

AUGUST 1968

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# WARGAMER'S NEWSLETTER

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## EDITORIAL



When I was a young lad I collected foreign stamps until, suddenly it dawned upon me that I could not get them all. The thought frustrated me to such an extent that I immediately lost interest in stamp collecting. A wargamer appears to follow a completely opposite policy in that he refuses to acknowledge the fact that it might be difficult to have armies in every period or to fight with Greeks and Persians one night and helicopters and tanks on the next. There seem to be few wargamers who have an army for only one period, building it up and adding to it over the years. There always seems to be some facet of another period that is interesting - thus a man will happily fight modern wargames for years and then suddenly begin to build up forces of Romans and Gauls or figures for Seven Years War campaigns.

This is really a very healthy aspect of the hobby even if it may be considered to reflect the never-satisfied outlook of the average wargamer. Ask any commercial manufacturer of model soldiers and he will tell you that whatever figure he labours on and then displays with pride, the wargamer will look thoughtfully at it and remark: "That could be turned into a jolly good Austrian hussar!" As they used to say in old-time jokes - total collapse of figure maker!

Many wargamers are able to fight in different periods by belonging to Clubs or Groups where members possess armies for different periods. Therein lies perhaps the greatest attraction of a gathering of wargamers - rabid American Civil War fan can go along one evening per month at least and fight in some other completely strange period. We will draw a merciful veil over the inevitable arguments about rules that have not been compiled by oneself!

Personally, I seem to spend months painting up an army with which I fight perhaps two battles only for them to be displayed on shelves whilst I paint up a similar force in yet another period. At the moment, I am busily painting up Austrian, Prussian, French and British armies for the Seven Years War, I have begun a collection of Romans and various assorted enemies and I have very strong leanings towards getting together Roundheads and Cavaliers to fight English Civil War battles. Truly, my wife can repeat her now immortal (after being headlined in the London Evening Standard) remark "if I see you paint another soldier I'll go mad!"

DON FEATHERSTONE.







### Introduction

The Seven Years War, fought in 1756-63 between Austria and Prussia, is a classic, standing historically between the brutal infantry slogging matches of Marlborough's time and the dull cannonades of the Napoleonic Wars, marking the high point of tactical control. At no other time has the individual soldier been so highly trained. Because of these reasons it is a rewarding area of study for the wargamer. The setting of the war offers a satisfying field for wargaming in all its many aspects. Not seeking to do more than whet the appetite, this guide is for the newcomer to the period.

It is divided initially into seven parts:

1. The Composition of the Armies and their Weapons.
2. The basic Strategies and Tactics.
3. The Austrian Army.
4. The Prussian Army.
5. Outline Rules for Strategic Warfare.
6. Outline Rules for Tactical Warfare.
7. Bibliography and Figures.

I wish to acknowledge Brigadier P. Young and C. Grant amongst others whose knowledge of this period has been the subject of Books and Articles.

### Part One - The Armies and their Weapons

The armies of the Seven Years War were highly trained professionals, containing a strong element of mercenaries. Each main field army was commonly composed of about 40,000 men, in the proportion of 4-1 Infantry and Cavalry with four guns per 1,000 men.

The infantry were in two battalion regiments of 800 per battalion. Cavalry regiments contained two to seven squadrons of 150 men each. Artillery were in brigades of about 10 guns.

During the war, the Austrians and their Allies had a 2:1 numerical superiority over the Prussians, balanced by Prussian advantages of interior lines, unity of command - both political and military, better training and a superb civil service.

The basic infantry weapon was the musket, highly effective up to 50 yards but of morale value only beyond this range. Troops fired as they advanced towards each other, frequently exchanging volleys from a range of 300 paces to give themselves confidence. Before reaching a melee, the morale of one side usually failed.

Cavalry used the sabre almost exclusively; pistols and carbines were subsidiary weapons. The lance was found in a few 'unfashionable' regiments.

Artillery ranged from 3pdr to 18pdr, the lighter calibres being distributed amongst the infantry as regimental pieces. Cannon fired round-shot and a primitive grape; Howitzers fired shell. Operating with the cavalry, Horse artillery made an impact during this period.

The armies were dependent on magazines so that fortresses, garrisons and convoys played important roles. In the field, an army required at least one waggon per 100 men. Saxony, Bohemia and Silesia (the seat of war) are full of rivers and pontoon trains featured prominently. Being mountainous, the area had few and poor roads, in constant need of repair if they were to be used by heavy artillery or convoys, so that a corps of

sappers was indispensable. The broken country gave great scope for raids by light troops. The fortified places were mole-hills compared with those of the Netherlands but a siege train was not to be neglected.

### Part Two - Strategy and Tactics.

The Seven Years War gave victories to both basic strategies of offence and defence. The Austrians favoured a war of position in which battle is only offered from very strong defensive positions. Their chief exponent was Marshal Daun. The object was to out-manoeuver the enemy without hazarding battle, deprive him of his bases and convince him that he had lost. Daun's caution was sometimes taken to excess, but he won victories. A medal struck in his honour reads - "By procrastination you conquer - continue to conquer".

Frederic II of Prussia believed in destroying the enemy's field army and victory will follow. His daring was taken to the point of recklessness and involved him in colossal defeats (Kunersdorf and Kollin) as well as brilliant victories (Rossbach and Leuthen).

### The Campaign.

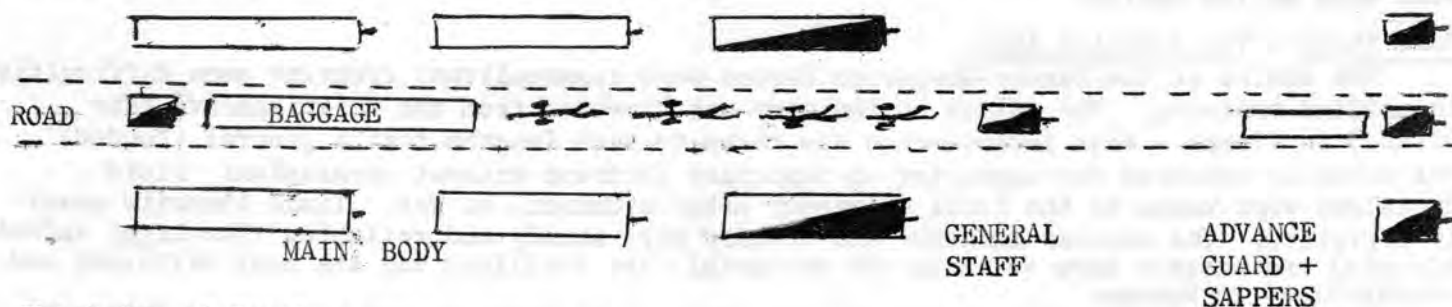
Europe had recovered from the desolation of the 30 Years War, and the 18th century was a period of "civilised" warfare. There seemed to have been a tacit agreement that war was waged by professional armies and not by religious or national groups.

The campaign season was from May at the earliest until December at the latest. This was because of forage and the havoc wrought by winter to the roads.

War did not stop between December and May, then the light troops bickered and laid the ground for the coming campaign. Major winter campaigns - like night marches - were risky. During winter quarters the armies recruited and trained. Magazines were restocked at the end of the harvest (October).

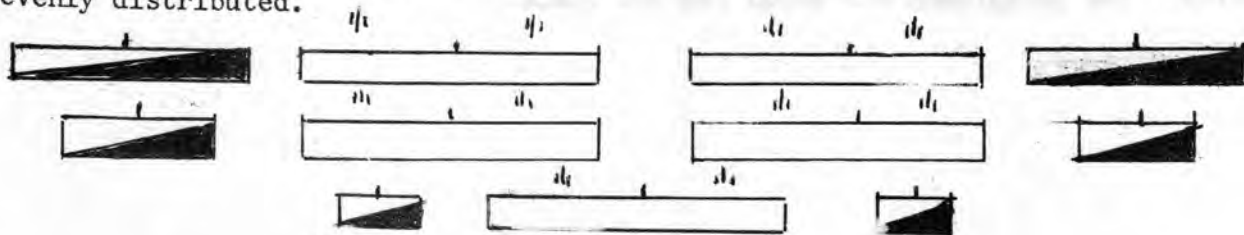
### The Order of March.

The army would be preceded (covered) by an advance guard (rear guard). This force would be composed of about one sixth of the infantry plus some light cavalry. The artillery and waggons followed along the road. The main body marched in two columns alongside the road (across country). The advance guard and sappers would precede the column by half the length of the column. From this order-of-march it was relatively simple to form Order-of-battle.

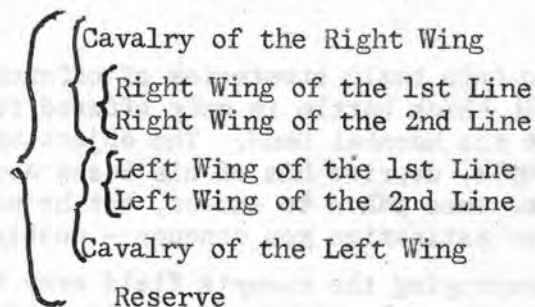


### The Order of Battle

With occasional exceptions, the armies maintained the classical order of battle - two lines plus a reserve, with cavalry on the flanks. An army of 40,000 men would occupy a frontage of three miles, with a distance of 400 yards between the lines. Artillery was evenly distributed.



For organisational purposes the army was formed as two wings. The command structure was:



In a larger army these divisions were split into brigades of 3,000 - 4,000 men each, commanded by a Major-General. Two or more brigades were commanded by a Lieutenant-General and a wing by a General of Horse or Foot. The command would be held by a Marshal.

Although this order of battle appears rigid it was in fact flexible. There was no objection to the cavalry of the right wing forming the centre, or whatever the circumstances demanded. The divisions were mainly for administrative convenience.

#### Tactical Manoeuvres

Troops deployed three ranks deep, with a yard between ranks and a yard between files. Manoeuvre in this close order had been possible since the introduction of the cadenced step in 1740. The training of the troops enabled the armies to be manoeuvred as a whole. The Prussian army in particular was adept at making flank marches within 300 yards of the enemy, halting, facing and presenting an unbroken front.

Changing from column of companies (or battalions) into line involved a flank march by the leading companies. To avoid buckling of the line or, worse still, gaps, the distance of about 10 yards between companies or battalions, when formed in line, was strictly adhered to.

The well defined and opposite strategies should suit every taste. The formal tactics make rule making easier.

#### Part Three - The Austrian Army.

The armies of the Austro-Hungarian Empire were cosmopolitan, creating some difficulties in unified training. The policy of the army was directed from the Hofkviessrath (War Office) in Vienna - this interference was taken to such lengths that a general (Loudon) was actually censored for capturing an important fortress without permission! Field decisions were taken by the local commander after a Council of War. Timid councils usually prevailed. The regular infantry and cavalry were steady and reliable. The light infantry (Croats) and hussars were volatile and mercurial. The artillery was the most efficient and standardised in Europe.

The basic uniform was coat-turned back, waistcoat, breeches and leggings. Hair was powdered and the tricorne hat, with oak leaf, was worn. The battle standard was the two headed eagle with sword and sceptre on a white (1st battalion) or yellow (2nd battalion) background. On a shield on the eagles chest or on the reverse side was a picture of the Virgin and Child. The background was edged red and black.





### Infantry.

The German infantry wore all white with various coloured facings. Regiments named Kaiser (red), Hoch and Deutschmeister (bright blue), Los-Rios (green), Salm-Salm (black), Maguire (red) and many others.

The Hungarian infantry wore white coats, sky blue trousers with yellow stripe, calf length boots and moustache. Regiments named Bathyany (yellow facings), Palfry (blue), Bethlen (green), Simbschen (red) etc. etc. The Hungarians were often employed on harder tasks though they had less formal training.

Each battallion contributed a company of bear-skin hatted grenadiers (80 men). They were often used as skirmishers or brigaded separately for special tasks.

Foresters and poachers were enrolled in Jaeger Corps, wearing a grey uniform with green facings. Two companies were attached to each brigade.

The light troops were raised from the Balkan provinces. They wore national costume with a red cloak. Some units were on a "territorial" basis known as "Grenztruppen". Many of the troops were Mohammedans and the battle cry of "Allah! Allah!" was often heard. The provinces included Croatia, Banat, Warasdin, Carlstadt and, fiercest of all, Pandour. Often supported by formed bodies of grenadiers or Hungarians, these troops only fought in open order.

### Cavalry.

The cuirassiers formed the backbone of the battle cavalry. A white uniform with vari-coloured facings was worn, over which was a black cuirass. Regiment names were Luchessi, Lothringen and Leopold. Each regiment included a 'light' troop of carabineers whose duty was scouting and preparing the way.

The dragoons of the period still occasionally continued to act as mounted infantry. Almost any coloured uniform was worn - Liechtenstein (dark blue with red facings), Modena (red with light blue) and Lowenstein (green with red). Horse grenadiers provided an elite corps.

The light cavalry, the original Hussars, were raised from Hungary.

Uniforms were highly decorative - Esterhazy (light blue with yellow), Kuker (red with white) and Szeczeny (dark blue with red). These troops fought in open order only. In outpost duty they outclassed any other troops in Europe.

6.

Irregular light cavalry was raised from the Ukraine and other frontier provinces. These Uhlans wore tartar dress and carried a 15 foot lance. They were sometimes armed with bow and arrow instead of carbine.

#### Artillery and Sappers.

The artillery was the finest and most numerous in Europe. Standardisation in calibre had recently been carried out so that the artillery could draw its supplies or spares from any garrison town. The artillery men wore a brown uniform with red facings. The officers still wore the older grey uniform. Gun carriages were painted yellow.

The sappers wore a grey uniform with purple facings.

Engineers and pontonniers may have worn a light blue uniform with red and yellow facings respectively (they wore this uniform in 1767).

#### Officers.

All officers wore a yellow waist sash. Promotion appears to have been very dependent on court favour although a number of officers gained a high reputation as leaders of light troops and detached bodies (Freikorps).

The general officers wore red trousers. Loudon played Marcellus to Daun's Fabius and later became the Empire's most admired general.

This army should provide enough colour to satisfy any anxious painter!

Continued next month..

---ooOoo---

K. G. WYNN

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## FIRING INTO THE BROWN!

Major Oldfield after a very distinguished and warlike career was killed in a sortie from Acre, when defended by Sir Sidney Smith against the French Army under Napoleon Bonaparte, 7th April, 1799. Marshal Berthier, Chief of Staff of the French Army in Egypt, wrote of his death as follows:-

"The centre column fought more obstinately; its design was to penetrate to the entrance of our mine; the command of it had been entrusted to Major Oldfield, a distinguished officer, who with some of his intrepid countrymen advanced boldly to the entrance of our mine; they attacked like heroes, and were received by heroes; death alone checked their bold career; the rest fled and took shelter in the fortress. The reverse of our parallels was covered with the dead bodies of the English and Turks. The body of Major Oldfield was carried off by our grenadiers; he was at the point of death, but on his arrival he was no more; his sword to which he had done so much honour, was also honoured after his death; it remains in the hands of our grenadiers; he was buried amongst us, and he carried with him the esteem of the French Army".

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### THE SUCCESS OF FREDERICK THE GREAT

Frederick's methods were almost a repetition of those of Gustavus Adolphus. He developed a very careful organisation, which largely increased the mobility and fire power of his troops. Hence, he was enabled to put his tactical ideas of the oblique attack into practice.

So long as guerilla forces do not concentrate to give decisive battle, so long will their suppression be very difficult. See the guerilla war of the Spaniards against the French in the Peninsular War; the pacification of the Vendée by Hoche in 1795. our difficulties in South Africa after the capture of Pretoria; the Italian troubles in Tripoli.

### Tune - "SINCE I LOST YOU"

I've lost my rifle and bayonet,  
I've lost my pull-through too,  
I've lost my disc and putties,  
I've lost my four-by-two.  
I've lost my housewife and hold-all,  
I've lost my button stick too,  
I've lost my rations and greatcoat,  
Sergeant, what shall I do?

He (John Hampden) knew that the essence of war is violence and that moderation in war is imbecility.

Macaulay.



# MUST LIST

WHAT NOT TO MISS



If you collect L.P. records of Military Bands then you will be very interested in Scotia Record SCO 1689 "A Day with the Cameronians". This record can be obtained from Mr. J.B. Wallace, Scotia Records, 6 Greenlaw Drive, Paisley, Renfrewshire, at 32.6d. plus 1s.0d. postage in U.K. It contains much pipe music and many Regimental marches in Rifle time. It is a rather sad farewell to a wonderful Scots Regiment which has just been disbanded.

Bill Holmes of Deltorama tells me that he is very busy drawing a new Field Works Manual No.2 for Bellona Publications - this time it deals with 20th century works. If it is up to the standard of the previous publication "Military Field Works of the 18th and 19th centuries" then it will be invaluable to the wargamer.

Peter Amey is very ingeniously using the recent coloured supplement advertisement for the Royal Navy, which gives large numbers of minute ship silhouettes. Cut out and stuck on to card, he uses them for Naval wargaming.

I have seen a few details of terrain material sold by Rail-Road Scenic Exhibitions of Bradford, 11 Horton Grange Road, Bradford 7, Yorkshire England. They seem to have a very interesting stock of material to make wargames terrain at very reasonable prices and lists can be obtained.

I suppose it must be this new film "The Charge of the Light Brigade" that is stimulating the recent out-pouring of Crimean War figures and now Miniature Figurines have burst into the market with 19 20mm wargames figures covering combatants of all countries engaged in this mid-19th century conflict. There are British Line Infantry in Shako and Forage Cap, Light Infantry, Guard and Highlanders. Russian Infantry in pointed helmet and a very fine little figure of a Caucasian Infantryman in a cap. The French have Line Infantry in shako, Guard in bearskins together with Zouaves and French Algerian Infantry. There are Turkish Infantry in fezzes and cavalry are very adequately covered by British Dragoons, Hussars and Lancers, Scots Greys, French Chasseur D'Afrique and Russian Cossacks. I am told that there are officers, artillerymen and other figures to follow. The Crimean War is a very colourful but very much neglected period on the wargames table and these figures, designed by Dick Higgs and turned out by Neville Dickinson of Miniature Figurines are, to my way of thinking, as good as anything this firm have done. To see them is to want them and I feel sure that it will not be long before we are all refighting the Alma, Inkerman and the other conflicts of this tragically mis-managed but nevertheless intriguing war.

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Read and re-read the Campaigns of Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar, Gustavus Adolphus, Turenne, Eugene and Frederick; take them for your model, that is the only way of becoming a great captain, to obtain the secrets of the art of war.

"Napoleon's War Maxims".



## COUNSELS OF WAR.

9.

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

### HIGHLANDERS FOR SERVICE IN AMERICA, 1757.

Orders were sent to Scotland for raising 2,000 Highlanders, in order to be embarked for America, as the Highland Regiments are found to be more serviceable in that country than the natives themselves; who, it seems, are become so timid, since Braddock's defeat, that 30 Indians will drive a hundred of them. The command of one of the battalions of Highlanders to be raised for this service is given to Colonel Fraser eldest son of the late Lord Lovat, who, 'tis supposed, will raise them chiefly in his own clan. No Lowlander is to be accepted, and the Clans immediately in view are the Campbells, Mackenzies, Frasers, Mackdonalds, Macphersons, and Mackintoshes.

"Gentleman's Magazine, 1757".

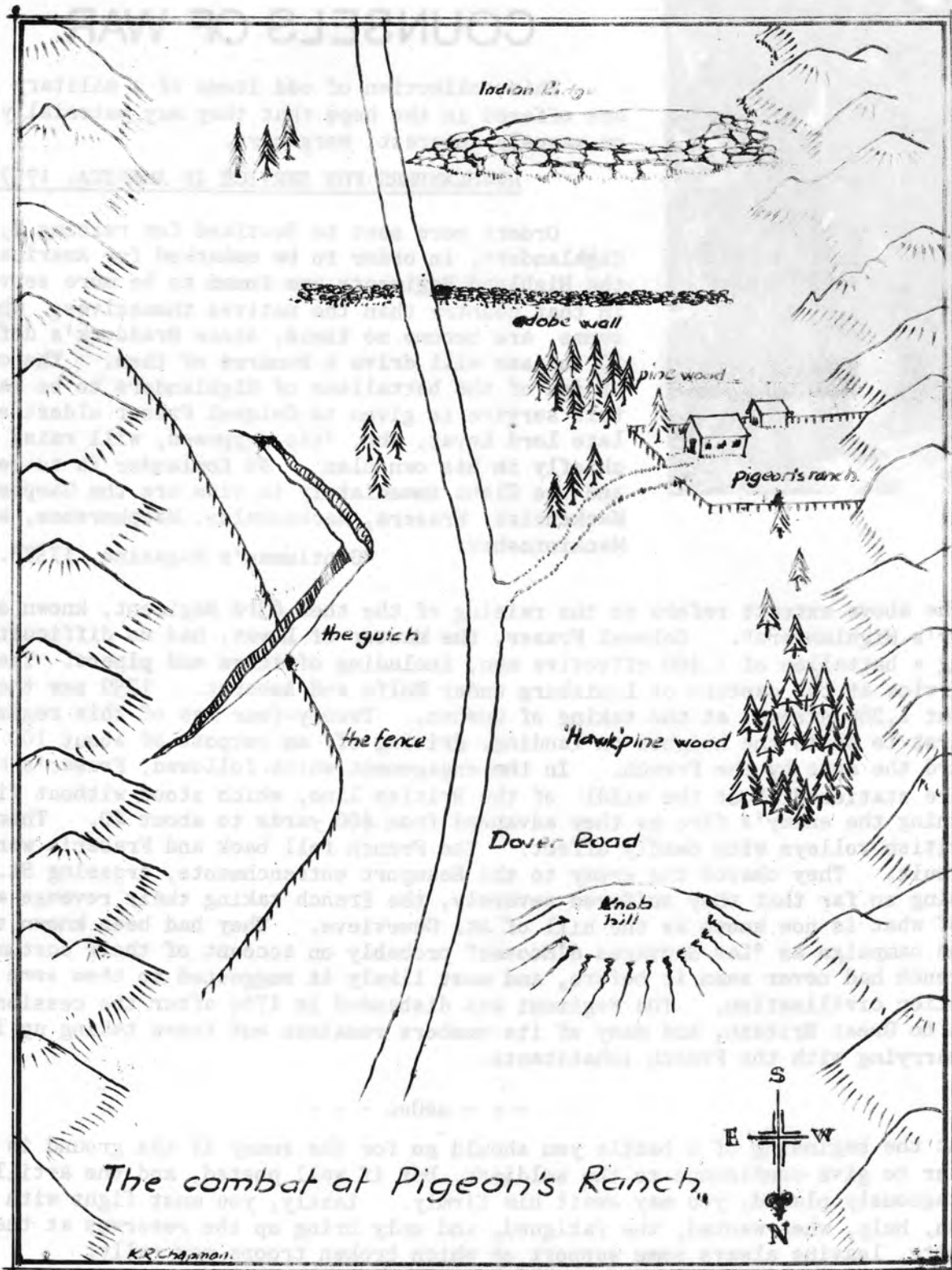
The above extract refers to the raising of the then 63rd Regiment, known as "Fraser's Highlanders". Colonel Fraser, the Master of Lovat, had no difficulty in raising a battalion of 1,460 effective men, including officers and pipers. They first saw service at the capture of Louisburg under Wolfe and Amherst. 1759 saw the regiment then but 1,269 strong, at the taking of Quebec. Twenty-four men of this regiment were the first to scale the heights on landing, driving off an outpost of about 100 men left to guard the spot by the French. In the engagement which followed, Fraser's Highlanders were stationed about the middle of the British line, which stood without firing, sustaining the enemy's fire as they advanced from 400 yards to about 40. Then came the British volleys with deadly effect. The French fell back and Fraser's were sent in pursuit. They chased the enemy to the Beauport entrenchments, crossing St. Roche, and going so far that they suffered severely, the French taking their revenge at the foot of what is now known as the hill of St. Genevieve. They had been known throughout the campaign as "Les Sauvages d'Ecosse" probably on account of their costume. The French had never seen it before, and most likely it suggested to them some stage of earlier civilisation. The Regiment was disbanded in 1764 after the cession of Canada to Great Britain, and many of its members remained out there taking up land and intermarrying with the French inhabitants.

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At the beginning of a battle you should go for the enemy if the ground is level, in order to give confidence to the soldiers but if well posted, and the artillery is advantageously placed, you may await him firmly. Lastly, you must fight with determination, help, when wanted, the fatigued, and only bring up the reserves at the last extremity, leaving always some support on which broken troops may rally.

Napoleon's War Maxims".





## THE COMBAT AT PIGEON'S RANCH

By Charles Grant

The battle report that follows was one of the very first to be printed in the Newsletter. Considering it a classic of its type, I am re-printing it in an effort to pull back the curtain and allow newcomers to the hobby to get a glimpse of those glorious early days when all the wargamers in England knew each other! Editor.

Federal forces - 1st Infantry Brigade - 5th New York Infantry.  
(General Wilcox) 1st U.S. Sharpshooters.

2nd Infantry Brigade - 1st U.S. Infantry.  
(General Weitzel) 12th Connecticut Infantry.

8th Illinois Cavalry.

'F' Battery, 1st Pennsylvania Artillery (2 guns).

### Confederate Forces

1st Infantry Brigade - 3rd Arkansas Infantry.  
(General Kemper) 6th Alabama Infantry.

2nd Infantry Brigade - 5th Texas Infantry.  
(General Pender) 7th Louisiana Infantry.

2nd Virginia Cavalry.

1st Coy. Richmond Howitzers (2 guns).

Orders to both sides - advance and drive back the enemy from the neighbourhood of Pigeon's ranch.

Narrative - After their repulse at Citadel Heights, the Federals again turned their efforts towards the Dover Road, sending a force southwards along the road from their previously won position at Sawmill Village. Their Confederate opponents had early intelligence of this move and moved troops north to counter it.

The Confederate cavalry - 2nd Virginia - was approaching Knob Hill when the 8th Illinois Cavalry was seen on Indian Ridge. Both regiments immediately dashed for Pigeon's Ranch. The Federal horsemen arrived first and surrounded the buildings, at which the Confederate cavalry dismounted and occupied Hawk Wood, to the south of which their horseholders were left. Meantime, infantry of both sides had appeared, Kemper's Confederates deploying across the Dover Road opposite Knob Hill, 3rd Arkansas on the right of the road, 6th Alabama near the south end of the Gulch. At the same time the leading Federal regiments - Wilcox's 5th New York and 1st U.S. Sharpshooters moved down from Indian Ridge, the former deploying across the road, the latter taking post in column near Pine Wood. Federal artillery also quickly came up, one gun taking up a position opposite the Ranch on the road, the other moving towards the north end of the Gulch.

Taking advantage of the retreat of the Federal cavalry from Pigeon's Ranch, the dismounted Virginian cavalrymen moved forward and occupied the buildings. There they were immediately attacked by the Illinois cavalry - now also dismounted - and part of the 5th New York. The Virginians beat off several attacks, but eventually had to surrender.

In the centre there had been fire fighting between the 3rd Arkansas and the 5th New York, the latter supported by the gun near the Ranch. Finally the Arkansas advanced towards the gun, but although putting out of action some of the gunners, they broke more than once, and though rallied, ultimately retreated.

The Confederate second brigade - 5th Texas and 7th Louisiana - having marched south and east of Knob Hill, divided, the Texans pressing on towards Pigeon's Ranch, while the Louisianians occupied Hawk Wood. As they did so, the 8th Illinois - now remounted - dashed past in pursuit of the retreating Arkansans, who were cut up severely and lost several prisoners. As these were being led back, the Louisianians burst from the wood, capturing the escort and releasing the prisoners. At this the Federal horsemen abandoned their pursuit, swung west and made their escape up the Dover Road, taking up a position behind the Adobe Wall, along with the 5th New York, rather mauled by previous fire fighting as well as by fire from the Confederate guns, now in battery on the Dover Road, opposite Knob Hill.

One Federal gun had been placed at the north end of the Gulch, which it commanded with the 1st Sharpshooters in support. The 6th Alabama, hoping to overwhelm it, charged up the Gulch, but was almost completely shattered by cannister, a counter attack by the Sharpshooters completing the destruction of the regiment.

The Sharpshooters pressed on after this and emerged from the south end of the Gulch, but were forced back with losses by Confederate artillery fire, and had to retreat up the Gulch. Reinforcements were on the way, however, as the Federal second brigade - 1st U.S. and 12th Connecticut infantry - had advanced through Pine Wood and entered the Gulch.

The 5th Texas had now passed Pigeon's Ranch and was moving north to outflank the Adobe Wall from the east - it was defended by the 5th New York and some dismounted cavalrymen - while the 7th Louisiana moved directly up the Dover Road towards the wall, having captured the Federal cannon near Pigeon's Ranch.

Events now moved fast. Weitzel's brigade - 1st U.S. in the van - emerged from the Gulch and overran one Confederate gun, in spite of fire from it, from the other Confederate piece, which had been just previously moved to a point between Knob Hill and Hawk Wood, and from the captured Federal cannon at Pigeon's Ranch, now served by Confederate gunners. The other Federal gun had been moved from the north end of the Gulch, round Pine Wood and was coming into battery on the western end of Indian Ridge as the Confederates approached, Texans mounting the eastern slopes, Louisianians, who had stormed the Adobe Wall without difficulty, marching up the road, on the summit of which now was the Federal cannon. A tremendous discharge of grape inflicted most severe casualties on the Louisianians, although the gunners were quickly shot down by rifle fire.

At this point it was seen that the Federals had crossed the Confederate rear, and that Pender's men were in an exceedingly dangerous situation. He immediately wheeled about and started his regiments off to the south. It had become obvious that a general retreat was the only course open to the Confederates, and the horseholders of the 2nd Virginia had already left the field, together with what remained of the 3rd Arkansas. Weitzel's brigade was now sweeping round the south and east of Knob Hill, the Confederate gun on the southern edge of Hawk Wood endeavouring to keep it at bay until Pender's men arrived.

There was another threat. Wilcox had formed a regiment behind Pine Wood from the 5th New York, 1st Sharpshooters and some dismounted cavalry, and this composite unit was advancing towards Hawk Wood.



The climax approached with the Federal infantry, advancing in open formation, reaching the Confederate gun on the edge of Hawk Wood at the same time as the 5th Texas emerged. A fierce hand-to-hand fight took place all along the borders of the wood, until both sides fell back exhausted. There was apparently no question of forcing a way past the Federal infantry, so the 7th Louisiana, together with a Confederate team drawing the captured gun, made its way off over the western slopes of Knob Hill, exchanging shots with the Confederate gun, now served by Federal gunners, still posted a little to the south-east of the Gulch.

With the 12th Connecticut and 1st U.S. - the latter much reduced - to the south of Hawk Wood, and Wilcox's regiment close to its western border, it appeared that a Confederate surrender was inevitable. The Texans made one last effort to break out, however, but half the regiment hung back and refused to charge. Those who did were overcome and taken prisoner, while the others dispersed on every direction.

The Federals lost a gun, but captured two enemy pieces, and many prisoners - their victory was complete.

Comments - A sad day for the South, but the Confederate general contributed to the defeat by making two ill-considered attacks on enemy guns with troops in massed formation. Canister fire is particularly deadly, but can be countered, as was done by the Federals advancing in skirmishing order towards the end of the game. Actual details were not kept, but as I recall it - I brought off some 20 men, the horses of the cavalry regiment, and one gun, as well as about half a dozen prisoners. Left on the field were about 60 Federals, who had captured nearly thirty of my people as well as two cannon. This seems to be a good recommendation for the "Fifty-per-cent-rule", as the game started with about 120 on each side. I still strive to get a decision without the normal war game massacre. The combat was, of course, based on the actual battle of "Pigeon's Ranch" and was a reversal of the actual historical result.

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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THREE ARMS EMPLOYED INHORSE-AND-MUSKET WARGAMESBy DONALD FEATHERSTONE

It may well be considered superfluous to remind wargamers of the characteristics and faculties of the three arms - infantry, cavalry and artillery - that form the armies of the Horse-and-Musket period. However, it is good to occasionally be reminded of their powers and their failings so that we can remedy our rules and customs to provide greater realism.

Lieutenant Colonel Clery, a well-known British military tactician of the late 19th century, ably explains these characteristics in his book "Minor Tactics". They are set out below as he wrote them.

INFANTRY.

The weapons of infantry are the rifle and the bayonet. With these it can engage the enemy by fire at a distance, and hand-to-hand at close quarters. Infantry can move wherever a man can put his foot, and can come into action more easily and rapidly than the other arms. For, individually, foot soldiers can use their weapons instantaneously with effect and the power of numbers to do so at any moment is only controlled by distance and formations. Movement and effective firing can rarely be simultaneous, yet the two may be combined with infantry to a far greater extent than with the other arms. Infantry is more independent of circumstances, and therefore less liable to lose efficiency, than either cavalry or artillery. It is equally effective in attack and defence, so that it is at all times sufficient in itself for its own protection. Finally, it can be more cheaply equipped, more quickly made efficient, and more easily kept up than the other arms.

CAVALRY.

The force of cavalry lies in the combined action of the man and horse. This is represented in its fullest form by the shock of collision with the enemy. Hence, though cavalry is armed with fire and hand-to-hand weapons, the latter remain always the principal, the former being only accessory. The combined action of the horse and rider may at any moment cease, and the man still remain efficient as a rifleman; but in separate actions of this kind, that of the horse is completely lost, and may be practically regarded as wasted, except when used for the rapid conveyance of his rider to special points to act as a foot soldier. This would be a temporary conversion of cavalry into mounted infantry.

Power of rapid movement has the following special advantages. 1. The force can be quickly transferred from one point and applied at another. 2. It is enabled to seize fleeting opportunities for effective action during an engagement. 3. In collision with the enemy effect is sought for in the intensity of the shock, and velocity is the measure of its momentum. 4. The power of rapidly striking often gives to the presence alone of cavalry a certain paralysing effect on the action of the other arms immediately within its reach, so that its morale effect is usually in undue proportion to its physical power.

On the other hand, it is easily thrown into disorder, and slow to rally. It can only act on suitable ground, and has practically little defensive power. It is expensive to equip, and requires long training to become efficient.

# ARTILLERY

The action of artillery is by fire only. It is effective at ranges at which infantry would be useless. Every shot that tells has very destructive effects, and it is the only arm that, at a distance, can destroy material obstacles, such as parapets, stockades, etc. It can extend its power immediately beyond existing barriers by means of 'curved fire', and its morale effect on troops subject to its action is known to be always very great.

On the other hand, artillery is, relatively to the other arms, bulky, complicated, and liable to casualties which throw it out of gear. It occupies great space on the line of march, and requires immense supplies. It cannot change positions in all directions with the facility of other arms, is powerless while in movement, and without defensive power at close quarters. Its effective action is very much dependent on ground and weather. It is of all arms the most expensive to equip and keep efficient, and the most difficult to train and recruit.

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Treating your adversary with respect is giving him an advantage to which he is not entitled... Sir, treating your adversary with respect is striking soft in a battle.

Dr. Johnson. ("A Tour of the Hebrides").

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# THE AMERICAN SCENE

by

Pat Condray



## Mechanised Cavalry.

Assigned to a variety of tasks, the mechanised cavalry was usually derived from pre-war horse cavalry units of the regular army and National Guard. Before and after their active combat in W.W.II, many of the regular units were designated "armoured cavalry regiments". During the war, however, they were formed in squadrons and "groups", the latter being a headquarters and headquarter company with service and Q.M. detachments placed over two or more squadrons. The purpose of the arrangement was to free the squadrons for constant re-assignment, making the cavalry T.O. flexible.

Naturally, the old cavalry regiments were not particularly enthusiastic about becoming mechanised cavalry "groups". After making a good showing in pre-war manoeuvres as horse cavalry, they were stuck into "corps reconnaissance" motor units - designed expressly to be broken up on the whim of higher command.

The units, with jeeps, armoured cars, and light tanks, were fast enough, but ill-equipped to negotiate the problem of hostile armour on the battlefield. Each recon- troop had four recon-platoons of four-six armoured jeeps and six armoured cars, or thereabouts, and each squadron had three recon-troops, one tank and one assault-gun-troop. The group combined various squadrons.

The horse cavalry background, however, paid off well for the better mechanised cavalry squadrons. They were not tempted to think of themselves as armoured units, and, trained to fight a modern war on horses, they knew that a lot of fighting would have to be on foot. Recon-troops often fought on foot, supported by light tank troops attacking mounted.

Having occasion recently to do some research on the history of the 6th Armoured Cavalry, I asked Colonel Fickett, who commanded them as the 6th Armoured Cavalry Group in W.W.II, how the "Cavalry" was able to contend with armour.

"First off" he told me, "we weren't supposed to fight if we could help it," but "there were ways to deal with them. The turret rings on German tanks were soft metal, heavily lubricated - if you could hit them there, it would jam the turret, and with the turret jammed they (the Germans) were likely to panic, especially when we used flame."

Continued next month

If there are any points you wish to raise in connection with this article, please write direct to Pat Condray, 4936 Powder Hill Road, Beltsville, Maryland, U.S.A.



## GENTLEMEN! HAVE A CARE!

From the United Service Journal of 1832/3.

On the 29th, the Governor General went across to Sutlej to witness a review of Ranjit Singh's forces, amounting to ten to eleven thousand men. Upon entering the field, a brilliant spectacle presented itself. On the left, an apparently infinite line of cavalry was drawn up consisting of 5,000 ghore-churras (body guards) dressed in yellow, interspersed at intervals with small bodies of Akalis, dressed in dark blue velvet, and high caps surmounted by quoits. On the right were six battalions of infantry, each one thousand strong. Their uniform is a red turban, red coats with black belts and yellow facings, and white trousers. After these came the Horse Artillery, consisting of 16 guns, the greater part brass, but about six of iron. The carriages were slight and the horses very indifferent. Mons. Allard's Dragoons, about 800 strong followed these. Their uniform is a steel helmet in the shape of a Sikh's turban, red coats with black belts, white trousers, and jack boots. Their arms, the spear, sword, carbine, and pistols.

The ghore-churras were dressed in loose garments of yellow silk, and were armed with spears, match-locks, pistols and bows. The chiefs appeared cap-a-pie, wearing round polished helmets of steel, surmounted with heron plumes, and burnished cuirasses, arm-pieces, and glaives, many neatly inlaid with gold.

### THE AUSTRIAN ARMY ON MANOEUVRES IN ITALY, 1833.

The Austrian infantry are splendid; especially the Grenadiers and Light Troops, both Croats and Tyrolese. The former are remarkable in many respects - their dress, like their complexion, is brown; they howl formidably, eat next to nothing, are forced by law to marry at seventeen, and march at the rate of six miles an hour over any country. They wear the sky-blue pantaloons of the Hungarians. The Yäger Corps have an admirable sort of grey uniform with a peculiar-shaped chako. It was universally admitted by those present, that they had never seen troops march so well or bear fatigue with so little appearance of it. A great portion of the reserve from Verona had marched thirty miles, and were still singing joyously as they defiled at midnight through the villages adjoining Peschiera. The Artillery is heavily constructed, and slow in action, forming a striking contrast with the rapid movement and brilliant execution of the British. The Cavalry had little scope for display till the last day, nor did they then appear to particular advantage. They consisted merely of four regiments - two of Hussars, one of Cuirassiers, and one of Dragoons. The latter appeared the best mounted.

### THE TURKISH ARMY IN 1831

The uniforms of the regiments differ; some have round cloth jackets without facings; others have the cuffs, collars, and facings of the breast red.

The national colour for the army is blue. Some corps are dressed better than others, and finer cloth is given to those forming the guard of the palace.

# LOOKING AROUND



AIRFIX MAGAZINE - July 1968. Part 5 of "German Army 1914-18"; articles on T.34 tanks, Fighter aircraft in the Middle East and Italy, T.34 Conversions by Chris Ellis. Even the adverts are full of interest to wargamers!

BATTLE FLEET - June 1968. (Official Organ of the Naval Wargames Society). Articles on Warships in the American Civil War; Naval Airships; a battle report and details of future meetings together with other features.

THE BAYONET - June 1968. The Journal of the Horse and Musket Society. Articles on the Battle of Barrosa; the First Sikh War; Airfix conversions; French mid-18th Century uniforms; and Naval Wargames.

THE BULLETIN - June 1968. The Journal of the British Model Soldier Society. In addition to usual items wargamers will find articles dealing with uniforms and converting Hinton Hunt 20mm wargames figures.

GUNS REVIEW - June 1968. This magazine often contains items of interest to wargamers. In this particular issue is a most interesting article on Whitworth guns; one on the development of artillery - Part One Horse Artillery; details of the PIAT which might make for some interesting rules and an illustrated article on the Arms of the Austrian Army in the mid-19th century.

HISTORY TODAY - June 1968. Contains a most interesting study of General Rommel as one of the great captains of war together with an article dealing with the Thirty Years War.

MECCANO MAGAZINE - July and August 1968. Both contain articles by Charles Grant on wargaming and the August issue has a highly interesting new feature entitled "Militaria" in which Charles Grant reviews all the latest offerings of interest to wargamers and collectors of model soldiers.

MILIHISTRIOT - April 1968. Articles on Cuirassiers of Prussian Army 1806-15; Russian Infantry 1900; Garde de Paris Dragoons plus most informative article on crossbows.

THE MINIATURE PARADE - Spring 1968. The thrice yearly magazine published by Jack Scruby from California. Packed with information for wargamers including articles on Light Infantry in wargames; details of Saxon Standards and Highlanders in America 1776 plus an article on troops for the Vietnam War, together with battle reports and a great amount of other fascinating and useful information.

MODEL BOATS - July 1968. If you want to run an authentic Naval wargame you can learn how to make a working model torpedo from this issue! Plus details of the Italian Warship "Andrea Doria" and a Spanish Warship Napoleonic period.



STRATEGY AND TACTICS - May-June 1968. The Journal of American Wargaming. Articles on the new board game "The Battle of Britain"; a Wargamer's Notebook; Notes and Rules for Naval wargames; Napoleonic article by Newsletter subscriber Fred Vietmeyer together with an unusual article concerning a tabletop realism.

TRADITION - Number 27. All the superlatives have already been used for this magazine! Number 27 contains articles on French Cuirassiers; British Artillery in Egypt 1882; details of Stadden's latest 30mm Zulu War figures and Part XIII of Charles Grant's article The War Game. Also included are four pages of coloured pictures of Napoleon and his Marshals.

THE TRUMPETER - April 1968. This Canadian Newsletter contains an ingenious Napoleonic uniform data sheet concerning Russian forces of 1812-15.

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#### FROM PAST PAGES

Bob O'Brien writes: "Some of R.B. Nelson's conclusions on ranges, etc., of Ancient missile weapons are valuable and interesting, but his remarks about Ancient light troops being ineffective stagger me. Apparently he thinks a missile weapon "ineffective" because it takes many arrows to cause one casualty. Surely this is apparent throughout the history of warfare? Are rifle bullets "ineffective" because it now takes even more of them than arrows to score one casualty? This has been the story of missile weapons through the ages, and when the man using the missile weapon can both outrange and outpace his adversary, as at Carrhae, then it does not really matter how many arrows are used - the result is inevitable. How "effective" I wonder were the Roman pilum and gladius against an enemy who, most of the time, never came closer than 50 yards? Or the Spartan spears at Pylor? Ancient light troops, used properly, were very effective as can be shown on the wargames table, given the room to move. We must remember that we operate under very artificial conditions on a wargames table, where, if one has enough heavy infantry, they can stretch from one side of the table to the other and slog forward until the light troops, horse and foot, fall over the precipice that looms at either end of the table! There must be room for "running around" through either a big enough table, or some provision for "off table" tactics. One does not expect light troops to hold a position against a full attack, as this is something that they are patently not equipped to do unless in superior numbers, but I do think that Mr. Nelson is leading people to quite wrong conclusions about light troops generally. Perhaps he is one of the "close action cold steel brigade"! But cold steel is of little use if the enemy can keep out of close action range and whittle down one's numbers at will. That was war, and rules should take these circumstances into account.

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An American subscriber has seen the Russian film "War and Peace" - all 6½ hours of it! It MUST be seen by ALL Napoleonic wargamers if only for its sheer magnitude - 120,000 extras, for example! An illustrated programme of the film can be obtained for \$1.25 from National Publishers Inc., 1472 Broadway, New York, U.S.A. 10036.



John Risdon of London is a man deeply interested in many facets of military affairs and wargaming is but a sideline, nevertheless an interest to which he devotes much time in his battles with his son. Originally, he was, like so many of us, stimulated in his early days (back in the 1930's) by reading Well's book 'Little Wars' and his interest was revived by finding WARGAMERS NEWSLETTER and the book WARGAMES. Among his memories of early Wellsian battles are breaking through the Hindenburg Line with a cavalry charge, a battle of Waterloo that ended with five men on either side and Ney in command of the French on Napoleon's death!

John is an aeronautical expert, entitled to place after his name C.Eng., A.F.R.Ae.S., so that he naturally collects aircraft models. Not liking painting large numbers of figures, he buys his 20mm Napoleonic armies ready-painted originally from Alberken and then from their successors, Miniature Figurines. A voracious reader, John spends his lunch-hours browsing among the secondhand bookshops in London's Charing X Road. A thoughtful, intelligent man, John Risdon brings reasoned knowledge to his wargaming and is a credit to the hobby.

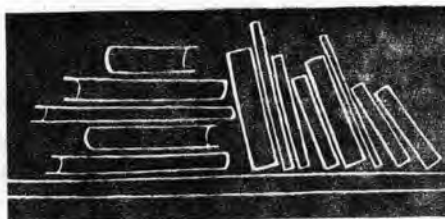
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## Book Reviews

"Men of Waterloo" by John Sutherland (Frederick Muller. 42s.0d.). If you had never read anyone else such as Weller or Becke on Waterloo, then you would highly acclaim this book. As it is, it tends to suffer a little in factual comparison with these two authors, at least, in that it is written by an American in rather an American style. There is a great deal of conjecture and surmise - on Major Baring defending la Haye Sainte "for a second he felt it would be better if he were dead". How does the author know this? There are also one or two errors, possibly the most notable being the caption under a reproduction on page 144 where Wellington is said to be ordering the withdrawal from "LIGNY" and on page 52 where the ball for the Waterloo musket is said to weight "about eight ounces". Perhaps this is carping, because all in all, the book is packed with information, obviously so devotedly acquired by the author that he is loth to omit a single word of it!

"The Defenders" - a history of the British volunteer, by Geoffrey Cousins (Frederick Muller. 35s.0d.). This book tells the story of the civilians who came forward to defend their country in moments of stress, from Anglo-Saxon fyrd until todays Government-harassed volunteers. I really enjoyed this one because, throughout its pages, I found myself obsessed with dreams of raising levies, massing ill-trained (low-moraled) troops and other irregular units for use in table-top wargames. There is great scope here for unusual operations and what a thrill one would get in a war-game if the East Grinstead Fencibles routed the French Old Guard!

"Military Uniforms of the World" by Preben Kannik edited by W.Y. Carman (Blandford Press. 30s.0d.). During the last few months there have been a number of very reasonably priced books packed with colourful plates of uniforms. These are avidly seized by the collector and wargamer and well thumbed as he culls details of uniforms of some obscure and intriguing formation. This book is certainly the one that caters for such an enthusiast! Wargamers soon tire of the regular, routinely dressed units of armies of all periods and they love to seek out such as the Richmond Blues, Papal Zouaves and Berdan's Sharpshooters. This is just the book you want because it is chock full of slightly off-beat units and uniforms. Its 300 odd pages contain, in addition to a wealth of notes and details, no less than 512 uniformed figures in excellent colours. I cannot speak too highly of this fine little book and urge everyone to get a copy before it goes out of print as it undoubtedly will do in the very near future!

"How to go Plastic Modelling" by Chris Ellis (Patrick Stephens Limited. 25s.). At last that genius of the plastic model, Chris Ellis (Editor of Airfix Magazine), has been persuaded to put down on paper in book form all the invaluable know-how he has acquired over the years which he puts into those wonderful plastic models he makes and converts. This is far from being a book aimed specifically at the wargamer but there is no one who fights battles on the table-top who has not at some time or other in his life found it necessary to make or convert a plastic model to fill some long wanted need in his armies. This book contains the lot - everything, even the simplest tip, one needs to know on this comparatively new and fascinating branch of model making. It is a handbook that MUST be on your shelves because at 25s.0d. it is a real bargain.



"Weapons on Foreign Built Fullytracked Chassis" compiled by P. Chamberlain and H.L. Doyle (Belladonna Handbook No. 1. 8s.0d. plus 6d postage). This is Part 2 of a summary of self-propelled weapons of the German Army 1939-45. It contains 55 photographic illustrations and is 11" x 5" in size. The modernist can save himself a great deal of searching by having this small book in his possession.

"Badges and Emblems of the British Forces 1940" (16s.) and "Red Army Uniforms and Insignia" (17s.6d). These books are published by the Arms and Armour Press from 150 Broadfields Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex, England. The first contains 350 illustrations of the badges and emblems worn at the outbreak of the Second World War by the British Navy, Army, Air Force, Civil Defence, Welfare, Nursing Units and Auxiliary Services and includes selections from the armed forces of India, Canada and South Africa. In addition there are over 130 brief historical or explanatory background descriptions. The second book dealing with the Red Army was originally produced for restricted circulation by the War Office in October, 1944, and was prepared under the direction of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff.

### NEWS OF WARGAMES CLUBS

The TUNBRIDGE WELLS WARGAMES SOCIETY are holding regular monthly meetings at St. Thomas's Hall, Southborough, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on the first Sunday of each month from 2.30 to 8.30. They hope to run several simultaneous games and to play off their Individual Knock-out Championship. For full information contact - George Gush at 154d Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

If you live in the area of Cardiff, contact Bill Cainan of 5 St. Mark's Avenue, Cardiff, CF4 3NW. for details of the Cardiff Wargames Society. They meet monthly and hope to soon produce a monthly news-sheet.

The NAVAL WARGAMES SOCIETY has, under P. Dunn, come a long way and their magazine 'BATTLEFLEET' has been enlarged and improved. A Western section has been formed in the Cardiff area (aren't these Welshmen lucky!) I am told that their games are vastly improving as the range of available wargames models becomes greater. They are eager to increase their membership and to exchange subject-matter with other groups or individuals. Write to P. Dunn, 41 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent.

The WESSEX WARGAMES GROUP meet twice monthly at the Temperance Hall, Carlton Crescent, Southampton. Write to Neville Dickinson, c/o Miniature Figurines for details. In addition to the 'Battle evenings', the group has held a most successful 'Teach-In' on the subject of Artillery in Wargames, when everyone demonstrated and discussed their favourite firing methods.

## AFV TRANSFERS

T.1. AFRIKA KORPS PALMS. For vehicles of the famous Afrika Korps in the W.W.II desert campaign. The Eagle emblem was for command vehicles or on notice boards outside H.Q. buildings. Approx. 60 emblems on this sheet.  
T.2. SS PANZER DIVISION SIGNS This sheet has markings of the 22nd SS Panzer Division, 5th SS Panzer Division "Wiking", 2nd SS Panzer Division "Das Reich", 3rd SS Panzer Division "Totenkopf", 1st Panzer Division "Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler". Approx 60 markings on this sheet.  
T.3. German Crosses for all Military Vehicles, Tank sides and tailplates. "B" vehicles, cab doors, tail gates and bonnet tops. Approx. 90 markings on this sheet.

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A.2. R.A.F. "B" TYPE ROUNDELS FOR FIGHTERS. The R.A.F. "B" type roundels were the standard type for aircraft in this country until May 1940. After 1940 they were used on the upper wing surface only. There are 20 roundels on this sheet.  
A.3. S.E.A.C. ROUNDELS FOR FIGHTERS AND MEDIUM AIRCRAFT. To avoid mistakes between allied and Jap aircraft the U.S.A.F. and later the R.A.F. SEAC obliterated the red centre on the National markings of their aircraft. There are 36 roundels plus fin flashes on this sheet.

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# THE NOTICE BOARD



Would the subscriber who sent me a cheque for £1.16s. 0d. on the Co-operative Wholesale Society Limited Bank, 99 Leman Street, London E.1., dated 6th June, please write as he has forgotten to sign the cheque and I am unable to get it cashed.

Dan Robbins of 3514 Red Oak Lane, San Antonio, Texas 78230, U.S.A, urgently requires information concerning the organisation of the Dutch-Belgium troops at Waterloo in 1815.

Will all those people who have sent me money and orders for my next book "ADVANCED WARGAMES" please note that there will be a delay of a few weeks in publication. This is due to the fact that the Printers found some of the diagrams rather complex and they had to be referred back to me for clarification. In addition, a well-known wargamer who had given permission for two items of his to be published in the book wrote to the Publishers, threatening legal action if these items were re-produced - in spite of having given previous written permission. Clearing these two matters up have rather delayed publication but the book will be sent on as soon as copies are received.

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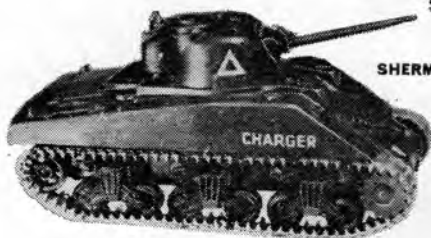
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