



THE SHEILA TACKU- COLUMN #14 (SEPT. 2014)

Hi and welcome to my latest blog. This one's gonna be short, 'cos following 'disappointing A level results' (sic) I've been rushing through UCAS clearing - but have *finally* landed a place at Salisbury Uni, to study 'Applied Literature', or 'literary prostitution' as it's known to the second years, who's currently got a job writing lies for Alex Salmond. Anyways, love this ad - shows insurers have their finger on the gaming pulse at long last...

HISCOX
AS GOOD AS OUR WORD

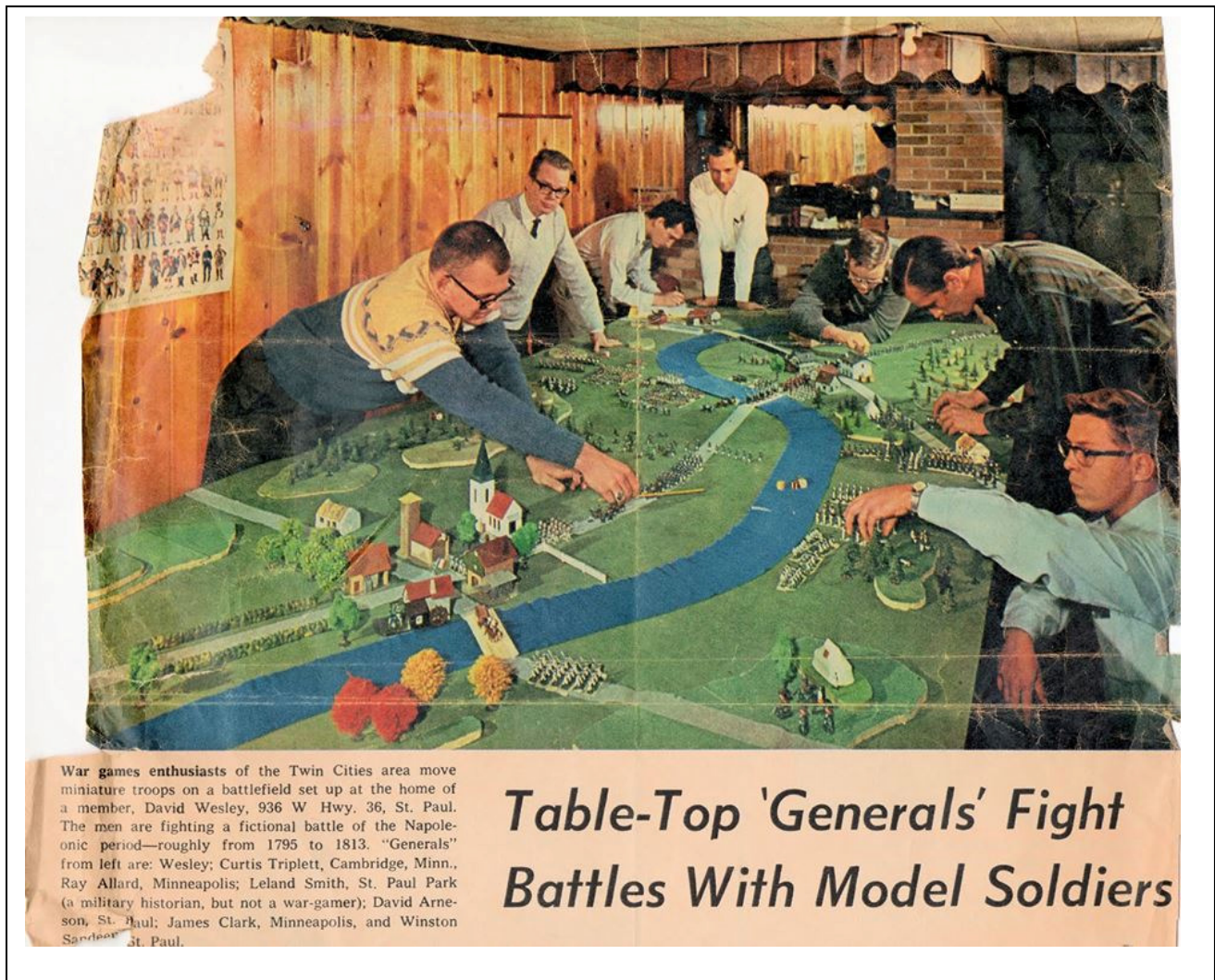
**ONCE A DINING TABLE.
NOW A SPECIAL OPS
TRAINING GROUND.**

As your home becomes more important,
so does your insurer.

Home Insurance
0800 042 0328

© 2014 Hiscox (UK) Limited. All rights reserved. Hiscox is a registered trademark of Hiscox.

Meanwhile, back to the Sixties... Those were the days.



Pop stars were proper pop stars back the Sixties who didn't take out restraining orders on you just for camping outside their home...

*

Here's a weird one. Mike Stockin at *Angel Barracks*

(<http://angelbarracks.co.uk/index.html>) has set up a new website that looks like it aims to be the British version of *TMP* at www.thewargameswebsite.com it's called, *The Wargames Website*. Now, I know Gary's subscribed to and is supporting this - he's even donated a *Space Vixens From Mars* adventure, so I'd best be careful what I say.

What readers may *not* know is the bizarre back-story to its creation. Three days earlier Mike (publicly) quit *TMP* (for post see <http://theminiaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=354046&page=1>). This escalated into and over a spat with *TMP*'s editor Bill (<http://theminiaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=353447>), which in turn followed some offensive comments on *Frothers* about the young Filipinas who work for Bill - including 'outing' them as trans-sexuals or 'ladyboys'. Yeah - I know! What's a person's sexuality this all got to do with wargaming? I mean, who in 2014 should be *allowed* to give a monkey's about someone's sexuality? And who at *Frothers* has got more time than work to investigate these things? Anyways, to cut a long story short the whole kerfuffle has resulted in a number of *TMP* members having their accounts locked, others quitting, and some advertisers cancelling their campaigns. Yeah, just checked again, it *is* 2014. You couldn't make it up, could you? I wish well to Bill, his employees (whose private life is none of my damn business), and to Mike for his new site - which I hope will have 'legs'. To be fair to Michael it's known he's looking for ways to generate income and had been thinking about a new site for some time. There is also a school of thought from some of my correspondents that *TMP* has 'had its day'. It'll be interesting to see how *TWW* pans out. I know some are sceptical it will generate a 'sustainable critical mass of followers' to, in the long run, attract advertisers. Still, with two months to go to Mike's the *Blast-Tastic* show (<http://blast-tastic.blogspot.co.uk/>) - there's no such thing as bad publicity!

*

Anyways, having written the above I got back from my Saturday job at '*Primsuspect*' the other day, to get the below from Eddy Tor, so thanks Eddy for this. As you'll know, in journalism, two is a coincidence but three is a trend, seeing the launch of three new wargames e-zines. From the US, there is *Playgames Magazine* by Lone Gunman Games (www.lonegunmangames.com), homespun effort with a cover that suggests a publication date of 1983 and articles ranging from the OK to the barely comprehensible (see the bizarre 'centerfold' featuring pictures of a huge architect's model of the redevelopment of Moscow city centre, accompanied by captions in fluent 'Russlish').

Mm, the recent *TMP* thread on why the US never produced a print mag equivalent to *MW*, *WSS* or the *WI* may explain the editorial standards on display in *Playgames Magazine* (<http://theminaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=351168>). 'English', Churchill said, 'is a language that divides Britain and America'. However, we Brits comes to the rescue with *Wargame Bloggers Quarterly*, a PDF compendium of the best of the blogs (the content is currently concentrated on painting and modelling rather than gaming *per se*, but maybe that will change). As always, *TMP* have the goss (<http://theminaturespage.com/boards/msg.mv?id=355686>). Finally, coming in the autumn out of Italy, is *Impetus Magazine* by *Dadi & Piombo Publishing* (<http://theminaturespage.com/news/2092371562>), which will cover the stable of *D&P* games including the new Medieval skirmish '*Lords & Servants*'. The specimen cover features a picture of the world's steepest bridge - I kid you not! In the light of this, 'whither print titles? (especially the more 'back to the future' ones?). I propose *Gamer Girl Monthly*, in which Ollie Murs gets his kit off to talk about the War of Spanish Succession, and I do the interview and take the photos...

*

The incredible shrinking '*MWWB*'. I wasn't going to say anything more on this topic but I'm told issue #377 was down to just 68 pages, compared to 80 the previous month. The two pages devoted to the pivotal importance of an issue of '*Battle for Wargamers*' from 1978 was a particular low-light for me, and probably better on a website. The mag has also been given a bit of a redesign inside - all superficial and irrelevant tweaks but (according to industry insiders) always the tell-tale sign of a publisher hitting the panic button. There is more, but like a good journalist (which I'm probably not) I need to verify my facts before I go to print.

*

Have a look at <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1828606900/ttcombat-presents-snappy-stencils> - could be good? Anyways, talking of which, I was at Emily's party on Saturday (she's off to Salisbury too, to read History, and apparently, if Scotland goes

independent whiskey and shortbread will go up in price, and English people will 'ethnically cleansed' and sent to labour camps in the Highlands to cut down trees. Will the expected exchange of populations at Hadrian's Wall see yet another realignment of forces within the Geoffhurst Road gang? I think we should be told...

SYS

Sheila XXXX