

LEGIONARY 2014

 Words and picture by Paul Davies.

On my show coverage schedule, Legionary, hosted by the Exmouth Wargames Club, is the next event after Salute, and as such provides an interesting contrast between what some people might call two different manifestations of the hobby.

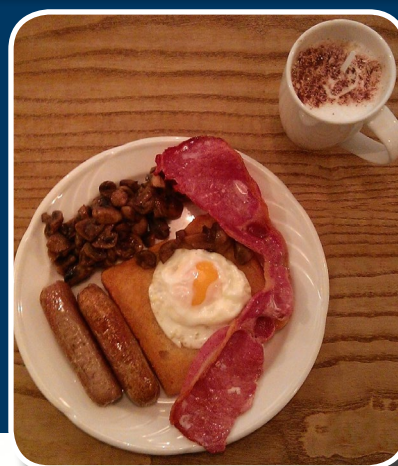
Salute, based in East London, is generally crammed full of games, many of them featuring specially created terrain and buildings for display at what is the largest one-day wargames event in the UK. And of course it is also a massive shop window for UK and overseas traders, all of them keen to show their products to the massive number of wargamers able to make their way to the ExCel Centre in the heart of London's Docklands, so in that context it's also like a trade show but one that is open to the public

Legionary on the other hand is a smaller and much more 'laid-back' event. Understandably given the size of the venue there are less games and traders, and for me, the overall feeling is of a large, friendly club event featuring the sort of games that most of us see and play every week, and it was certainly a more relaxed



and comfortable experience. There was time to chat to friends, share a few ideas and even play a game or two. Oh, and it has easily the best breakfast of ANY of the shows I visit; excellent quality, plenty of it, and at an extremely competitive price too! Ok, it may not be the healthiest of breakfasts in the World, but when I 'go', I'm determined that it will be with a smile on my face.

But let's get back to the show itself, and take a look at a few of the games that were on offer.



COLD WAR

Presented by Jason Ralls of the Devon Wargames Group.

This Cold War game featuring a fictional encounter featured 28mm figures by Mongrel and MoFo, and vehicles by Sloppy Jalopy. Rules used were *Chain of Command*.



COMMAND HORIZON

Presented by the Wargames Emporium.

From conversations with several manufacturers over the years, I get the feeling that some of them believe that they don't get enough coverage in wargames magazines to reflect the popularity of 1/300th scale miniatures. The reality, as I have explained on many occasions, is that magazines can only publish what is submitted to them. An additional problem is that smaller miniatures can be difficult to photograph well, particularly under show lighting, so magazines tend to receive very few articles that feature interesting and well written text, and photographs of small scale miniatures which are suitable for publication.

Anyway, in another attempt to redress the perceived imbalance I took several photographs of some 6mm Command Decision miniatures.

And for those wargamers interested in 6mm wargaming, I'd like to draw your attention to "The Joy of Six 2014"; the annual wargame show devoted to 6mm, which will be held on Sunday 20 July, at Workstation, 15 Paternoster Row, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S1 2BX.

For more information visit: www.thejoyof6.co.uk



DARK AGE SKIRMISH

Presented by the Brixham Berserkers

A neatly presented and modelled 28mm game which I first saw at PAW this year and which was still proving to be a popular participation game, using Gripping Beast figures and *Valhalla* rules.



FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR

Presented by Oshiro Model Terrain

A fictional battle using 28mm figures from the new, and rapidly growing Franco- Prussian figure range by Heroes of the Dark Ages.

The rules used were *Fire and Furia Francese*, based upon *Fire and Fury* and available as a download from the Wyre Forest Gamers: www.wfgamers.org.uk/resources/C19/fandfmods.htm. Bear in mind however that these are only an adaptation and you'll still need a set of *Fire and Fury* rules in order to be able to use them.



WW1

Presented by Scarab Miniatures

This wasn't so much a game, as a display to showcase the excellent WW1 figures by Scarab Miniatures as well as to publicise their WW1 rules, which are currently very much a 'work-in-progress'. However, if the popularity of their *War and Conquest* rules is anything to go by, they'll be worth the wait. The trench system was by Kallistra.





WW2 – LIGHTFOOT'S SOUTHERN ASSAULT

Presented by the Society of Gentlemen Gamers

Rapid Fire continues to be an extremely popular WW2 ruleset, and the Society of Gentlemen Gamers was formed in 2008 as a forum through which large *Rapid Fire* games could be arranged. Certainly this Desert Rats v Folgore was big. I can't remember when I've seen quite so many 20mm AFV's and vehicles in such close proximity. Mind you, personally I'd have found it hard to resist calling in an artillery strike what with all that juicy armour conveniently bunched up.

The terrain was created by Don McHugh; the British forces were from the collections of George Kirke and Don McHugh, whilst the Axis were from the collection of Alan McCoubrey.



SEELOW HEIGHTS - APRIL 1945

Presented by Tus a'n orlewen
(The Men from the West)

This recreation of the Russian attack which occurred prior to the final attack on Berlin, was created in 10/12mm using figures by Pendraken; AFV's and vehicles by Takura, Arrowhead Miniatures, F-Toys and Revell; and buildings by Timecast. Rules used were *Blitzkrieg Commander*.



SIGNAL CLOSE ACTION – A NAPOLEONIC NAVAL BATTLE

Presented by The Escape Committee

Featuring 1/1200th scale Langton Miniatures, and using Langton's Fast Play naval rules. Naval rules seem to come and go... like ships in the night. Sorry couldn't resist a pun. That said, Langton's *Signal Close Action – Fast Play* rules have remained popular, and incorporate sufficient realism to satisfy the ardent naval wargamer but without the complexity of some Napoleonic Naval rules.



VIMEIRO

Presented by Graham Cookson of Think Tank Wargamers

A typically well-presented 28mm Napoleonic game using 28mm figures by Victrix, Perry, Foundry, Front Rank and Connoisseur and Elite. Buildings were by Graham, and Brian Collins. Trees were by Graham and the vines were by Railway Scenics.

The rules used were *King George commands and we obey* by Graham, and are available for free download from: <http://gcooksonblog.wordpress.com>





SKINNING THE CAT

Presented by Lincombe Barn Wargames Society

A 20mm scale game set in Afghanistan featuring miniatures from Under Fire, S & S and Elheim, and using *Force on Force* rules.



PARTING SHOTS

So that's it, a brief review of some of the games presented for the enjoyment of visitors and gamers at Legionary 2014; as far as I'm concerned a very enjoyable and relaxing event, but one at which I still managed, as usual, to spend too much money. Apologies for the games that I didn't get time to photograph. I think I'm getting slower as I get older

We are very fortunate in the UK, as we have a large number of wargame shows compared to other countries, which is surely a measure of the enthusiasm that exists both amongst the wargamers who do the hard work of successfully pulling together all the disparate elements needed to create a successful show, and also of those who present the games.

Like many regional shows of late, there appears to be some question as to the future of Legionary, at least at its current venue, which is very expensive for a relatively small club to hire.

In my opinion, it is these regional shows that are the most representative of our hobby, and which, for that reason alone, should be supported as much as possible, on the basis of 'support it or lose it' ...

We should also acknowledge the commitment of those traders who frequently travel very long distances for sometimes minimal returns, but whose presence is just as

important for 'getting people through the door', as are the games themselves. So if you decide to buy something on-line after having your interest awakened following a show, try to mention to the trader where you saw his (or her) products, because that will help them to plan their show attendance for next year.

Wargaming is a great hobby. It can be as simple or complicated as you wish. It can involve research, modelmaking and terrain building, figure selection and painting, a friendly game with friends or a full-blown competitive tournament. It can be just a small club organising their programme for the next few months or it could mean organising a national wargames show. But what links together all these elements and more, is that for our hobby to continue to grow, it needs the practical involvement of as many people as possible. All too often clubs are run by a small number of individuals who are prepared to commit their time for the benefit of others. So next time your club or group asks for volunteers to help out, don't take one step back, but step forward or raise your hand, and get involved. You won't regret it!

For more information about Legionary and the Exmouth Wargames Club, visit their website:

www.exmouthwargames.org.uk