



## THE SHEILA TACKU COLUMN #9 (NOV. 2013)

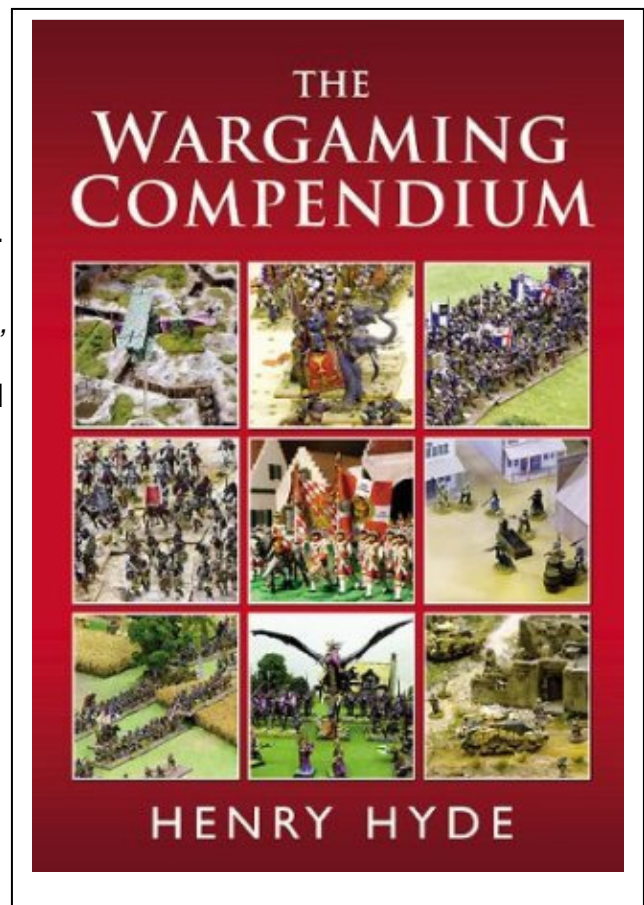
'because when you don't exist you can pretty much say what you like...'



Hi and welcome to my latest blog. Last time I wrote about '*MB Wargames Auctions*' (<http://miniaturebids.com/>) which aims to by-pass *eBay* and offer reduced fees and listings. Well, it's now up and running and prospering more than an MP putting-in an expenses claim. I know some people have whinged 'there's not much on it', and 'too much UEMC™', but these things take time. So, pass the word...

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Ok, so Henry Hyde's '*The Wargaming Compendium*' is proving to be a back-to-basics reference tool of 'where we are now and where we've been', so double-plus good. Gary likened it in a review as being 'to Wargamers what *Writers & Artists Yearbook*' is to authors', and having borrowed his copy I reckon this true. What Henry's done is summarise the skills and issues of the hobby for the newbie, but ensure the text is a timely reminder for old hands planning new projects to 'revisit'. 'Get back to where you once belonged', as it says in the scriptures,



and I'll leave the biblical metaphors there. I found the bit on card mechanisms excellent revision - and the section on miniature photography most helpful. Indeed, if I climb on top of my wardrobe with a telephoto lens I can see right into the changing room of my local TA centre. The colour-coding of the pages reflects Henry's careful design, and there's even a supporting website. Most pundits reckoned in the internet age the day of the all-singing all-dancing wargames reference almanac long over. They were wrong. Just like they were about Katy Perry. If Katy is the slightly-naughty-clergyman's-daughter-as-intelligentsia-guilty-pleasure ('yes - you - Boycott <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00jilt7> - see me afterwards'); then Henry is everyone's genial-wargaming-uncle-who-embodies-the-DIY/KISS-principle-of-the-founding-fathers-yet-is-up-to-date-with-trends; even unto the next consumer-driven generation. Recommended - from 'Pen & Sword' books (<http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/> ) - but even cheaper via 'Amazon' (that's Henry's book, not Katy's tracks, lol). Mm, I wonder if they are, perhaps, related? I think we should be told...

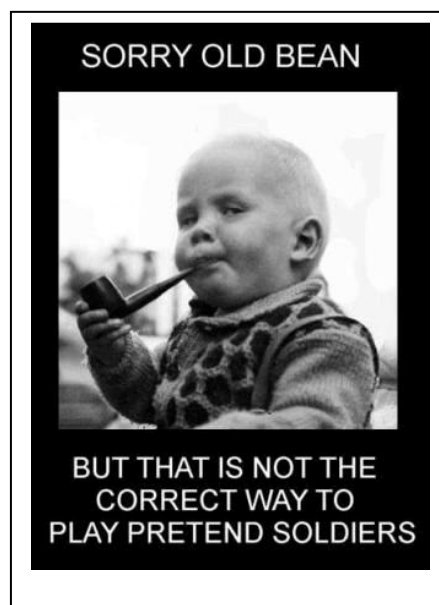
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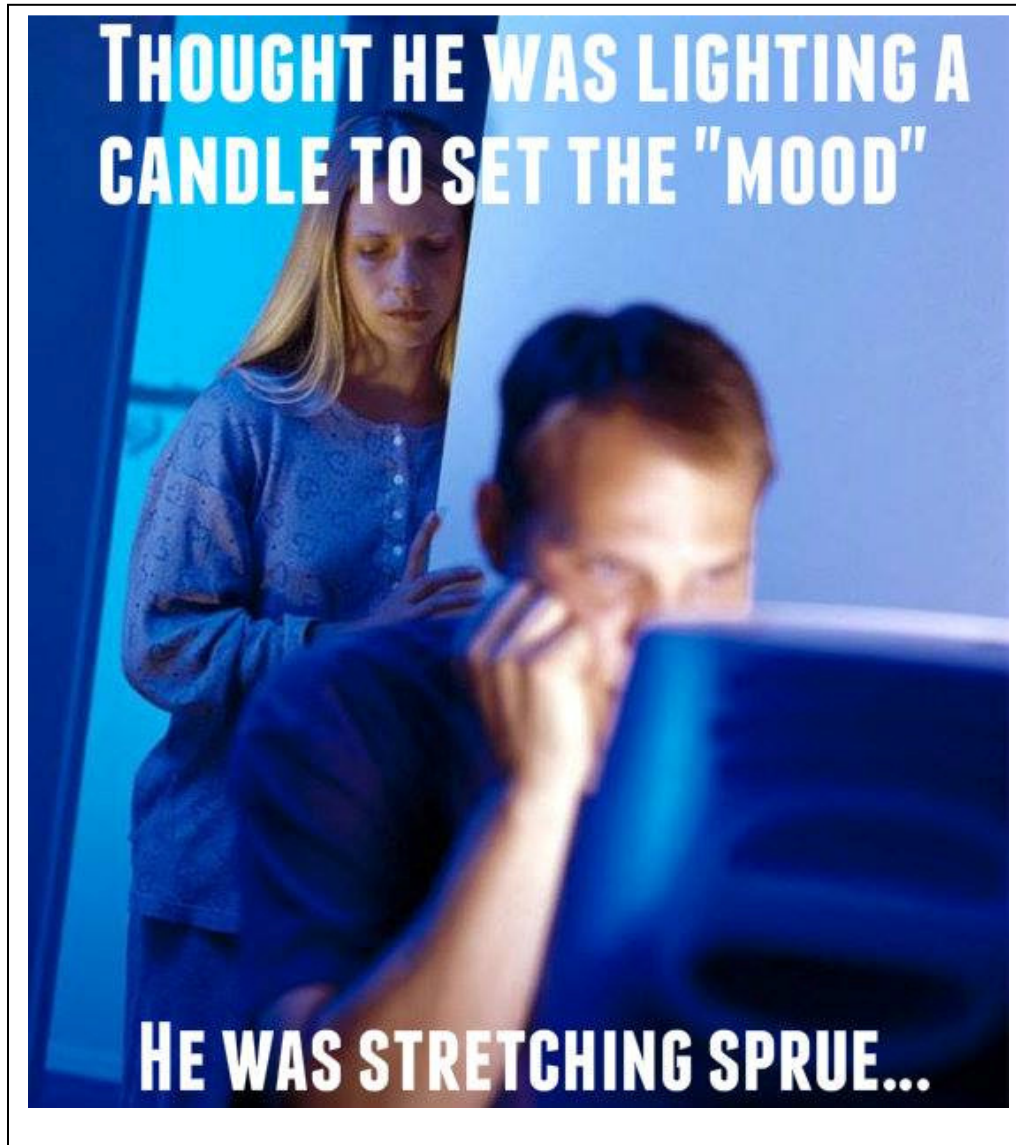


***'Those promises were broken. Now Earth is a battlefield. What will you fight for?'***

Sound familiar? It's called 'Afterlife' ( <http://www.afterlifelives.com/> ) - and thanks to Scots campaigner Stewart Forgan for giving me the heads-up. Over a number of separate volumes it tell the story of a near-future Earth torn apart by civil war after the collapse of the social order imposed by the Unity Council. Promised are: - a new range of high quality 28mm scale Science Fiction miniatures, exciting and innovative rules set designed for high speed tactical play, immersive narrative background story with stories , graphic elements and artwork, missions and scenarios which allow players to recreate the ongoing story on the tabletop. Each new volume will expand on previously released, adding new miniatures and rules options, and continuing the narrative to its eventual dramatic conclusion. It will be player driven and interactive. You will be able to report back the outcomes of battles and the tactical choices made during campaigns, and this information will drive the next stage of the campaign or impact events. So, go look at the site if this is your bag....







I don't usually do kickstarters but

<http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1141913215/impudent-mortals-28mm-near-future-sci-fi-tabletop> looks really cewl

if you have the space to store it.

And the money to invest. Oslo a

lot of fun (soz, dyslexic) is top

ancient rules set 'War And

Conquest' (



[http://scarabminiatures.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&cPath=70&products\\_id=399](http://scarabminiatures.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=70&products_id=399) ). The guys down at STaB ( <http://stab.org.uk/> ) have been playing it, and it seems a more elegant and turbocharged version of the now defunct 'WAB'. I really dig the free - and constantly updated - army lists on the web and the 'secret objective' cards to create a realistic 'fog of war'. Fab stuff - I shall play when I find where I put my Nicophorian Byzantine army...



Also also fab are the new Aurochs (ancient ow extinct cattle) from *Eureka Miniatures* (<http://www.eurekamin.com.au/> ). The castings themselves are cheap - just the cost of flying them in from Down Under - but worth it. I mean, like, you wouldn't go bull-leaping something as puny as a puny-horned Friesian, now would you. Oh - and Gary's asked me to say how much he is digging the new *Heroes Of The Dark Age* (<http://www.heroesofthedarkage.com/> ) Franco-Prussian War French. The Imperial Guard and Zourves are solid 'chunky' castings that look the biz. Get yours now and be the hippest C.19<sup>th</sup> European gamer on your block - or as they parlez en France, '19<sup>th</sup> siecle', n'est pas, mes copans?

Anyways, later I was at Emily's party on Saturday, when we all got really drunk - as you do - and smashed some old pottery - as you do - then dug it and some other stuff three metres down into the lawn. Why you ask? Well, to confuse the frack out of future archaeologists and Sir Tony Robinson. Needless to say her Dad was not pleased with what we'd done to his garden. But then he *does* work for Bournemouth Uni as lecturer in pre-Roman Pottery. He said the Katy Perry CD and burnt chicken bones would lead future episodes of *'Time Team'* to think it was some kind of ritual goddess sacrifice, which in a way, I guess, it was. Lol. Soz, thinking, 'Mm, seeing myself now as wargaming's answer to Katy Perry'. Worth a page in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Uncle Henry's book? No - don't answer... Are we to see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told...

**Sheila XXXX**

