



## THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #7 (SEPT. 2013)

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

Hi Beings,

I'd like to start this month by blaming the ConDem government for ***everything!*** Apparently it's *no longer enough* to turn up for the occasional lecture on the days when the hot boys are in college. *Now* you're expected to *pass* the AS exams *as well* before they'll let you progress into the Upper Sixth. Well Mr 'so-called' Cameron - you can take my life - but you can't take my freedom! Mr Gove! You can make me repeat Year 12 - but one day the people gonna rise up and get their share! And I'll be there to see it as the workers take control of the means of production! You've been warned! This case is ***NOT*** closed! Rant over? I have not yet begun to fight...

\*

Some news from Richard over at *Otherworld Miniatures* that use gamers may find of interest - they're publishing a new set of fantasy skirmish rules to support their range of classic gaming miniatures, later this year, hopefully for Xmas. Even better they've been written by the incredibly dishy Karl Perrotton to use the *Crooked Dice* 'Action Engine' mechanics - so the rules will capture the feel and fun of the classic role-playing games in a fast and frenetic skirmish format. Would you like to know more? Visit

[www.otherworldminiatures.co.uk](http://www.otherworldminiatures.co.uk) .

\*



News from Scotland's top operative Stewart Forgan about the UEMC™. It appears that over on <http://www.dakkadakka.com/> rumours abound that codex 'All Things Space Marines' is finally due for a September release - seven limited edition codexes of 500 each, covering seven 'chapters' and a new unit of three models called 'Centurions' - a mere snip at \$78 - plus a ten man tactical squad for \$40. New character models are \$30 for two, or a librarian for \$30; a five man vanguard squad for \$35. Stewart's kindly given me US prices as we don't have UK ones yet, but will probably be similar. Yup they've put the prices up! Again. The new 'Razorback' model looks much more expensive than normal ones. IMO the 'Centurion' models really do look silly. I'm also getting rumours of a new skirmish / boardgame coming in October, allegedly to be called 'Inquisitor' (nothing to do with the game they released years ago). It'll be 28mm and card driven ('all the rage dontcha know'), and will contain a small number of figures and may - or may not - be a limited edition, depending on sales - which might depend on the cost of the game! Remember that great 'hit' 'Dreadfleet' (or 'Deadflat' as some call it) with its £70 price tag? Can you afford this? Stewart adds, *'from what I can make out the Americans don't really seem to care about the price rises as long as they can get their hands on new shiny toys; I'd like to think that its different in the UK. The recession is still*

*in full swing and is getting worse so UEMC™ have the great idea of raising prices! Sooner or later they are going to crash hard! I keep hoping that 'Mantic' really get their ass into gear and become a serious challenge to the empire; I don't think 'Warmachine' is ever going to be a big global empire. 'Mantic' have the makings of something; they need to really push their 'Kings Of War' and 'Warpath'. If they get 'Warpath' right (rules wise and figures) they may well be able to challenge and topple the empire. I think also that 'Mantic' picked up a lot of new collectors due to their recent escapades with Kickstarter; I get the impression that 'Dreadball' has been a staggering success for them. I think that some of the figures they have as teams bodes interesting for 'Warpath'; they would make for very different armies. Mantic listens very well to what people think and want, long may it continue'. Wise words there from north of the border. Stewart concludes, 'there was a story on <http://www.dakkadakka.com/> about how people are being treated in UEMC stores. One person said that he was talking to others in one shop and they happened to start talking about non UEMC™ figures. Quick as a flash the manager came across and warned them that they had to talk only of UEMC™ products or they would, 'have to leave'. Unsubstantiated but there are similar stories appearing on a regular basis. I suppose they are not wanting anyone that's not buying anything in their shops but it seems that they also don't want you hanging about after you have bought stuff also. Very bad state of affairs'. Indeed - and even if not true you could imagine it being true.*



\*

Talking of hot stuff, new comes *The Ion Age* [www.theionage.com](http://www.theionage.com) . Background?

*'This galaxy has decided to gorge upon itself, to consume its vitality once more in pointless slaughter that will see those left afterwards little more than mono-planet atom burners. Well, its not going to happen, not again. My father, your king, died for the dream that Prydia held dear and in two decades of civil war we here also have nearly lost that promise of freedom we hold equally dear. We will all have that freedom again mark me, the Barons will pay and those beings not of mankind that are even now forcing open the doors will be thrown back to the Anwnn where they came from. Prydia will rise once more and I will, with the aid of the Starvaulters, make it happen.'*

Princess Daphe Cyon address to the Council of Aeddans 4330IC

Sound good? So Gavin Syme, head honcho of *Alternative Armies*' and [15mm.co.uk](http://15mm.co.uk) has announced this brand new baby. It's a little chap just now but its gonna grow real fast and if you are a fan of science fiction miniature wargaming with a focus on Space Opera and heroic style rather than a trend of re-hashing a grim and repetitively bland future then *'The Ion Age'* is for you. Gavin tells me that ever since he played the original game *'Firefight'* back in the 1990's he has wanted to put *'The Ion Age'* back where it belonged - and now releases and surprises are lined up, rewards and specials all arranged, a rule system in the play test stage, not only in the popular 28mm scale but also in the booming 15mm scale too. Every wargaming 'brand' stands by its miniatures and its artwork and lead designer Sam Croes has headed-up a stream of releases. Gavin and his team of loyal minions have taken the Ion Age codes from the original *'HOF'* range and formed them into the *'IAF'* series where they promise that no code will evr have any doubles in it - every miniature in every pack is different. Each week they'll be expanding the with a new 15mm release beginning with two releases in week ending August 23<sup>rd</sup> (so out now). Each release can be bought as a pack or as singles or in multiple packs. There will also be an official blog for all the latest Ion Age happenings. Go along and have a look at: <http://theionageblog.blogspot.co.uk/> . Each month there'll be a free miniature, one for each and every order placed. This

miniature is unique and will NEVER be sold in any form or seen again once its time runs out. Not enough? Well when you place an order on their website you will be signed up for the free programme and points will be credit to you to the value of your purchase. As your points grow then you can redeem them any time for a discount or special Rewards Programme miniatures. As they say, 'see website for details'. Go on, you know you want to...



\*

So, still watching *'Keeping Up With The Woodvilles'*, I was at Emily's party on Saturday where it turns out Isabella Neville married George Plantagenet, 1st Duke of Clarence, in Calais, France, on 11 July 1469. Four children resulted: Anne of York, born in a ship off Calais 16 April 1470, died at sea c. 17 April 1470 (some sources state that Anne was a boy - who knows with Izzy - geddit?), Margaret Pole, 8th Countess of Salisbury (14 August 1473 – 27 May 1541) who married Sir Richard Pole; executed by Henry VIII,

then Edward Plantagenet, 17th Earl of Warwick (25 February 1475 – 28 November 1499), who was executed by Henry VII for attempting to escape the Tower of London - and Richard of York (died young), born at Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire, 6 October 1476, died at Warwick Castle, Warwickshire, 1 January 1477, and buried in Warwick. Emily was shocked I can tell you! I mean, like, Izzy's like, so quiet, like. Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told....

See you next month if I'm not crushed by the excessive burden of study...

**Sheila XXXX**