



The Sheila Tacku- Column #12 (MAR. - APR. 2014)

‘because when you don’t exist
you can pretty much say what
you like...’

Hi and welcome to my latest blog. First, an apology for the delay in publication, but due to the fascist tyranny known as the coursework deadlines of the South Midland Examination Group (SMEG) I wasn’t able to post at the end of March. Anyways, here’s a review by Eddy Tor of the latest ‘Osrey’ festive offering I received a few days ago:-

T-72 MBT vs Toyota Hilux Pickup

Syria 2013

Col . Poisson d’Avril (retd)

Osrey Duel 64, £12.99



I can’t be alone in following the coverage of the war in Syria with increasing frustration at the inability of journalists to tell their tanks from their technicals. So kudos to Osrey for bringing out this authoritative guide to the key vehicles of that conflict so quickly. The author, a renowned French expert on armoured warfare, argues, convincingly in this reviewer’s opinion, that pitting a Soviet main battle tank against a Japanese pickup with a recoilless rifle rigged on the flatbed is not the comical mismatch it first appears. d’Avril uses extensive statistical analysis from the Syrian battlefield to prove that the Hilux’s superior performance (on paved roads) and the higher morale of its rebel drivers more than makes up for the T72’s superior main gun, armour, fire control system, defensive counter-measures, communications suite and crew training.

However, d’Avril comes to the controversial conclusion that the Toyota’s days as queen of the battlefield are numbered. While the original Hilux was a byword for indestructibility, more recent models have emphasised luxuries such as air con, alloy wheels and heated seats at the expense of weapons payload, ease of maintenance in a combat zone and the ability to perform a handbrake turn to get out of trouble. Instead, “upstart knock-offs” by Chinese manufacturers such as Great Wall, Huanghai and ZX Auto are “beating the Hilux at its own game and becoming the third world rebel’s vehicle of choice”.

This is another concise, well-illustrated and thought-provoking addition to Osrey's Duel series and I look forward to the next one: *Condor Legion vs Guernica*.

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Anyways, so while Gaz was down the pub Ginger Deanna, Yorkist Livvy (his daughters) and I borrow his DVD of *'Game Of Thrones'*, expecting *'The White Queen'* with a bit of nudity as it's an '18'. Not so! It's really quite shocking for ladies such as we of tender years - and makes one of Emily's parties look like Jane Austen. I was shocked - so Gods know what Mrs Mitchell would make of it. Then again, I understand if you get your 'A' levels and pop off to Uni this sort of thing is *de rigour*. It's is increasingly having its attractions... were it not for the fact such a development would require 'effort'. Never mind, as and when I shall catch-up with the series that makes Richard III and 'Auntie Anne' look like the babysitters you can trust. Gaming potential? Good - through there are too many characters and they die like flies, so maybe invent your own for your own campaign beyond The Wall. Hey - if Alex Salmond has his way we can all do that ...

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Lotsa guys down the club play *'War And Conquest'*, but, hey, it keeps them off the streets where otherwise they'd be hanging out on the Rec, drinking cheap cider, smoking roll-ups, talking to girls down Devil Gate Drive and otherwise destroying their already limited employment prospects. Anyways, as well as being a hip sets of 28mm ancient-stroke-medieval rules there's now a free - yes FREE - fantasy add-on set at <http://scarabminiatures.com/forum/viewforum.php?f=58> called *'War And Sorcery'*. The guys at Scarab say the Army Lists and Fantasy rules will always remain free on the Net, so they're right up there in the modern spirit of 1967. Scarab also make some pretty nifty 28mm Austro-Hungarian WWI 'Imperial Stormtroopers', which are, like, topical with the WWI centenary coming up. Gary has some. Ok, they never hit anything or find the Serbian terrorists they're looking for but...

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Spartan Games (<http://www.spartangames.co.uk/>) continue to release stuff for their developing *'Firestorm Armada'* with the roll-out of two box sets: one each for the main fleets. Also a 144-page hardback fleet guides for the Kurak Alliance and Zenian League, which cover all the core races and Alliances races and contain a wealth of background and fleet building information. Also on the way is a new v2.0 *'Dystopian Wars'* rulebook. So cewl stuff coming there...

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Really enjoyed the April Fool on Facebook of Warlord Games / *'Wargames, Soldiers & Strategy'* about merging as *'Warlord, Soldiers & Strategy'*. I think it kinda fooled Gary M, who made a couple of po-faced postings about *'print media needing big backers due to loss of advertising revenue caused by the internet, blahdy blah'*. Talk about hedging your bets, lol! I sussed it once they mentioned the merger meaning they wouldn't have to pay top DILS Rick Priestly's 'salary' for his column (soz, could have phrased that better). Well done chaps, it was so plausible you must have caught a lot of us out.

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Recent events in the Crimea have given many of us pause for thought - so I suggest plus new rules and stats for Ukrainian forces wishing to defect en masse to Russia. Roll a D6. On anything other than a '6' they can't be arsed to defend their country - on a further roll of 1-3 they all start defecting to Russia, those rolling a '6' on this second throw take off their shirts and start riding around on quad bikes complaining how other people being gay violates their personal freedom. Satire? You got it...

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Ok, so thanks to the gaming God that is David Knight how about a Nexus Storm Strider review... <http://gravengames.co.uk/nexus-storm-strider-review/> , Anvil Industry Miniatures and Conversion Parts Review <http://gravengames.co.uk/anvil-industry->

[miniatures-and-conversion-parts-review/](#) , and Ramshackle Games.

http://shop.ramshacklegames.co.uk/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=20&products_id=400 not to mention <http://wpggamegeeks.blogspot.com/2011/04/armies-on-parade-bundeswehr.html?spref=tw> Also “Kitech” MBT kits are really cheap kits about £5 on eBay – and above

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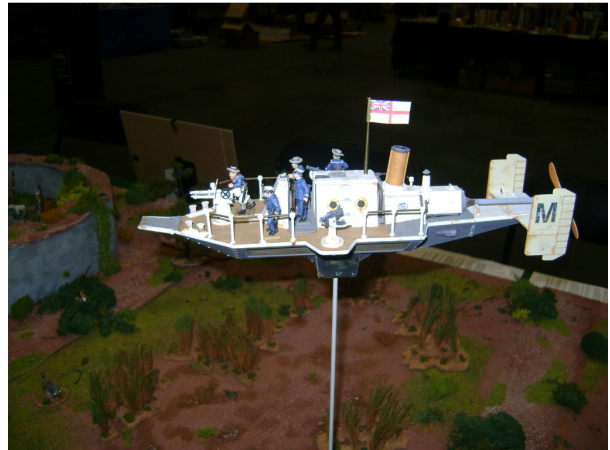
Ah! The annual trade-fest that is ‘*Salute*’. Firstly apologies with this bit as the ending of XP means I’m having to work on Dad’s laptop, and nothing is the same and I can’t do the pictures the same as before or get the scanner to work... You know how it is. Still, press on. No bring and buy to not bother with this year, so it was off bright and early with the *SVfM* guys, plus camera – and then generally too busy playing Skinny Richard’s ‘*Wolf Thane*’ game with punters to work my passage (see via http://spacevixensfrommars.com/?page_id=931). My overall impression was a quieter show than previous years, with big traders dominating, *Warlord*, *Perry* et al. Pile ‘em high and sell ‘em cheap? Maybe this is the future of the hobby as the Recession bites. *Crooked Dice* (<http://www.crooked-dice.co.uk/wp/>) continue to amaze with their boards



The *Saga* game ‘*Crescent And Cross*’ for *Gripping Beast* looked impressive, and had to be seen to be believed, IMO (pic below). Orlando Bloom is on the far left...



The *Salute* theme was D-Day, but given the centenary of WWI there were loads of those games in scales from 10mm to 28mm, the Maidstone Wargames Society's 28mm being especially impressive, even under the dark and headache-generating lighting of Excel. I also liked *Oshiro – The Red Planet* with some brill VSF ships and models...



New things to look out for. *Colonel Bills* (www.colonelbills.com) do a new range called *Belt Fed*, which are actual 28mm historical females, scantily clad. Obviously as a girl I object to this objectifying of women, no matter how tastefully sculpted, even though the female form has an aesthetic beauty of its own... but they were selling like hot cakes. Sigh. So, don't you guys try and objectify me, though I would be flattered if someone was to do a Sheila Tackyou sculpt, or Olly Murs was to objectify me, 'cos he's hot, which make sit Ok. Another new range to look out for is *Spectre Miniatures* (www.spectreminiatures.com) forthcoming range of 21st century 28mm moderns, Africans, special forces etc. Purchases? The new *Osprey* paperback by David McIntee '*We Will Destroy Your Planet – An Alien's Guide To Conquering The Earth*' will be a fun read, and the STaB guys purchased *Real Time Wargmes* campaign system for WOTR '*For Lords, Tomorrow Is a A Busy Day*'. If – as Belinda Carlisle famously observed - heaven is a place on Earth – then hell is finishing you fun day out sitting in a car back from *Salute* while Steve P and Gary M bicker over York and Lancaster. That said WOTR games are fun, with plenty of opportunity to be sneaky...

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Anyways, talking of which I was at Emily's party on Saturday and, like, everyone discussing their university offers. I reckon I need zero points to get into The University of Life to take 'Applied Work Dodging', as joint honours with 'Practical Signing On'. Sadly it turns out the Bank of Mum & Dad aren't prepared to fund this, so I'm looking down the barrel of re-sits. Lol... Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told... SYS

Sheila XXXX