

Wargaming in the Field Army

AN UPDATE SINCE CONNECTIONS 2015

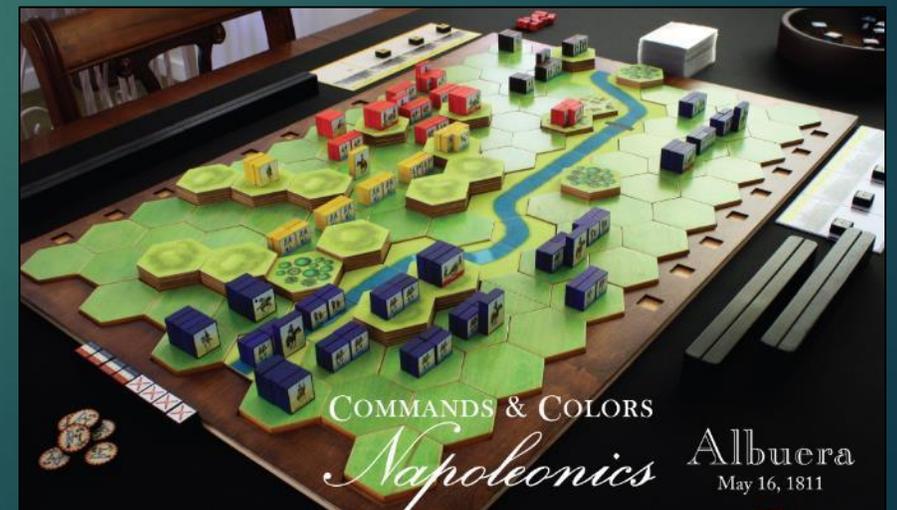
by Capt Ed Farren (now at RMAS)



2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Historical – Battle of Albuera

- ▶ A key Regimental Battle Honour.
- ▶ Silent Toast between both messes to the 'Immortal Memory' of those who fell.
- ▶ Mess Dinner – before which junior officers deliver a presentation to the CO.
- ▶ 2016 variations – yours truly as President of the Mess Committee!
 - ▶ Wargame with Commands & Colours Napoleonic one week prior to dinner.
 - ▶ Conduct brief on sand model (operational then tactical).
 - ▶ Tell the story of the battle through the dinner with 'dispatches'.
- ▶ Until the wargame most junior officers had little appreciation for the tactical situation which befell their forebear regiments and why the battle was such a close run thing.
- ▶ Highlighted some basic lack of understanding in Napoleonic warfare tenets that underpin many such line infantry regiments' battle honours.
- ▶ Much fun was had...especially with the introduction of alcohol!



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Contemporary – CIED Wargame

- ▶ The Battalion hosted six potential officers from RMAS intermediate term.
- ▶ The Regiment could only take two of them – who to cut?
- ▶ Some interviewed well, others didn't. I wanted to examine their conceptual component and decision making in a safe environment.
- ▶ Bn Int Cell attended Tom's Wargame Course – had two days to prepare the CIED wargame for POs.
- ▶ Two teams of three – Red (insurgents) and Blue (Counterinsurgents) using the blind kriegspiel method.
- ▶ Results were interesting:
 - ▶ Exposed those who could think non linearly.
 - ▶ Some became instant sheep, others became wolves.
 - ▶ They quickly learnt they couldn't wait until they had a 'perfect' view of what was going on (the unending wait for OODA).
 - ▶ Plans were hastily amended to adjust to changing circumstances (if only they could do that at Sandhurst!).
 - ▶ AAR demonstrated a learning ethos – with almost all the answers coming from them.
- ▶ And what's more...they actually enjoyed it (found it professionally satisfying).



2nd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

Unorthodox – NOTICAS Wargame

- ▶ Notification of Casualties (NOTICAS); a process by which the Next of Kin (NoK) of a service person are informed of their injury or death.
- ▶ The Battalion experienced some embarrassing NOTICAS procedural errors.
- ▶ A hasty investigation revealed that the understanding of the process was poor and that delineation of authority was unclear.
- ▶ Inspired by HOSPEX I designed a very simple wargame to take duty personnel through the process:
 - ▶ Firstly a revision of core policy documents and going through the NOTICAS glossary of terms.
 - ▶ Secondly revising the Bn Flow Diagram for NOTICAS (an aide I produced prior to the wargame).
 - ▶ Thirdly using three real examples I let the duty staff execute the wargame and only umpired if there was a point of conflict.
- ▶ The results surprised even ourselves as the Medical, Duty and Command chains all seemed to be racing each other to get information out – often skipping ahead of the policy that we were mandated to adhere to.



What's next at RMAS?

**NOT YET ENDORSED
BY RMAS**

Dreams vs **Reality**...

Junior Term

Intermediate Term

Senior Term

Conventional Warfare

Stabilisation

Offensive Operations

COIN Operations

Defensive Operations



Combat Estimate Taught

Combat Estimate Refined

Civilian

Soldier

Leader

Scholar

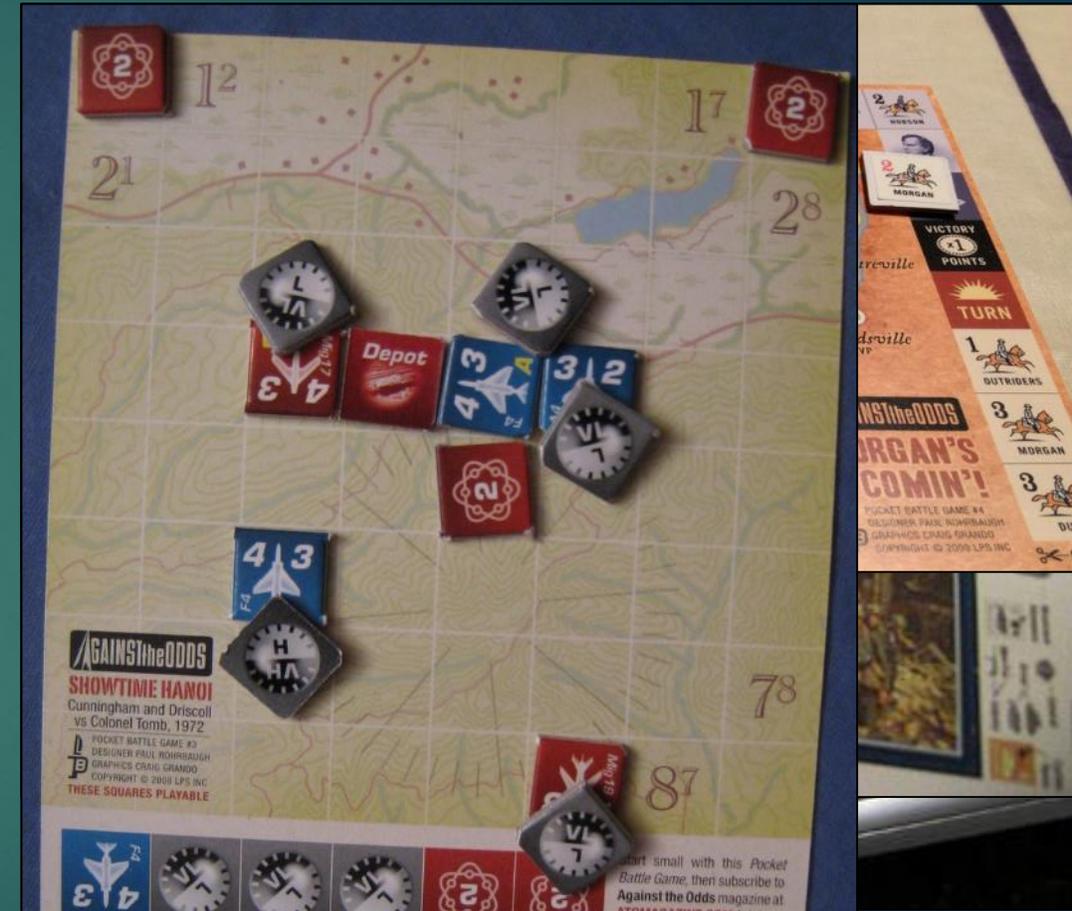
Commander

Officer

Pocket Wargames

An area of opportunity...

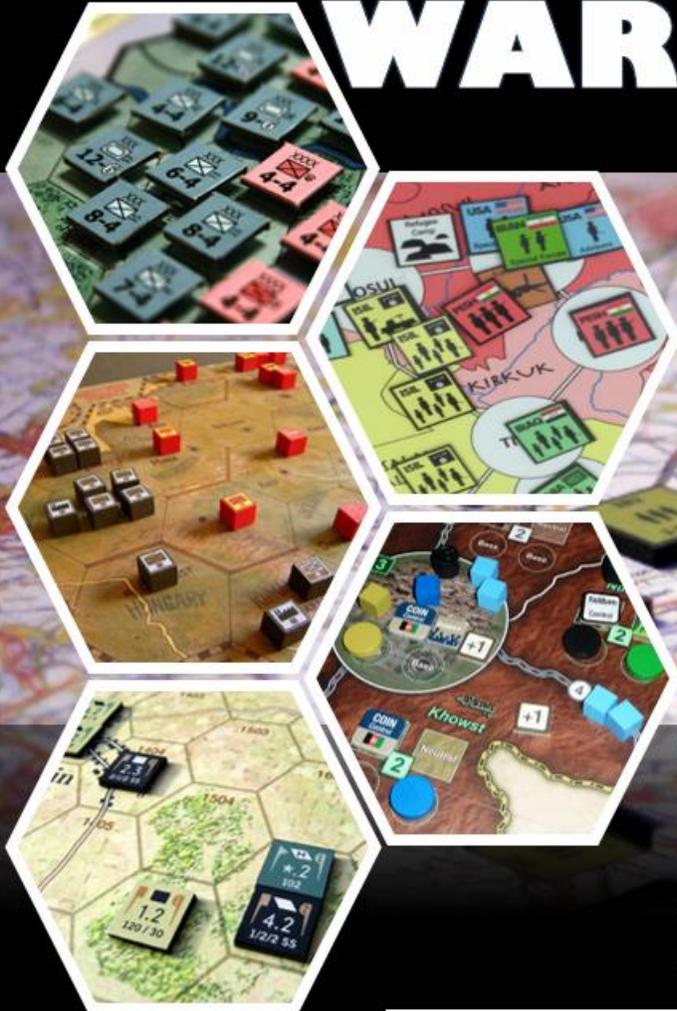
- ▶ Ocdds have A LOT of PRIVATE STUDY that is **untouchable**.
- ▶ 'Host a wargame and they'll play once...give them a wargame (or several!) and they'll play multiple times...'
- ▶ Numerous examples of pocket wargames that are easy to play (once introduced):
 - ▶ Mortain – conventional combined arms (War Studies link)
 - ▶ Rattenkrieg – Urban operations (War Studies link)
 - ▶ Morgan's a Comin' – irregular warfare.
 - ▶ Showtime Hanoi – air combat & ground attack (OODA loop).
- ▶ Encourage self teaching by providing the motivation (through intro sessions), the materials and the time to wargame.
- ▶ Not looking to make **everyone a convert** – even only 20% take up would be enough to see it penetrate into Regimental Duty.



Brought together by...

WARGAMING

At the Academy



Wargaming may improve your:

- ◆ Tactical planning
- ◆ Hasty decision making
- ◆ Course of Action appreciation
- ◆ Reaction to cognitive stress

**“SWEAT saves BLOOD
BLOOD saves lives
but BRAINS saves BOTH”**
ERWIN ROMMEL

POC Captain EC Farren PWRR

Wargamers thank you for time...

If you wish to contact me about anything I have mentioned or about anything else wargame related please use the email below:

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