped carriages with three types of barrel. Painted up, these look excellent and can also be used as shore defenses in forts and the like. I do not know their price but, if it is in keeping with the rest of this range, it will be extremely low.

I have received a catalogue of Hinchliffe Models of 102 Harboro Road, Sale, Cheshire, England. Although I have heard of this organisation their products were new to me and I found their catalogue to be not only of interest but also of value because of the diagrams and descriptive matter that accompanied the extremely high standard range of 54mm scale model guns of varying periods. If you are interested in a brilliantly accurate artillery show piece for your mantleshell or wargames room I suggest you contact this group.

In the past I have mentioned types of military wrapping paper and now I have come across yet more types that will be not only of interest but possibly of value to the wargamer. In London I obtained from Heals of Tottenham Court Road, sheets of olive-green paper with Marlburian cavalymen in gold depicted upon it. This paper is of the highest quality and, suitably cut, could be used to embellish lampshades, waste paper baskets and many other items of furniture and decoration. The second type of paper is apparently of French origin and consists of a vast number of the wonderful coloured figures taken from the recently published two volume work by Fred and Liliane Funken "Le Costume et les Armes des Soldats de tous les temps". These wrapping papers can often be seen in post offices and small fancy goods shops and sell for about 8d. or 9d. a sheet. Look out for them!

I have received from The Garrison, W. and P. (Militaria) Limited, 198 Northolt Road, South Harrow, Middlesex, England, a set of their new Olive cards which sell at 6s. a set plus 1s. postage and packing. The set I have received consists of 6 British Infantry figures of the Colonial Wars of the 1870's and 80's ranging from a Royal Marine of the Zulu War of 1879, Guards Camel Detachment, and Infantry and Troopers of the Afghan War and the Sudan War of 1884/5. Painted up, these will look very good. The range also includes the British Army, Boer period; British Army home service 1879-96 (full marching order;) U.S. Cavalry of the Indian Wars; and British Infantry of World War 1.

I have seen a list from N.W. Hartley of 41 Swanmore Road, Bournemouth, which contains many imported foreign records of interest to military collectors. These consist of French and German military band records and include marching songs, Napoleonic marches, fanfares and choruses etc.

The Historical Documents Company of 14 Rathbone Place, London W.1., has a most interesting list of antique reproductions on parchment that not only look old but actually feel old. They include maps and military recruiting posters etc., which would grace the walls of any room, not only that used for wargames but also to impress your friends in the lounge!

I have received from A.A. Johnston, the military bookseller of Pitney, Langport, Somerset, England, details of some interesting new books. One is called the Book of The Continental Soldier and contains nearly 300 pages and more than 200 illustrations. It is a complete account of the uniforms, weapons and equipment with which the soldier of the American Revolution fought. It sells for £6 and seems to be a mine of information.

20.

On a similar vein, I have in front of me a "Sketch Book 76" by Robert Klinger and Richard A. Wilder. This is a detailed collection of sketches, notes and patterns of the clothing and equipment of the American soldier of 1775 - 1781. These black and white sketches were compiled from studies of the actual existing specimens of clothing and equipment used by the American foot soldier in the Revolutionary War. I doubt if there is anything, including the most minute breakdown and measurements of small items such as the water bottle and powder horns, that one would want to know that there is not included here. The collector should now devoutly pray that a talented enthusiast puts out similar volumes for Napoleonic and other periods of interest. At 21s.6d. I cannot recommend this book too highly for the man who really wants to get down to details.

I also have information concerning a two volume Italian book which, Arthur Johnston informs me has yet to be published and is likely to sell at about £2 per volume. It seems as though it might be on the lines of the Funken book mentioned above and is entitled "Le Uniformi piu' Belle Del Mondo Oggi"- volume one is of European soldiers and volume two is American, Asian and African soldiers of all ages.

Still on books - have you seen the exciting Pan Piper paperback at 6s. "Seeing Roman Britain" by Leonard Cottrell? This is a book that should be clasped firmly in the hand of every military enthusiast who has the time to wander around Britain looking at sites of ancient battles, earthworks, fortifications and the like dating back to the Roman occupation of these islands. Armed with this volume one can wander around such exciting places as Maiden Castle near Dorchester or Hadrian's Wall and know all there is to know about it down to the minutest detail. It also gives a considerable amount of valuable information on Roman soldiers, their equipment and formations.

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## Book Reviews

W. T. Thurber writes: "I have just found a paperback Bantam Book (American) that looks interesting. "Air War, Vietnam" by Frank Harvey. It has some interesting photographs of the planes in use.

I have just read T. D. Rangers "Revolt in Southern Rhodesia 1896-97". This however has more about the background than the actual fighting, on which I suppose one has still to go back to the old books like B.P.'s "Matabele Campaign", "Sunshine and Storm in Rhodesia" and Burnham's "Scouting in Two Continents".

I have just finished reading Peter Young's book on "The Israeli Campaign" and Byford Jones's "Lightning War" which complement one another very well.

Incidentally, the Ranger book has one or two interesting personal illustrations. One contemporary sketch of an attack on a Chartered Company Column in 1893 shows very clearly both Winchester and Martini rifles in use.

—ooOoo—

"AT THEM WITH THE BAYONET!" by Donald F. Featherstone. (Jarrolds, London, 1968. 30s.) 5½" x 8¾". 197 pages; 7 maps; 11 plates.

The British square was shuddering under heavy fire. A man with a flesh wound went from one officer to another seeking permission to leave the Square and be treated by the surgeon. One by one the men he approached ordered him back to the line, showing him their own wounds... the Colonel's shattered leg (but he still sat on his horse well) and others with injuries equally terrible. Eventually the persistent fellow was killed as he staggered about.

This is the sort of thing you get in Donald Featherstone's newest battle book, "At them with the Bayonet!" (Jarrolds, 30s.), about the first Sikh War. The Southampton author produces books like this with the same bewildering speed as once caused the Germans to mistake our infantry's five-rounds-rapid for machine-gun fire.

The analogy would appeal to Mr. Featherstone who is nothing if not enthusiastic, and fiery with it. So his latest book is fun to read because it is written with verve and the enthusiasm shows through on every page.

But there's more value to be found than the simple re-creation of the days when the sand of the desert was sodden red.

In "At them with the Bayonet!", Mr. Featherstone's love of action and high courage doesn't overlay his extreme regard for historical accuracy. He's a demon for blood, but also for research.

As a history of the days when the Sikhs began collecting artillery pieces and disaffected Napoleonic officers, this book is more than useful. As a tale of action and duty, it is quite compelling.

W.M.HILL (Southern Evening Echo 23rd March, 1968).



1346  
Crecy Bombard



## EARLY ARTILLERY

by  
DERYCK COLEMAN

The reviewer of "The Bowmen of England" by Donald Featherstone, in the last copy of 'Tradition' is incorrect when he rejects the statement that the longbow was a primitive form of artillery. His premise that this was already in existence at the time appears to rest on a misunderstanding of the term.

Artilleria was not only a comprehensive term for all large missile throwers but also covered military machines of all kinds including ALL ordnance. The description was employed long before the introduction of cannon, although they were subsequently included. Even after guns were introduced the term continued to be applied to trebuchets, springalds

and balista together with longbows, arbalasts, arrows, quarrels, bolts and lances!

As proof the following from EXCH ACCOUNTS K.R. 896/15. In 1369 John of Hatfield, clericus artillerie naiaum domini regis, appears as receiving numerous standards, bows, arrows, lances and other artilleria but neither cannon or powder. In the 15th century the term "Artiller" was synonymous with "Bowyer".

Medieval wargamers will be interested to learn that the guns used at Crecy were probably ribaudequins or ribalds, part of a consignment ordered by Edward from Mildenhall. Capable of being fired singly or together, they were small groups of cannon mounted together on a single portable carriage with two or four iron hooped wheels, like a wheelbarrow. It is doubtful if a hundred of them were used at Crecy but Mildenhall received £124. 18. 4d. for his labours. Salutory is it not to discover that the price worked out at around 3½d a lb! A small springald of the time cost 68s. 8d. and a crossbow was around 12s. 0d.

The guns were made at the Tower, the ironwork by Walter and the woodwork by Richard of St Albans, the kings carpenter. Curiously there is no evidence of payment for the shipment of these ribalds until after Crecy was fought. There is a record of payment to one Everard Croel, mariner, for the carrying of the kings ribalds beyond the sea dated 17th February, 1347; certainly in time for the siege of Calais. These guns were designed to fire 'pellats of lead and stones carven by the masons of the Tower' (Payment 6d a day). They also fired quarrels flighted by copper or brass. I wonder if any of these remain buried in the Vallee aux Clercs?

One further interesting snippet has emerged from some of the research. The first reference to firearms in an English chronicle records the death of an English Knight from such a weapon. Apparently this was Thomas de Morreus in the great raid of 1359; the entry reading:- 'Dominus Thomas de Morreus percussus est medio de una gunna'. The first of a long line?

# LOOKING AROUND

23



AIRFIX MAGAZINE - April 1968. Chris Ellis shows illustrated variations on Mk IV World War I tank; conversions of the German Army 1914-18; Part 10 of the Churchill Tank story -Bridging Variants; an article on preserved R.A.F. aircraft 1918-68; plus the usual features, correspondents, book reviews etc., etc.

THE BULLETIN - The Journal of the British Model Soldier Society - February 1968 Contains reviews of new figures, models and plates; a book list; news and reports of military magazines from all quarters of the world; a Flat Figure Review; uniform details and other features.

DISPATCH - No. 37. Contains SEVEN pages of news on the latest model figures; book notes; details of plates, prints and cards and usual features.

THE GAMESLETTER - The official organ of the NFFF Games Bureau (U.S.A.). This is a magazine that deals with all forms of board wargames and with the literature arising from them.

HISTORY TODAY - April 1968. This highly professional and brilliantly turned out monthly magazine frequently contains articles of a military nature of the greatest interest to collectors and wargamers. In this issue is an illustrated article on the March Offensive, 1918; an article on General Patrick Gordon, a Scot in the service of the Russian Tsars; Henry IV and the revolt of the Earls, 1400; plus correspondence, book reviews, etc.

MECCANO MAGAZINE - April 1968. Nothing specifically of interest to wargamers in this issue but I understand that future issues are to feature wargaming plus a series of articles by veteran wargamer Charles Grant.

MODEL BOATS - April 1968. Contains Number 28 of Fighting Fleets in miniature, details of H.M.S. Tiger, World War I; illustrated article on type XXI the most powerful U-Boat of World War II and an article with illustrations on the Stuart yacht.

SAVAGE AND SOLDIER - January 1968. Usually contains some off-beat items of interest to those specialising in Colonial warfare and this issue is no exception. Details of the uniforms of the French Light Infantry in the 1893 Tonkin Campaign; a lengthy series on the Spanish-American War and details of the conversion of Airfix troops to troops of the Colonial Wars of 1870-1920, plus usual items.

K. G. WYNN.

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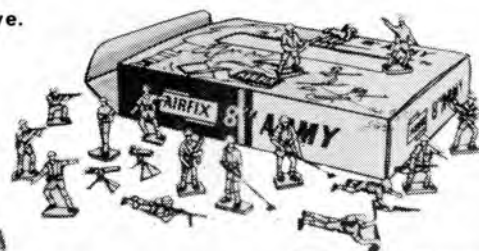
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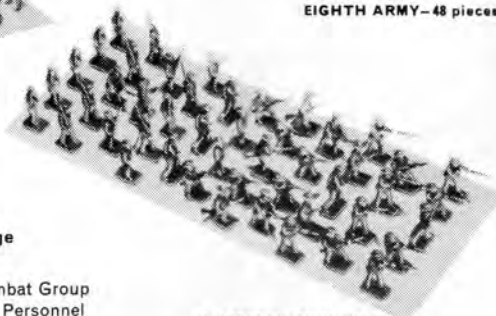
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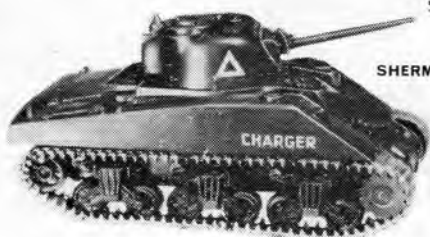
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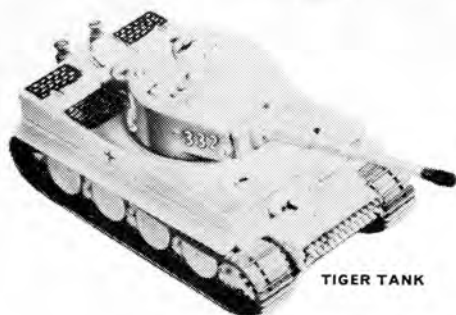
Inf. Combat Group  
Civilian Personnel  
Foreign Legion  
Russian Infantry  
Robin Hood  
Paratroopers



SHERMAN TANK



25-POUNDER FIELD GUN

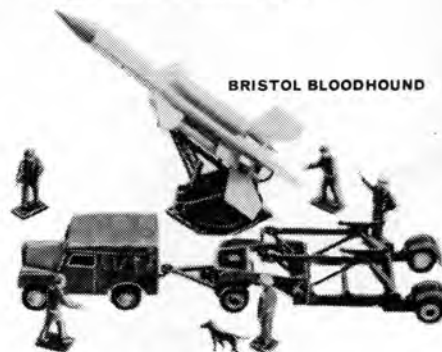


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