



AGE of EAGLES Review & Battle Report

Fire and Fury has long been a popular set of rules for American Civil War gamers. Using the brigade as the basic unit lets you resolve large, corps sized actions quickly and with a degree of historical accuracy. When our group decided to search for a new set of Napoleonic rules after a scenario where we got through two turns in four hours, we came across *Age of Eagles*.

AOE is the Napoleonic version of *Fire and Fury* and is available free of charge through the Napoleonic *Fire and Fury* egroup on Yahoo. The rules author is Col. Bill Gray, a noted Napoleonic expert who has done a very professional job with the rules.

Again, the basic unit is

the brigade, with each stand representing a battery of guns, 320 infantry, or 160 cavalry. This lets you do large battles that were a staple of the Napoleonic era. Since the figure scale is larger than the original *Fire and Fury* the firing ranges and movement are greatly changed.

The new combat and movement tables (in full color) greatly aid play and players can figure out the system fairly quickly. Once you've played a few turns the need to refer to the rules is virtually non-existent and play is very fast, with our group being able

to average 10 turns in 4 hours while using 3-4 corps per side.

There is also just enough flavor added to the rules without getting bogged down into detail such as Guard units, Russian 12 gun batteries, and the entire square vs. cavalry debate is handled by two modifiers. Once you've resolved a division sized melee with a few die



Russian 1812 Division

rolls instead of a hundred, you're hooked! Overall, this is now our choice of rules for this era. See the

battle report on page 2 & 3.

Warhammer ECW review by Dennis Hilton

As anyone who has gamed with me knows, Warhammer Ancient Battles is my very favorite of all games to play. Its not only the era that compels me, but its also how well I feel WAB captures the flavor of ancient combat like nothing I have ever played before. Plus they are easy to

use let alone beautiful to look at. And might I say, just plain fun. I was very disappointed when I heard that the next supplement was English Civil War. But with that be-



ing said I ordered my copy from the fine folks at On Military Matters. A group that seems to always get a big portion of my cash at the conventions not to *cont. p. 11*

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Warning Order is a joint publication of two clubs; the Wasatch Front Historical Gaming Society (WFHGS) and the Northern Utah Tacticians and Strategists (NUTS). Members from both clubs contribute to the publication and try to express the gaming interests of both groups.

Age of Eagles Scenario Replay

After a test game of AOE around Thanksgiving and liking what we saw, we decided to try a larger scenario and try the system out for town combat. The situation was that it is the Spring of 1813 and the Emperor is about to deliver a crushing blow to the Allies about 5 miles from this battlefield. The French and Saxons here are part of a hastily thrown together formation to hold on the extreme left flank while the Emperor launches his attack elsewhere. The Prussians and Russians are trying to seize these vital villages and roads to use them to get behind the main French army.

The Allies had one Russian corps with six infantry brigades in two divisions and two cavalry divisions. The Prussians had Yorck's Advance Guard consisting of

several infantry brigades and attached cavalry. The entire force amounted to two corps of infantry and one corps of cavalry. The Allies could enter anywhere from the opposite long edge and the left side of the board.



Prussians trying to gain a foothold in the village.

The Allied plan was to use one Russian division and pin the Saxons down while the rest of their force attacked the first village. After seizing it they would then continue on and

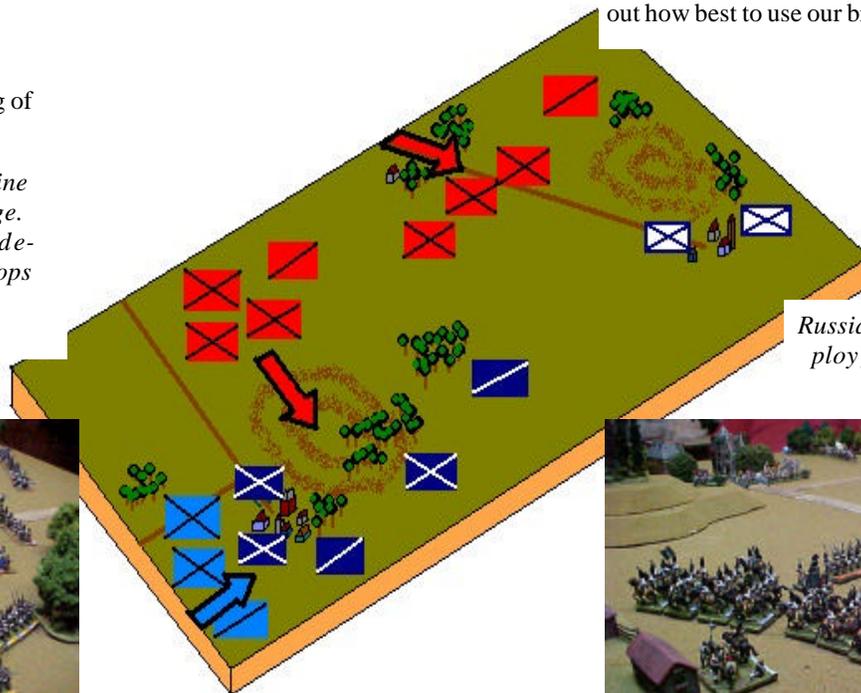
assault the second village which would ensure the victory.

The French had a Saxon division, two French divisions, and a cavalry corps of two small divisions. Although the French force was small, it had the benefit of good terrain and interior lines to shift reserves.

The French plan was to hold each village with a division and a few artillery batteries, then place the third infantry division in the center where it could quickly respond to either village to help its defense.

Both sides had good plans and since this was only our second battle we were still trying out tactics as well as figuring out how best to use our brigades.

Prussians and Russians combine for an assault on the 1st village. The village was a formidable defensive position with fresh troops deployed on the outskirts.



Russians begin to deploy for the attack.



The battle opened up with the Russians moving on board in two different areas, trying to deploy their massive advantage in artillery where it could do the most damage. The Prussians made straight for the village, trying to deploy their columns of infantry to expand into line the following turn. The Prussian cavalry charged the French cavalry guarding the flank of the village and got entangled in a fierce melee.

The Allies were trying to quickly overwhelm one of the villages before the Saxons or the reserves could interfere.

The French held back on the first turn, waiting to see where the Russians were going to go and when they veered towards the village to assist the Prussians. The French reserves began moving to launch an immediate counterattack should the need arise.

The Prussians on the second turn launch

a hasty attack without artillery support to dislodge the French from the village. The first assault is repulsed and the Prussians move up artillery to give support.

On the other flank the Russians begin to deploy towards the Saxon held village while the light cavalry division moves to the extreme left flank to see if there's any way of getting behind the Saxons.

Age of Eagles Scenario replay (cont.)

The first Russian division and its artillery begins to attack the other side of the village and the forested hill. The French reserves are committed to battle and a fierce firefight develops on the hill itself. A Russian infantry brigade charges up the hill and pushes back the French infantry. Then, a French counter-attack pushes the Russian infantry back down the hill. French artillery finally reaches the hilltop and with the infantry repulse a second Russian attack. The Russian attack on the village is bloodily repulsed, with the Russian losing two artillery batteries to a French counter-attack.

Meanwhile, the Prussian cav and the French cav continue to launch charge and countercharge with neither able to

gain the upper hand. A second attack on the village by the Prussians is repulsed again. The Prussian artillery now tries to batter down the defenders with close range fire. Finally, a third Prussian attack gains a foothold in the village. With the reserves tied up on the hill and the Saxons and the rest of the cavalry involved in a stare down with the second Russian division, the French are unable to counter-attack.

The Prussian

cavalry finally defeats the French cavalry, leaving the flank of the village dangerously exposed. Obviously the first village is lost and the French need to extricate themselves or become trapped. The Prussians push forward, gaining control

of the village and forcing the French back towards the hill. Finally, with great reluctance, the French abandon the village outskirts and the hill, trying to make it back to the second village covered by the remaining cavalry. With that the game is called and we assess the outcome.

Prussian infantry assaults the village.



The second Russian division deploys in front of the Saxon held village. This division accomplished its task of pinning the Saxons down and drawing off much needed reserves from the main attack.



Clearly there was a desperate fight for the village, something that we had not seen in our games in quite some time. The French stubbornly held on to the village outskirts and the Prussians were relentless in their attacks. The Russian attack on the hill and village, while successful at first, was bloodily repulsed, with an entire Russian division mauled. Both sides had a good battle plan with a reasonable level of success for each side.

We concluded that with the first village in their possession and the hill, the Allies were at a decided advantage and would probably win the game if we had the time to finish. There was still a lot of heavy fighting ahead as the Saxons weren't going to just go away, so we figured another 5-6 turns would have been needed to completely finish the game. All in all, the scenario worked out well for only our third game.

The Age of Eagles game system was perfect for this type of battle. You had about three corps a side and plenty of town fighting. With most rules it could

Overview of the battle.



have taken days just to resolve some of those attacks, but the AOE system handled them with only a few die rolls. The action was fast and furious with just enough command and control to make things frustrating and prevent your "perfect" plans from coming to fruition. We are definitely hooked and will be playing these rules from now on.

BATTLEGROUND

Photos & Update

Since we started playing Battleground a few months ago our collection of figures and vehicles has continued to expand. We have had several fun scenarios and quite a few interesting things happen on the tabletop.

For those of you who have not heard of or tried Battleground, it is a WWII skirmish system designed for 20/25mm figures and vehicles. Each player commands 1-2 squads or a few vehicles, which is more than enough for a one night game. There is limited command and control with officers and leaders being able to influence morale checks.

Nearly every type of weapon used during the war is covered along with most of the basic vehicles used by the major powers. Additional supplements

and scenarios add new vehicles and rules, such as airborne troops, night fighting, etc... Here lies the main problem with Battleground and that is the rules themselves.

First, they are not very well laid out and trying to find something can be an exercise in frustration. The table of contents and index reference sections of the rules, but when you go there the section is wrong or isn't even written yet! In addition, many vehicles and situations are not covered and trying to understand the intent of the authors is not easy to do.

If you can get through the rules and try a game you soon find out that it is pretty fun and fairly realistic. After a few tries you can soon have the firing and vehicles down which forms the core of

the game. Hidden movement is a must for this system, so if you're looking for a scenic game with lots of figures on the board you've come to the wrong place. If you're searching for the closest thing to playing Squad Leader on the tabletop, then this is for you.

The rules are supported by an egroup on Yahoo which answers rules questions and has additional rules in the files section. In 25mm figures are available from a number of firms, including Battle Honours, Wargames Foundry, Ikon, and Old Glory. The best vehicles are those put out by Solido and available on Ebay. In 20mm there are too many companies to list as well as for 15mm. Whatever scale you choose you will be able to use these rules to simulate small unit actions.



BATTLEGROUND 25mm



All figures and vehicles in these pictures are from the collections of Lynn, Pat, Gary, Jeff, Mike, Dennis, and Matt. Vehicles are a combination of Solido, Bandai 1/48th plastic kits, and Wargames Foundry. Figures are from a variety of manufacturers and painted to represent a variety of German and U.S. units.

SOLITAIRE GAMES

by Matt Irsik

Let's face it, painting the same uniform over and over can get pretty boring after awhile. When I have to do large numbers of figures it's easy to get burned out, so I usually play a board wargame while I paint. Lately, I have been trying out some of the solitaire games and have found that they are quite enjoyable and tend to break up those long periods of mass production painting. Here's a few for review in no particular order.



LONDON'S BURNING

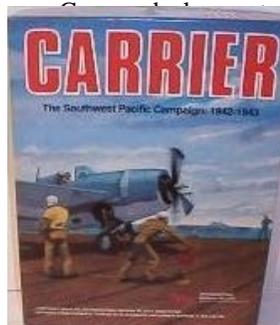
By Avalon Hill

This game has great components and once you play a few turns you get the hang of the rules. Basically, you command a two section flight of Spitfires or Hurricanes during the London Blitz in 1940. Each turn you must make decisions on patrolling, forward basing, should you intercept, etc... The Germans are played by the system and once your flight intercepts a German strike you find out it's size and altitude, then the tactical system takes over. This game is tough! The rules are easy to learn, fun to play, and the situation keeps changing every turn. I've tried it several times and never survived the campaign. Highly recommended.

CARRIER

By Victory Games

When I first opened this game up and saw the rules booklet I about had a heart attack. Good components, especially the map, but the rule book is pretty good size. Fortunately, the rules are programmed to layer on new things and end with a scenario to train you on. The game definitely gives you the feeling of sitting in a U.S. flagship during 1942-43 and trying to find the Japanese navy. The enemy can come from anywhere and their fleet strength is variable. The sys-



carefully balance your objectives with trying to ascertain exactly what is facing you.

B-17 Queen of the Slies

By Avalon Hill

This game is pretty straightforward. You and your crew must fly 25 combat missions over Germany to get sent home to win the game. The board shows the aircraft itself along with a simplified map of Europe. The enemy is randomized, so some missions are easy and some are almost impossible. You must track each member of the crew along with damage to the aircraft. A typical mission can involve quite a few decisions as you try to get your aircraft to the target, then home safely. I at first thought it was easy, but after only getting as far as 15 successful missions after about ten tries I realized it is simple, but very challenging.

These games provide good entertainment and a diversion from mass production painting.

PANZERSCHRECK #1: REICH-STAG : The Fall of Berlin

By Minden Games

Rising game costs have led to an increase in the number of DPGs, or Desktop Publishing Games. Minden Games produces a magazine with articles, variants for other games, scenarios, and depending upon the issue, 1-3 games. Issue #1 has a great little game focusing on the fall of the city center of Berlin in 1945. There is a tiny, 4 color map with about 100 counters and some cards. The player takes command of the Soviet forces breaking into the city and seizing specific objectives. The game system controls the setup, reinforcements, and special events. You can finish a game in an hour and it is fun to play. I once played three games in about two hours and not one of them was the same. For \$7.95 it was a

great value.

PANZERSCHRECK #6: The Fall of Constantinople

By Minden Games

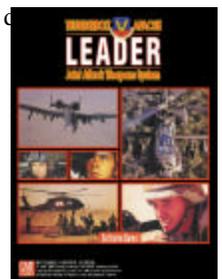
This issue had two other games besides the solitaire one, including a WWI naval battle and a Viet Nam patrolling action. The solitaire game is about the Ottoman attack on the city of Constantinople. Once again, the map is very basic and fairly small, with about 100 color counters that you have to mount yourself. As with the first one, though, don't let the components fool you.

This game is a lot of fun and goes right down to the wire. You only have a few units to hold back the Ottoman horde outside of the city walls and pretty soon you run out of reserves. Again, this issue was around \$12 and for three games it was well worth it.

THUNDERBOLT-APACHE LEADER

By GMT Games

Following up on the success of Hornet Leader, another solitaire game, comes the close support version. The game system puts you into the role of a commander of a forward air strip in either a holding action or different levels of a war in a variety of theaters. Each pilot, munitions, scouts, etc..., then fly missions where the game gets into tactical combat. The game system is very tough and winning will require luck, successful combat missions, and plenty of forward planning. The components are excellent and the rule book is well laid out. Although not a simple game, once you get the hang of it you're hooked. You can fly a mission, destroy 20 enemy vehicles, then still find out the enemy is advancing everywhere! Highly recommended.



Battle of Mechili April 8th, 1941 CD3 scenario by Craig Tyrell

Historical Background:

After breaking through the Commonwealth defenses at Marsa el Bregha, newly arrived German commander Rommel launched his forces in a massive pursuit of the retiring enemy forces. The bulk of the remaining Commonwealth forces were concentrated in the Jebel el Achdar, and withdrew in haste toward Tobruk as German and Italian units pushed through the open desert to their south, outflanking them. On April 5th, the 3rd Indian Motor Brigade, a fresh formation originally planned to reinforce the support Group of the 2nd Armored Division, was sent to the strategic crossroads of Mechili, south of the Jebel, to hold this important position and protect the flank of the withdrawing Commonwealth forces. Over the next several days stragglers from the forward forces joined them, most prominently the HQ of the 2nd Armored Division.

As Rommel's forces began to stagger out of the desert on the tracks leading to Mechili, he positioned them to surround the Commonwealth position. Rommel was anxious, wanting to clear out the position and press on into the Allied rear, but needing to bring up sufficient forces to do so.

By April 8th the Commonwealth forces had inflicted a significant delay on Rommel, but now

found themselves virtually surrounded. After learning overnight that promised reinforcements would not be arriving, at dawn they opened the battle by attempting to break out from their perimeter. Although several squadrons and some AT artillery did manage to escape, the remainder of the Commonwealth forces failed and surrendered by evening.

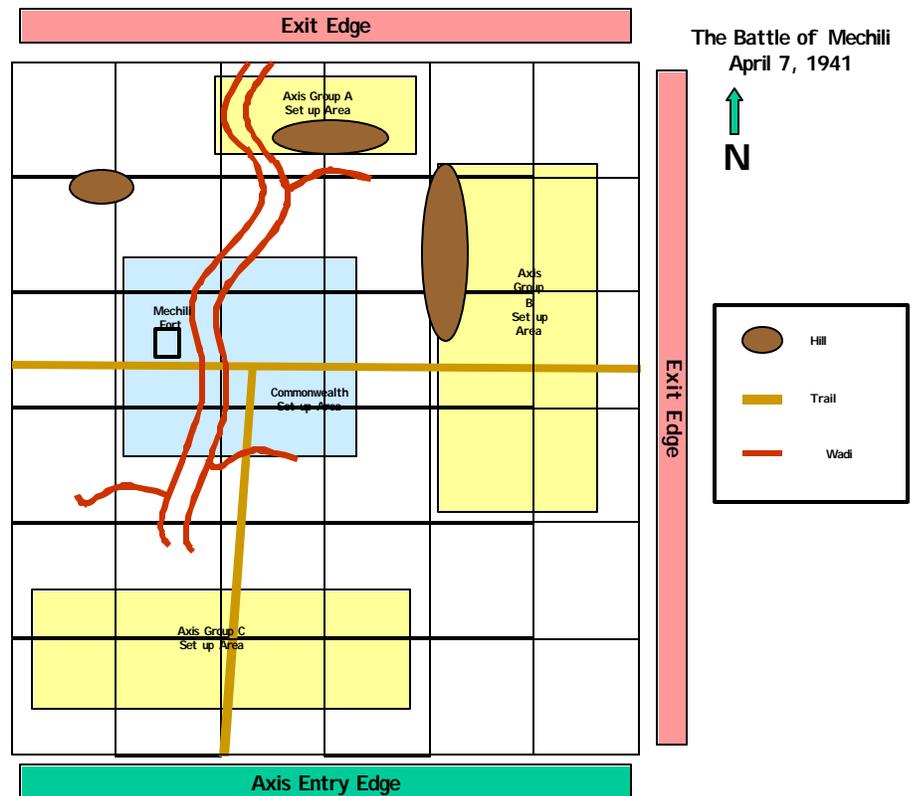
This scenario recreates the situation on the morning of April 8th. The Commonwealth commanders want to further delay Rommel, and also open a route to withdraw toward Tobruk. Rommel needs to

clear the position as quickly as possible, and also hopes to capture as many of the enemy forces as possible. This makes for a very interesting and fluid situation.

The terrain around Mechili was mostly open desert, with wadis and hills. El Mechili itself was an old colonial fort, which formed the center of the Commonwealth position. Fort - the fort itself can hold 2 stands, and counts as a stone building.

Trails - the trails have no movement effect, other than to negate worse than open terrain

The map is based on one tabletop - measuring 6' by 6'.



Battle of Mechili (cont.)

(wadis, etc.) where they cross it.

The wadis shown on the map are really a series of jagged depressions, linking to a larger trough leading of to the north. For this scenario they are considered to have the following effects:

Terrain Type	Personnel	Wheeled Vehicle	Tracked Vehicle
Broken Ground	X2	X4	X2

Surprise:

The breakout attempt by Commonwealth forces at dawn on the 8th took the Axis units by surprise. The initial wave of units encountered surprisingly light fire, although very quickly the fire picked up and subsequent waves met a heavy barrage of fire.

To reflect this, the following special rules are in effect for this scenario:

- Auto-spots - due to the pre-dawn sky on the first turn, all spotting attempts suffer a -4 modifier, and no unit, not even a vehicle moving in the open, is considered auto-spotted.
- Surprise - all Axis units suffer a reduced rate of fire for the first 30 minutes of the action. Give each unit a -2 ROF on the Axis 700 turn and a -1 ROF on the Axis 715 turn. This rule is lifted after the Axis 715 turn

Confusion:

Commonwealth forces had difficulty assembling on time to attempt the breakout. This was particularly the case for the 2nd Armored Division HQ.

To reflect this, the following special rules are in effect for this scenario:

- Confusion - for the first four turns Commonwealth units will need to roll to activate any order involving movement. The process is as follows - after order chits

are placed, any stand or vehicle attempting to act on a movement order must roll on the chart below to activate the order. To activate the stand needs to roll its activation number or less on a d10. If the activation roll fails the stand or vehicle is treated as having "no order", but will fire as if it had moved full. This should be done on a stand by stand basis - roll for a stand / vehicle, if it passes move it as desired, if it fails leave it in place, then move on to the next stand / vehicle.

Parent Unit Activation Number

3 rd Indian Motor Brigade	8
2 nd Armored Division HQ	6

- This rule is lifted after the Commonwealth 745 turn.

Order of Battle - Commonwealth:

Commonwealth forces are deployed anywhere within the Commonwealth set up area (perimeter). The Commonwealth forces involved are listed below:

3rd Indian Motor Brigade - (Regular, Morale 8)
Brigade HQ -

1 command stand (Brigadier Vaughan), 1 car

2nd Royal Lancers (Gardner's Horse) Regiment, with:

Headquarters squadron -

1 command stand, 1 car

3 Cavalry Squadrons (A, B and C), each with -

1 command infantry stand, 2 infantry stand, 3 light truck

11th Cavalry (Prince Albert Victor's Own) Regiment, with:

Headquarters squadron -

1 command stand, 1 car

3 Cavalry Squadrons (A, B and C), each with -

1 command infantry stand, 2 infantry stand, 3 light truck

18th Cavalry (King Edward VIII's Own) Regiment, with:

1 Cavalry Squadron (A), with -

1 command infantry stand, 2 infantry stand, 3 light truck

Battle of Mechili (cont.)

18th Cavalry (King Edward VIII's Own) Regiment, with:

1 Cavalry Squadron (A), with -
1 command infantry stand, 2 infantry stand, 3 light truck
Australian 2/3rd AT Battery [attached],

HQ, with -
1 command stand, 1 light truck

10th AT Battery, with -
3 37mm Bofors ATG portee

11th AT Battery, with -

with: (Veteran, Morale 9)

3 37mm Bofors ATG portee

"M" Battery, RHA [attached], with:
(Experienced, Morale 8)

3 2-pounder ATG portee

Note: Command infantry stands have integral Boys AT rifles.

2nd Armored Division - Regular, Morale 8

Division HQ, with:

1 command stand (Gambier-Parry), 1 Dorchester ACV, 1 staff radio truck, 1 A13 Cruiser, 1 infantry stand, 1 25-pounder FG, 1 40L56 AAG, 1 gun crew stand, 1 gun crew stand (ds), 1 quad, 2 light truck

Division HQ trains, with:

8 medium supply truck

The Commonwealth forces had recently arrived at Mechili, but they had had time to prepare some defensive positions. The Commonwealth player may deploy the following defenses as part of his initial setup:

- 4 weapons pits
- 12 entrenchments

In addition, all CW forces are considered "concealed" at start and the Axis player must roll to spot them before they are deployed on the table.

Support:

The Commonwealth forces were promised support, though in reality it did not arrive during the action. As a what if, the Commonwealth force could be aug-

mented with the following forces, which enter the table from the north or west table edges on a roll of 1-3 on a d10, checking once at the beginning of each Commonwealth turn on the hour. There is a victory point charge associated with using these forces - see Victory.

104th Royal Horse Artillery, Essex Yeomanry (experienced, morale 9)

HQ - 1 command stand, 1 FO stand, 2 car

2 Batteries - each with 1 command stand, 1 car, 3 25-pdr FG, 3 gun crew stand (ds), 3 Quad prime mover, 1 medium ammo truck, 1 support stand

Remnants, 3rd Armored Brigade, with -
Composite squadron - 1 command A13, 1 Mk VI b, 1 M13

Order of Battle - Axis:

Axis forces starting on table may be deployed using hidden movement markers in any of the three Axis deployment areas shown on the map. No more than 1 group may be deployed in any single area, except Group Bolbrinker may be deployed with Group Schwerin if the Axis commander so wishes. The Axis forces available for the assault on Mechili were the following -

5th Light Division (veteran, morale 9)

Divisional HQ (veteran, morale 9)

Headquarters, with:

1 command stand (Streich), 1 kubelwagen

Group Schwerin, with: (veteran, morale 9)

1 command stand (Schwerin), 1 kubelwagen, 1 MMG stand, 1 37L45 ATG, 1 gun crew stand, 2 light truck, 1 SP 2cm AA, 1 Pz I C, 1 recon Sdkfz 222

Group Bolbrinker [elements 1st Bn 5th Panzer Regiment] (veteran, morale 9)

Composite company, with:

1 command Pz I C, 1 Pz I VD, 1 recon Sdkfz 222

Group Fabris [elements 3rd Bersaglieri Battal-

Battle of Mechili (cont.)

ion] (experienced, morale 8)

Battalion HQ, with:

1 command m/c stand (Fabris), 1 recon m/c infantry stand, 1 engineer stand, 1 light truck

1 Motorcycle company, with:

3 m/c infantry stand, 1 m/c MMG stand

142nd AT Gun company, with:

2 gun crew stand, 2 47L32 ATG, 2 light truck, 2 SP 20L65 AAG

2 Batteries, 1/132nd Artillery Regiment [attached], each with:

3 gun crew stand (ds), 3 75L27 FG, 3 tractor

Group Montemurro [elements 8th Bersaglieri Regiment and 12th Bersaglieri Autoporto Battalion] (experienced, morale 8) [later arrival]

HQ, 8th Bersaglieri Regiment, with:

1 command stand (Montemurro), 1 car, 1 recon m/c infantry stand, 2 81mm mortar stand (ds), 1 engineer stand, 1 light truck, 2 medium truck

12th Bersaglieri Battalion HQ, with:

1 command stand, 1 car, 1 recon m/c infantry stand

Composite company, with:

2 infantry stand, 2 MMG stand, 1 37L45 ATG, 1 gun crew stand, 1 light truck, 2 medium truck

72nd AT Gun company, with:

1 SP 20L65 AAG, 2 gun crew stand, 2 47L32 ATG, 2 light truck

1 Battery, 1/132nd Artillery Regiment [attached], with:

3 gun crew stand (ds), 3 75L27 FG, 3 tractor

2nd MG Group (veteran, morale 9) [later arrival]

Headquarters company, with:

1 command stand, 1 car, 1 recon m/c infantry stand

MG company, with:

1 command MMG stand, 2 MMG stand, 1 light truck, 1 medium truck

Heavy company, with:

1 gun crew stand, 1 37L45 ATG, 1 light truck

The Axis player may deploy his initial forces in the areas shown on the scenario map. The remaining forces enter by rolling their entry number or below on a d10 according to the chart below. The Axis commander may roll once in his command phase of every 4th turn (on the hour).

German Arrivals

Entry Number	Unit	Location*
6	Group Bolbrinker*	South board edge
6	Group Montemurro	South board edge
2	2 nd MG group	South board edge

* - Group Bolbrinker may either set up as shown on the map or may roll for entry anywhere along the south map edge as above.

Scenario Length -

The scenario opens with the 7am turn, and ends due to darkness at 6:30pm. Dusk begins reducing visibility from 5:30pm in the evening.

Mechili Turn Record Chart

Turn	Notes	Arrivals?	Turn	Notes	Arrivals?
700			1300*		
715			1315		
730			1330		
745			1345		
800			1400*		
815			1415		
830			1430		
845			1445		
900*			1500*		
915			1515		
930			1530		
945			1545		
1000*			1600*		
1015			1615		
1030			1630		
1045			1645		
1100*			1700*		
1115			1715		
1130			1730	Dusk	
1145			1745	Dusk	
1200*			1800*	Dusk	
1215			1815	Dusk	

Scenario Ends

* - potential Commonwealth VP for holding Mechili

Victory Conditions -

Battle of Mechili (cont.)

The Axis forces' objective was to break through the Commonwealth position before it could be reinforced and strengthened. The Commonwealth forces were hoping to hold off the Axis as long as possible, and then break out to the east to rejoin other Commonwealth forces near Tobruk. Victory is calculated through the award of victory points as follows:

Situation Axis Points Commonwealth Points

For each hour after 8am the Commonwealth holds

Mechili* - 5

For each Axis company which exits the east table edge along the trail 5 -

For each Axis company which exits the north table edge 2 -

If 104th RHA is used 25 -

If 3rd Armored Brigade is used 20 -

For each Commonwealth company which exits off the eastern board edge - 5

For each Commonwealth train stand which exits the eastern board edge - 10

For each Commonwealth company or train stand which exits off any other table edge - 1

For each enemy AFV disabled or destroyed 1 1

For each enemy non-AFV stand destroyed 0.5 0.5

For each Commonwealth train stand destroyed or captured 10 -

To be considered to hold Mechili, the fort and trail junction must be free of Axis units, and either occu-

ped by a Commonwealth unit or closer to the nearest Commonwealth unit than to the nearest Axis unit.

Total the victory points for each side, then

subtract the Commonwealth total from the Axis total and compare the result to the table below:

Result Net Axis Points

Decisive Commonwealth Victory -1 or less

Draw 0 to 25

Marginal Axis Victory 26 to 50

Significant Axis Victory 51 to 100

Decisive Axis Victory 100+



Tactical Notes:

This scenario offers a difficult tactical situation for both sides. The Commonwealth player must decide if he intends to launch a risky breakout attempt immediately, hunker down and attempt to hold out until dark, or make spoiling attacks and attempt to create conditions favorable for a breakout before the Axis reinforcements arrive. It is important that a plan is created and followed, as half measures will usually result in defeat.

The Axis player must deploy in a way that makes a breakout difficult, while at the same time taking care to keep his forces in a position to assault the Commonwealth position if they have decided to defend.

Overall, this is an interesting situation and can make for a stimulating game.



Warhammer ECW review (cont.)

mention a few times during the year. I decided to buy them to complete my set. Kind of like I did with Chariot Wars. Though I love ancients I am not sure Gary could ever play an ancient battle without any Romans.

I really have never read much about ECW nor had really any real interest to game the era. But being the Nottingham clone that I am I started to read my trusty Osprey Campaign book that I own on the era. Well, to say the least I was more and more discouraged. As I read I realized that warfare in the 17th century was a whole new baby compared to Greeks and Romans slugging it out. I started to wonder how the regiments might look. And even bigger issue, how they might act. As they are a mix of pike and shot the current addition of Warhammer I did not feel would work very well. Boy was I in for a big shock.

As I looked through the rules the first thing I really enjoyed was that on every page of the army lists there is on the border historical commentary. That helps a 17th century moron such as myself get the feel of the era. But this being fluff I went straight for the issues that I had thought of would be problems. #1 being cavalry. In the ECW there were 2 very distinct schools of thought. First off the standard European way that came about using Reiter's or Harquebusier's that part of the unit would ride up to there target and fire there weapons and retire to the rear as another part would replace them and so on. When the enemy was disordered then the cavalry would charge. A maneuver called a Caracole. This type of maneuver and training was favored by the Parliamentarian's early on in the war. The Royalist's favored the Swedish school of thought brought about by Gustavus Adolphus of not firing there weapons but charge head long into the enemy to break them with shock of impact. Warhammer ECW makes a very big distinction between what they call Trotter's and Gallopers. Not only is the movement rate different as the Trotters always moved at a slower pace to keep

there formation in tact but they have differing attributes in combat.

#2 issue I had was how would the combined pike and shot units be handled? In the Ancient rules there is not really any need to have such differing types of troops that are part of the same unit. In Warhammer ECW 3 units make up 1 regiment. 1 pike and 2 musket. To support one another they have to stay with in 2" of each other. This way one can run there infantry regiments along either the Dutch philosophy or the Swedish. (does I show I have put way to much thought into this)? I went go into the differences here but they are all part of combat in this era handled nicely by these rules. Also shot can fire 2 ranks deep called "salvo fire." Again another nice idea to make the game look like the era.

To make a long story shot I love what I see. There is also a section on campaigns as well as detailed army lists on the early Parliamentarians, Royalists, The New Model Army (the beginning



25mm Old Glory Royalist cavalry.

of British units wearing the red coat), and Scottish armies. There is also a section on the army of Montrose. Complete with his Irish Brigade. (I can almost hear Pat's cheer rise from West Jordan)

I am not sure anyone would be interested in getting into this era but if that does happen, I think Warhammer English Civil War is a winner. So much so I am left with a feeling of hope that there might be an Armies of Antiquity size supplement for the Thirty Years War.

From the Editor

As with all Warhammer products the rule book is very nicely done. As Dennis stated above the rules are clearly laid out and if you have any familiarity with this system you should be able to pick it up pretty easily. Although I have quite a few problems with the ancients rules it looks like this system will work for the ECW. With both sides being able to defend against charges with firepower, it will take away some of the unusual results from the ancients rules where I felt that chargers had too much of an advantage. There have been some rules changes from the authors (some are quite important) that they have made available online in the form of an errata sheet. Overall, the rules look pretty good and those who have tried them seem to like the playability. The ECW featured numerous sieges, plenty of major battles, and literally hundreds of smaller sized engagements, so the scenario potential is quite vast.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Although there are thousands of books on the subject, there is little in the way of information on uniforms and flags, particularly on the Royalist side. Osprey has several titles out that have pretty good color plates and will give you a good idea of clothing for that era. The Brassey series of books is also excellent, mixing in color artwork with photos of reenactors. Two sites that are quite helpful are www.warflag.com which offers 25mm ECW flags and www.sealedknot.org which has over a hundred photos of reenactors, including some huge battles along with some uniform and flag information.

FIGURES

25mm

Redoubt
Perry Miniatures
Wargames Foundry
Renegade
Old Glory

15mm

Frei Korps
Minifigs
Essex
Matchlock

Battle of Sharpsburg Scenario Replay By James Morgan

Last October, my secretary, who teaches American History part time at the Salt Lake Community College, asked me to cover the unit on the Civil War. Naturally I thought a little show and tell would help bring the subject to life, so I dusted off my 25mm soldiers and prepared a diorama. The pivotal Battle of Antietam immediately came to mind, not just as the bloodiest single day of the ACW, but because it ended the first Southern invasion of the north and paved the way for the Emancipation Proclamation. After building some orchards, worm fences, and a stone bridge for General Burnside's to cross, I



Looking north from Sharpsburg past the orchards and a sunken road to the hills and woods beyond. The Dunkard Church is along the road to the upper right.

set it up in the basement and naturally couldn't resist the temptation to invite the gang over to fight it out. I tailored the army lists from *Fire & Fury's* "Great Eastern Battles" supplement for an ACW variant of our *Napoleon Rules!* Gary took command of his beloved Confederate troops, while Craig, my son Chris, and I each took command of Union Corps as they successively entered the fray.

The fighting north of Sharpsburg erupted at 6:00 in the morning when Fighting Joe Hooker (no more snide comments please) set his trollops—er, uh, troops forward from the North Woods against Stonewall Jackson's positions on the hill east of Dunkard Church and in the West Woods behind it. The pacifist German sect was very

dismayed to find their modest house of worship become the focal point for the Bloodiest Day of the Civil War. Hooker (a.k.a. Craig) callously ignored their protests and launched his right flank (Doubleday) southward, to clear the open field east of the Hagerstown Pike. His green-clad 2nd US Sharpshooters faced off against the 16th Alabama in the West Woods while his 4th Illinois troops turned to swap fire with a Rebel horse battery posted on Nicodemus hill to his right. Having a premonition of great danger, his center (Ricketts) held its position behind the cornfield, and his left (Meade, partial) only advanced to the edge of the East Woods, to secure them until Mansfield's Corp could arrive. (The Bart Woods were not featured in the terrain, but the Gary Grove played a key role in the Confederate defense.)

Meanwhile, the Union artillery commander, whose brother must have been shelled at Fort Sumter, spotted a large South Carolina regiment (the 12th) just south of the cornfield and continued to target it throughout the battle. Ignoring all other considerations, his guns continued to tear gaps in the Carolinian ranks until they finally fled the field. The Confederates had a Whitworth battery (OK, Craig, I give up, what is a wit worth?) which returned fire for a time on the Union batteries, but soon found better targets.

The attack on his horse battery provoked Fitzhugh to dismount his troopers and rush onto the

battlefield to its aid, but their fire was ineffective. The Alabama men, firing from cover, did better against the exposed riflemen, who in frustration charged the tree line, only to suffer more casualties to shot, shell, and canister from a battery positioned directly in front of the church, then even more in melee. It was too much for them; they broke and ran. Simultaneously, the Illinois men charged uphill, striking F. Lee's men and pushed them back, but were too exhausted to pursue. When the sharpshooters fled, the exposed Illinois men fell back, too, while and 23rd Ohio regiment advanced to help cover the gap in the lines.

Lee's men mounted up and the horse guns advanced, while the exuberant Alabama troops, flush with victory gleefully charged forward in pursuit—advancing into range of the Yankee reinforcements. Savaged by fire, the rebels were repulsed in turn and limped back to their positions in the woods.

Mansfield (Chris) arrived and began to push forward through and to the east of the East Woods, to challenge possession of the center. Meade's Michigan troops skirted behind the cornfield to reunite with their Ohio comrades who were again pressing forward on the Union right, opposite Hood's troops who arrived just in time to shore up the flagging Alabama men. In the center, Mansfield aggressively stuck the 5th



The Union lines stabilize and repel the Confederate counterattack from the West Woods

Mississippi holding the eastern edge of the hill and forced them beyond the

Battle of Sharpsburg (cont.)

crest. To his left, Sedgewick arrived with the vanguard of the Sumner's (Jim's) Corp, and made for the Confederate right flank where D. H. Hill's men were stationed in a sunken road. To support the latter, a Virginia regiment



moved cross country onto the ridge be-

A New York regiment briefly penetrates the Rebel position in the sunken road while reinforcement gather.

raced forward. Longstreet advanced along the

hind the sunken road—only to find themselves within effective range of Federal batteries sited on the high ground across Antietam

long street leading north from Sharpsburg. Two of his confederate regiments swerved towards the West Woods which had been captured from the broken 16th Alabama by Meade's Michigan and Ohio regiments. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry had also been put to flight.

Creek. Still more rebel reinforcement

N.U.T.S. Update

As with many wargaming groups, NUTS is into many periods and the list keeps growing! James Morgan was kind enough to send me an update of what the group is currently playing and what's coming up soon.

Gary is trying to wind down his Solomon's Mine campaign. The Italians and Germans found the treasure in the Magic Mountains first and are trying to make it to the coast, but are being hotly pursued by the vengeful British, French, and Union troops. We expect a dual land battle and a great naval showdown.

Tom is focused on creating a Medieval campaign, combining the King-maker boardgame with some Medieval tabletop rules. He is concurrently

whittling away at his metal warehouse, adding to his vast Colonial collection.

Bart is painting more and more modern armies, including Arab-Israeli, Afghan, etc..., for CDIII. We were able to employ a small part of his vast collection of sci-fi and fantasy troops over the holidays at a Warhammer and 40K fest sponsored by Craig.

Besides feting us to a Warhammer mini-tournament, Craig has sponsored games on WWI (Square Bashing), AWI (AOR), WWII (various Desert scenarios using CDIII), and ACW (Fire and Fury). He is also working on Lord of the Rings figures and supporting his sons' new

Warhammer and 40K obsessions.

Jim (that's me) has been spending far too much time developing a large jungle free for all scenario (building African villages-see attached picture, Tarzan's tree house, waterfalls, basing and painting both animals and accessories) scheduled for mid-March. In the meantime he has been acquiring more plastic and metal LOTR figures to use soon (?)



Dave has focused on running the Americans in the Solomon's Mines campaign.

The Miniatures Page Web Site

TMP as it is affectionately called is probably one of the greatest single resources to wargamers on the web. Although not updated 365 days a year, it comes very close to it! The site lists all major developments in the world of wargaming, including boardgames, terrain, miniatures, rules, accessories, suppliers, manufacturers, and lets you know about any kinds of deals or spe-

cial in the hobby world. There are also sections for what is happening on the Internet, clubs, tournaments, etc... If something new is on the way, a company is opening or closing it's doors, or a wargaming site has a problem, TMP will let you know about it.

One of my favorite things to do is to look through the manufacturers area on the site. Every company who makes

and sells products is listed along with a summary of their items plus the web address. You can literally spend days looking through the thousands of companies and visiting their sites on the web. TMP is a great site and the webmaster is to be commended for his dedication.

www.theminaturespage.com

WFHGS Update

The last few months have seen our group do quite a few games in a variety of periods. First off, after much discussion we have now chosen Age of Eagles as our choice for Napoleonic rules (see review on page 1). After rebasing Russians for two months we finally played it around the Christmas holidays and we definitely liked what we saw. So now, everyone is working on rebasing their forces and expanding units which will hopefully let us play a campaign at some point.



Russian division deploys to attack the French positions.

Warmaster has also been an area where we are expanding our forces rapidly. We had a chance to play a few games since last issue which only fueled the fire more! I think the reason we like it is because the units are sold in packs, there is command and control, and it looks good as well as it is fun to play. I just ran a very successful tournament at a local hobby store which gave me a chance to see a variety of armies and styles of generalship. This is certainly a game that we will be playing more often in the future.



The fortress I built from plans and card templates off the Web.

After changing from the Sudan to the Northwest Frontier we have embarked on a project to build up our forces for this new area. I was having a hard time finding Ral Partha figures and they wouldn't fit with anything else, so our Colonial period was stuck. We have gone to the larger 25mm figures and are slowly and surely building up the collection. We had our first game a few weeks ago using the new, revised version of the Sword and the Flame and the "Continuous Action" supplement from an old issue of The Courier. The game went well, so we will be doing this period much more in the future.



Mike's British and Australian forces advance to meet the Pathans.

One of the newer periods that we have had fun with is the Mongol Invasion of Europe using the Pig Wars rules. These games are pretty free wheeling and everyone has a pretty good time.



25mm Teutonic Knights and Poles

Perhaps the biggest event since last issue was when our friend from the group in Sandy, Utah asked us over for a big Age of Reason battle. They use a great terrain system which really represents a battlefield's undulations, roads, and river beds very well. It was the largest AOR

units a side! You quickly find out that you lose track of what is happening on



The main Prussian line of battle.

other parts of the field as you are entirely focused on your command. It clearly showed how hard it is for commanders to keep track of large engagements and how little influence you have on overall events. It also showed the need for reserves and support so that you don't get stretched too thin. This is certainly something that we will need to do at least once a year.



Austrians and Russians move into position for the attack.

Northwest Frontier stuff done, more Napoleonic, and we need to get back to the American Civil War and CD3. Some of us are going to build up forces for Warhammer English Civil War which will take awhile since it is in 25mm. We also need to improve our selection of 25mm terrain for a variety of areas, especially the Northwest Frontier and come up with some ideas for wider rivers.

Renegade Miniatures

Review by Mike Marchant

I have recently had the chance to paint a unit of the new English Civil War infantry figures put out by a company called Renegade. The infantry figures come in packs of 8 and are nicely cast with variants on a theme



(marching pike, standing muskets, etc) with head and some arm variations on

the figures. Flash is nearly non-existent and the figures are very professionally packaged. While I didn't buy the figures myself, I am told the company was a pleasure to do business with, and shipped their product very promptly. Cavalry and artillery are promised in the near future, and the firm has a deal for interested clubs, offering them 40 packs for the price of 30.

All in all a very good range of figures, if they maintain their current standards, and the sculpting is easily on par with Wargames Foundry. Don't stone me for heresy- I like Foundry stuff very much. They have been my favorite company since I made the trip to their old factory in Nottingham, England and got handed a plastic tub and let loose in

a huge room of shelves.

Those were the days. The days, that is, before Foundry charged \$18 per pack of 8 infantry! As such companies like Renegade offer a good, somewhat cheaper, alternative to obtain comparably sculpted figures. I highly recommend their products. They are a pleasure to paint.



Jim's New Project

Jim Cornell, our group's master craftsman, has embarked on an ambitious and incredible project. The goal is to produce 12 two foot squares that can be linked together to form a village or section of a



city. They can then be used for games like Battleground, Pig Wars, etc... Each building has lift off roofs and some have several floors that come apart to place figures inside. The pictures don't do the first square justice as it is truly incredible to see in person. The first square I saw had a river running through the terrain block with bridges in several



places. Once this is finished it will be an incredible set up, probably one of the most impressive I've ever seen. We can only wait for the rest of the squares to be completed and then try it out. Hopefully, Jim will write an article about how he did this.



Wargaming Sites on the Web

CALIVER BOOKS

[Http://www.caliverbooks.com](http://www.caliverbooks.com)

They carry an astounding catalog of military history books as well as the Renegade line and the 15mm Matchlock miniatures. Good overseas service.

GROGNARD.COM

[Http://www.grognard.com](http://www.grognard.com)

A massive web site for board wargaming with reviews, errata, add-ons, etc..., for thousands of wargames. A great site to just wander around for the memories.

BROOKHURST HOBBIES

[Http://www.brookhursthobby.com](http://www.brookhursthobby.com)

Very fast service-usually 48 hours. They carry everything from miniatures, books, rules, plastic models, paints, and they update their site at least three times a week.



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I was finally able to get the first four issues into a PDF file to put up on the web site, so we are now an official online journal. I do have plans to expand the journal to perhaps include games, campaigns, rules supplements, etc..., in the near future, but it's going to take a lot of work each issue. For now I've settled on the 14-16 pages per issue which is about as much as a one man publishing operation can work on successfully. I would like to include more battle reports, reviews, and special features for future issues.

Now for some editorializing! What is this current trend towards Vampires, Gothic, Street Violence, etc...? I've heard explanations ranging from trying to cash in on the Games Workshop merchandise to the fact that designers have exhausted every period! If historical gamers wanted to do fantasy they would get into Games Workshop stuff, not buy it from Wargames Foundry. There are many periods still untouched or only with a few offerings. If new companies would quit coming out with another line of ACW or Napoleonic they might have some success. A great idea would be to launch a range of 10mm historical armies with units sold in packs ala Warmaster.

Black Hawk Down

by Matt Irsik

Author Mark Bowden wrote Black Hawk Down a few years ago, chronicling the raid in Mogadishu, Somalia by Rangers and Delta Force in 1993. Before the book the only thing most Americans knew or saw revolved around the pictures on CNN of several dead U.S. soldiers being drug through the street.

Finally a movie version has arrived which involves Ridley Scott, the same person responsible for Gladiator. While the movie is almost two and a half hours long I still recommend reading the book as it is almost as exciting as the film. A full accounting of the book would take about six hours, but the movie does an excellent job of trying.

The opening scenes depict the country of Somalia and the UN relief operations. You get a pretty good idea of what's going on here, even though I would have liked a better explanation



of what troops were where and why. You do get to meet many of the Ranger officers and soldiers who will be involved as well as your first taste of what Delta Force is.

The mission is fairly well explained and the build up to the events leads you to believe that this was planned out well, just no one expected the amount of resistance they would meet. The next two hours are probably the best firefight and military action on film, definitely rivaling Saving Private Ryan's opening scenes. The struggles of individual soldiers, the relief convoys, the massive fire-fights, and the utter hopelessness of the situation are brilliantly brought to life on the screen. You do get the sense of what it must have been like to have been



going on a routine mission and end up battling for your life.

Are there some flaws?

Yes, but they are few and minor. The results of the raid aren't detailed enough and the military triumph it was is not discussed (18 killed vs. 1,000 of the enemy). Characters are only given limited screen time and you don't really get to know them. But these are minor points in an otherwise great war movie.

The sets, equipment, and direction are first rate. The fighting itself is brutally portrayed and this movie will be hard to beat for a long time to come. Hopefully the DVD version will have extra features and scenes to make a great film even better.