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Well, here we are, issue number 100. Little did I think, when John Pocock asked me to help out with the newsletter sometime back in the twentieth century, that we would reach this point. And there are, I think, some of those original subscribers who started out with the Victorian Military Society, still with us. Despite the hundreds of articles, pictures, maps and reviews, we have barely scratched the surface of our 'specialist subject'. We have found obscure contemporary nineteenth century articles and pictures, thanks to my introduction to that wonderful resource, The London Library and encouraged original research from amongst the membership, from history academics to wargame enthusiasts, which have broadened our understanding of the period. So it is now time for me to say, 'Thank you' to you, who contribute such interesting and thought-provoking material and re-subscribe year after year and support our efforts at the wargame shows we have attended for as many years as we have existed. I have made this issue larger than usual and included some colour pages, I hope you enjoy it.

And as a bonus, we have a specially prepared cover from the military artist, Ron Poulter, who has painted his impression of Garibaldi as he appeared at the siege of Rome in 1849 (based on a small picture in a museum in Milan), which serves as an advertisement to our planned game for Salute next year (see page 17). Ron tells me he is willing to take commissions, so if you want your own painting let me know and I will pass it on to him.

Now for the next hundred issues..! Where do we go from here, let me know what you think.

Ralph

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'THE SEA! THE SEA! A FEW MORE THOUGHTS ON WARGAMING.

By Rob Morgan (Veteran)

Many moons ago (in issue number 83, July 2009 to be precise) Graham Ward contributed an article on his approach to wargaming, with the basic idea of keeping things simple. Rob Morgan responded with his thoughts on the matter, which I have been keeping in a safe place until now! Mention of Don Featherstone is welcome considering his recent passing. His books are still readily available and well worth consulting, both for setting out games and their historical detail.

My title comes from Xenophon of course, and besides giving the strongest possible hint of my wargaming inclinations as far as the nineteenth and any other century's concerned, provides the kind of classical opening which most military and naval readers from that era of turmoil would appreciate. Like Graham Ward, I started wargaming in the early 1960's, corresponding with people like Alan Hansford-Waters and Bill Cainan, picking up hints on rules and tips on modelling from 'Meccano Magazine' and the eternally missed 'Airfix Magazine'. (now enjoying a new lease of life) Of course in those days, with remarkably few model figures available in any scale, in plastic or metal, all wargamers were modellers, converters and scratch-builders. No other choice !

I dabbled in a number of periods, on land by the way. The American Civil War, WWII, English Civil Wars, 'Ancients' of sorts, converted from packs of Airfix two shilling sets of 'American Indians' in 20mm scale. I once invested a birthday ten shilling note (50 pence today) on four packets of Airfix 'Guardsmen, and a single pack the Guards band, which provided me with a Napoleonic Army of sorts, probably some minor German Duchy, I can't remember how I painted them.

Almost everything 'wargamable' was two bob in the 1960's, unless of course your uncle was a millionaire and you could afford the 'Hinton Hunt' 25mm metal figures which were if I recall about nine pence each (about 4 p in today's money). Far beyond my pocket money. I noticed, sometime in 1963 or 1964, that among the multitude of aircraft, and handful of soft polystyrene figures, there were other options..... ships. Airfix made a small range of quickly built and reasonably recognisable scale ships. Yes, the scales varied slightly, some like the 'Santa Maria' were about 1/250 or 1/300th, others like 'HMS Victory' about 1/600th or 1/700th. There were several ships, all waterline models, available at the same price as a pack of 48 soft plastic soldiers. Here, I thought was a wargame!

Three of the models, 'HMS Victory', the venerable 100-gun three decker Napoleonic and post- Napoleonic line-of-battle ship, 'HMS Shannon' a hefty frigate of the same era, and the wonderful paddle-steamer 'Great Western' were the means to providing me with wargames at Sea, from 1790 to 1870. 'Victory' provided French, British,

Danish, Russian and Spanish men o' war, and later, even a Neapolitan. My Danish frigates took on a Prussian paddle-steamer many years before even 'Peter Laing' dabbled in the Franco-Prussian war or 'Risorgimento'.

Ships, were, and are all-inclusive, self contained fighting units. Floating divisions and brigades. No waiting for a 6pdr gun and crew to be issued by a manufacturer, or for Hussars to accompany the footsoldiers. By Christmas 1965, I was a dedicated naval wargamer, that was the year that I was given Don Featherstone's 'Naval Wargames' as a present, thousands of wargame ideas in just 222 pages! Rules so simple and still playable, I use them today. Graham Ward said rules should be simple, fast and give the right period flavour, and he's right of course. If you haven't read the scenario 'The Raid on the Kriegstaatz Batteries 1885' from the combined ops chapter, in Don's book, then you've missed a great deal. A very substantial part of 'Naval Wargames' is written on war at sea in the nineteenth century and early twentieth, by the way and it's still an excellent historical read.

Of course I'm not just a nineteenth century naval wargamer, my ship collection stands at about two thousand or so models now, from Ancient Pheonician Biremes to 21st century hydrofoils and inshore 'pirate' craft, in all sorts of scales. Yet it's that fascinating era, when the majestic sailing leviathans, with the lethal broadsides gave way to what were called 'tin cans on rafts', and heralded the most attractive and even bizarre period of warship and gun design in history. Ships well worth fighting battles with! I often 'sell' naval games to beginners and seasoned gamers with the advice that it costs remarkably little to fight a battle at sea, compared to fielding an army, and the ships are just as attractive as any regiment, glossy black and buff and yellow and white.

Of course, artillery dominates the naval battle, unless you're fortunate enough to manage to close and ram, and the élan of men o' war does mean that morale becomes far less of an issue than for a battalion ashore. Naval battles with early ironclads especially tend to be quicker played than land encounters, rules simpler, and outcomes more final.

That's my wargaming experience!

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN FORTS IN MONTENEGRO

by Dave Watson

A recent trip to Montenegro was an opportunity to study some fairly well preserved examples of 19th Century Austro-Hungarian fortresses.

History

During the Napoleonic Wars, Montenegro was much smaller than the modern state, confined to the mountains around the old capital Cetinje. The coast, including the strategically important Bay of Kotor (Cattaro), was dominated by the Venetians. With the fall of Venice, the Austrian's were the beneficiaries, occupying most of the Dalmatian coast. However, after their defeat in 1805 they were forced to hand over the Bay of Kotor to the French. This lasted until 1813 when a British naval force, supported by the Montenegrins, captured Kotor and the other main towns. Sadly for the Montenegrins, their Russian allies did not secure them a reward for their efforts on the coast and the Habsburg Empire gained possession of the Kotor region until its fall in 1918.

The Austrian's recognised the strength of Kotor and developed it as their main naval base in the southern Adriatic. There are several bays off the narrow entrance and mountains surround Kotor itself, resembling a Norwegian fjord. The weakness of the position is that the Montenegrins held the high ground inland and Austrian diplomatic efforts were aimed at securing the Mount Lovcen region. Whilst these efforts failed, the Montenegrin's shortage of heavy guns and modest armed forces did not constitute a major threat. On this basis the Austrian's fortified the entrance to the bay from naval attack, and their hills around Kotor from land attack.

Naval Forts

There are three forts guarding the bay. On the modern day Montenegro coast near Zanjica Bay there is Fort Arza. On the opposite coast in modern day Croatia, although this is disputed territory, there is Fort Prevlaka. Finally, on an island in the channel there is Fort Mamula. The other island in the picture below houses an Orthodox monastery. Probably just as well that the forts never came under fire!



The forts were built under the direction of General Lazar Mamula in the mid-19th century. While the forts all look different, they appear to have a similar primary function of providing a semi-circular gun platform for 210mm cannon. Although they never fired a shot in action, the Italians used Fort Mamula as a prison in WW2.

You can view the forts from Zanjica Bay on the Lustica Peninsula. You can walk to Arza from there and hire a boat to get out to Marmula. There are a couple of You Tube clips of the interiors, just search 'Marmula'

Land Forts

For an enemy wanting to attack the naval base at Kotor, the alternative approach to destroying the naval forts is to



land on the coast and attack over the Vrmac Hills. To defend against this the Austrians built a series of forts on these hills. They reminded me of Austrian forts in the Italian Alps, although these are less well integrated into the terrain. You leave the old Tivat road just before the Cetinje road turning at the brown sign 'Vrmac'. This takes you on a steep winding Austrian military road up to the main fortress com-

plex. My admiration for Austrian military engineers knows no bounds!

It's all a bit overgrown, but the main block can be walked around on a path. You can take the car a bit further past the fort to a barracks and a large gun pit. About 500 yards on the way down at a hairpin bend there is a path. Park the car and walk for about 300 yards and there is another fort that covers the old road into Kotor from the coast. The mountain in the background would have been the Montenegrin positions, so you get a good feel for how the position was overlooked.



Further Information

There are more details of how to access the forts in the travel section of the Balkan Military History website. For the history of Montenegro I would recommend 'Realm of the Black Mountain' by Elizabeth Roberts. There are a few references to the Austrian Army in the region in 'The Army of Francis Joseph' by Gunther Rothenberg.

A FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR TIMELINE

- 1867 March Napoleon proposes to buy Luxemburg from the King of the Netherlands, opposed by Prussia.
 May Luxemburg declared neutral, withdrawal of Prussian garrison
- 1870 4 July Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen accepts candidature of the throne of Spain
 12 July After negotiation he declines the throne
 13 July Guarantees demanded by France, the 'Ems Telegram'
 14 July A French squadron sails from Cherbourg
 French call out army reserves
 15 July French government decides on war
 19 July French declaration of war delivered to Berlin
 20 July South German states support Prussia
 21 July First shot of the war fired in a skirmish near Saarbruck
 24 July Skirmishes at Gersweiler and near Saarlouis
 23 July Rhine bridge at Kehl blown up by the Prussians
 27 July Empress Eugenie appointed regent
 28/29 July Napoleon joins the army at Metz
 30 July French attack on Saarbruck repulsed
 First detachment of the French Army of Rome lands at Marseilles
 31 July Baden army sends patrol into France, Lt. Winsloe killed
 Aug. Japanese mission leaves Yokohama to observe the war
 Jules Verne mobilised into the Coast Guard
 French Mediterranean fleet leaves Cherbourg for the German coast
- 2 Aug. General Frossard takes Saarbruck
 4 Aug. Prussian Crown Prince's army attacks Wissemburg, General Douay killed
 6 Aug. Battle of Wörth Battle of Spicheren
 8 Aug. Bazaine appointed to chief command of French armies
 9 Aug. Bazaine arrives at Metz
 10 Aug. Strasburg invested by German forces
 11 Aug. Strasburg cut off, under siege
 12 Aug. Bavarian army crosses the Vosges mountains\
 14 Aug. Bombardment of Strasburg begins
 French naval blockade of German ports announced
 Napoleon retires to Verdun
 Bazaine defeated, battle of Colombey-Nouilly
- 15 Aug. 'Napoleon Day' (Emperor's Birthday)
 16 Aug. Battle of Vionville Mars-la-Tour
 Gustave Fauré (composer) enlists in the Imperial Guard
- 17 Aug. General Trochu appointed Governor of Paris
 18 Aug. Battle of Gravelotte St. Privat
 Trochu adds to Paris fortifications
- 20 Aug. MacMahon raises camp at Chalons
 23 Aug. MacMahon attempts to reach Bazaine, who is now shut up in Metz
 25 Aug. Prussians attack at Verdun
 Vitry surrenders to German troops
 26 Aug. French sortie from Metz
 27 Aug. Combat at Busancy
 30 Aug. Combats at Beaumont and surrounding area
 31 Aug. French retreat towards Sedan
 Bazaine attempts a sortie at Noisseville
- 1 Sept. Battle of Sedan, MacMahon wounded
 2 Sept. Capitulation of Sedan, Napoleon a prisoner
 4 Sept. Revolution in Paris, a republic proclaimed
 5 Sept. Germans take Rheims
 7 Sept. St.Dizier captured by the Germans

Empress Eugenié and Prince Imperial leave France

- 8 Sept. Strasburg surrounded by 30,000 Germans
- 13 Sept. Seven German corps (300,000 men) approach Paris
- 15 Sept. Siege of Paris commences
- 19 Sept. French General Vinoy leads an attack on the Germans at Sceaux, repulsed with heavy losses
- 20 Sept. Meeting between Bismarck and Jules Favre
- 21 Sept. Bismarck's proposals rejected by French government
General Steinmetz sent as governor to Posen (in Poland)
- 22 Sept. French naval blockade of German ports raised
- 23 Sept. French sorties from Paris
French government orders a 'Leveé en masse'
First balloon leaves Paris
- 25 Sept. Verdun invested
- 23 – 27 Sept. French sallies from Metz
- 26 Sept. Prussian Crown Prince awards Iron Crosses under the statue of Louis XIV in Versailles
- 27 Sept. Strasburg capitulates
- 30 Sept. Vinoy leads another sortie from Paris
Battle of Beaumont
Germans capture Beauvais
- 5 Oct. Germans set up HQ at Versailles
General Treskow leads German advance into southern France
Advance of the French Army of the Loire
- 6 Oct. Baden troops defeat French at Lyons
- 7 Oct. Garibaldi arrives in France
Sortie from Metz, repulsed by the Germans after a hard fight
- 8 Oct. Breton Mobiles and Volunteers of the West (ex-Papal Zouaves) organised
- 9 Oct. Garibaldi arrives in Tours to offer his services to the French Republican government
- 10 Oct. Gambetta escapes from Paris by balloon
Von der Tann defeats the French at Artenay
- 11 Oct. Bombardment of Paris commences
First battle of Orleans, Orleans taken by von der Tann's Bavarians
- 12 Oct. French Army of the Loire under the command of D'Aurelle de Paladines
French franc-tireurs active in the Vosges mountains
- 15 Oct. Soissons besieged, (surrendered on the 22nd)
- 18 Oct. Châteaudun, defended by Gardes Mobiles captured and burned by the Prussians
- 21 Oct. Sortie from Paris (Mont Valérien)
Capture of Chartres by von Wittich
- 23 Oct. Kératry given command of French forces in Brittany
- 27 Oct. Metz surrenders
- 28 Oct. French sortie from Paris against Le Bourget
Moltke created Graf (count) on his 70th birthday
- 29 Oct. Crown Prince of Prussia and Prince Frederick Charles made Field Marshalls
- 30 Oct. Le Bourget recaptured by German forces
- 31 Oct. Garibaldi now in command at Dôle
Dijon taken by Germans
- 6 Nov. Châteaudun retaken by the French
- 8 Nov. Surrender of Verdun
- 9 Nov. Naval action between Meteor (Prussian) and Bouvet (French) near Havanah
- 9-10 Nov. Battle of Coulmiers (Loire)
- 11 Nov. Surrender of Neuf Brisach (Alsace)
- 17 Nov. Battle of Amiens (NE France)
- 21 Nov. Action at Bretoncelles
- 24 Nov. Actions at Thionville, Ladon and Maizieres (Loire)
- 27 Nov. Surrender of La Fere
Garibaldi defeated at Pasques (Cote d'Or)
Manteuffel defeats French at Villers Bretonneaux (near Amiens)
- 28 Nov. Battle of Beaune-la-Rolande, Voigts-Rhetz defeats Aurelle des Paladines
Death of painter Frederic Bazille at Beaune-le-Rolande
- 29 Nov. Sorties south from Paris under Vinoy
- 30 Nov. Great sortie from Paris under Trochu and Ducrot, capture Champigny, Brie and Villiers

1 Dec.	Chanzy defeats von der Tann at Patay (north of Orleans)
2 Dec.	Battle at Loigny-Poupry, French defeated by Grand Duke of Mecklenburg's forces (Orleans) Champigny retaken by Saxon and Wurttemberg troops
4 Dec.	Surrender of Orleans to Grand Duke of Mecklenburg
6 Dec.	Manteuffel takes Rouen
7 Dec.	Chanzy attacks Grand Duke of Mecklenburg at Beaugency, fighting continues for four days
8 Dec.	Manteuffel advancing to Channel coast at Le Havre
9 Dec.	Dieppe occupied by a German detachment
10 Dec.	French government moves to Tours Ham surrenders to the French who take 200 prisoners
12 Dec.	Phalsburg taken by the Germans, 1,800 prisoners
13 Dec.	Evreux and Blois taken by the Germans
18 Dec.	Baden troops capture Nuits
20 Dec.	Germans attack and defeat Garde Mobiles at Monnaic (near Tours)
21 Dec.	Another sortie from Paris, French take and hold some villages
23 Dec.	Action at Pont-Noyelles between Faidherbe and Manteuffel and continues along the valley of the Hallue river
25 Dec.	Six English ships carrying coal sunk by the Germans in the Seine
27 Dec.	German heavy artillery bombards French works at Mt. Avron (Paris)
29 Dec.	French abandon Mt. Avron
31 Dec.	Germans capture castle at Robert le Diable (Rouen)
1871 2 Jan.	The capture of Mézières (Ardennes) frees the railway line from Germany to Paris
3 Jan.	Bapaume, Faidherbe defeated by Manteuffel and von Goeben
4 Jan.	German campaign against Le Mans commences
7 Jan.	The 'Red Poster' with aims of the commune, published in Paris
9 – 10 Jan.	German bombardment of the forts south of Paris
9 Jan.	Péronne captured by the Germans
12 Jan.	Frederick Charles takes Le Mans
13 Jan.	Further sortie from Paris
16 – 17 Jan.	Battles on the Lisaine
18 Jan.	King of Prussia takes the title of Emperor
19 Jan.	Generals Trochu, Vonoy and Ducrot lead a sortie from Paris with 100,000 men and then retire Faidherbe defeated at St Quintin
21 Jan.	Garibaldi successfully defends Dijon against German 5 th Army
24 Jan.	Trochu resigns in favour of Vinoy Jules Favre begins negotiations with Bismarck
28 Jan.	Paris capitulates
29 Jan.	Germans occupy forts of Paris
30 Jan.	Bourbaki's army crosses the frontier into Switzerland
1 Feb.	Germans enter Dijon
1 Mar.	German troops enter Paris and leave the following day
18 Mar.	New French government tries and fails to disarm the Parisian National Guard
26 Mar.	Election of Parisian municipal council
28 Mar.	Declaration of the Paris Commune
2 Apr.	Siege of Paris by French national government begins
21 – 28 May	Street fighting between the French army under MacMahon and the Federals (Communards)

Sources:

The Franco-German War of 1870-71, Moltke, 1891

Haydens Dictionary of dates, Vincent, edition of 1910

Daily News correspondence of the war between Germany and France

Wikipedia: Battles of the Franco-Prussian War

Note: This list is by no means exhaustive or all inclusive and does not always differentiate between the various fronts, therefore on the same date it is possible to have events at Paris, on the Northern front and on the Loire. You may use the list to add details, or further incidents as you wish.

Schleswig-Holstein Army Uniforms, 1848

By Stuart Penhall

Among the things which all the “revolutionary” governments had in common in 1848 was the need to defend themselves. The forces of reaction, from within and without, posed an immediate threat to their new found, but fragile, liberty.

The task before the provisional government of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein was especially difficult. They had proclaimed their rebellion on the 24th of March knowing that the Danes were already within easy striking distance of Rensborg (in Danish, Rendsburg in German) and without anything resembling an army to stop them.

To their credit they set about the task of forming an army with determination. Obstacles were everywhere but three stood out.

- Despite the capture of the arsenal at Rensborg they were short of everything needed to wage war. True, they had seized the war chest, but no amount of money could create an army in the week or so before the Danes arrived. This state of affairs was to have a profound effect on the uniform of the fledgling army.
- A total of about six battalions had come over to the insurgents all of which were, not surprisingly, composed of Germans from the Duchies. Unfortunately, as it was seen as a shame to “serve in the red jacket” the men represented the poorest and least educated part of society. Consequently they were far from an ideal cadre upon which to build an army.
- The vast majority of the officers of those units which gone over to insurgents were Danes and as such left as soon as the units rebelled. The officers who remained were, due to their service with the Danish army, social outcasts, poorly paid and, due to the common attitude toward serving in the Danish army, generally inferior.

Despite these tremendous obstacles by early April an army of about 4500 men was positioned to the north of Flensburg (in Danish, Flensburg in German). The Prince of Noor and the provisional government had done the impossible and formed an army which was a mixture of ex-Danish army regulars and volunteers. In this article,

based largely on material kindly supplied to me by Jan Schlurmann and Jørgen Koefoed Larsen, we will begin to consider how, the regulars at least, were uniformed. Before we proceed we need to make several observations.

- There are very few contemporary illustrations of these early uniforms making us reliant on eyewitness descriptions and other accounts.
- While the uniforms described were worn for most of the 1848 campaign the Schleswig-Holstein (SH) regular troops were only involved in the fighting in Schleswig during March / April. The troops fought in these uniforms at:
 - **Haderslev** on the 30th March where, along with some volunteers, the SH Jagers, fought a brief skirmish with advancing Danish troops.
 - **Bov** (in Danish, **Bau** in German) on the 9th April where most of the regulars and many of the volunteers were comprehensively defeated by the Danish Army.
 - **Schleswig** on the 23rd April where they fought alongside the Prussian army and shared in their less than emphatic victory over the Danes.
- The uniforms described are “typical” and not necessarily worn by all the troops in the battalion or even within a company.
- The Danish army of the time was changing uniforms from the 1842 to the new 1848 regulations. This resulted in a variety of uniform combinations in the Danish army which impacted on the SH army as shall be seen.

Infantry Uniforms

The first uniforms worn by the SH “regular” army were mainly variations of the existing Danish uniforms worn by the men or available from stores. Among the regular Duchy formations were the four basic uniform types depicted in this illustration by Preben Kannik.

Figure 1 – Danish “fatigue uniform”. This uniform was worn by battalions I – IV, the old Danish units. These units wore the regular Danish uniform with the following changes.

- The usual red jacket was replaced with the tailless fatigue coat, usually only worn in camp. This coat was the same cornflower blue as the trousers but often slightly darker as it was less faded from infrequent use.
- While the shoes remained black no gaiters were worn.
- The 1842 regulation shako (unpopular with the Danes and often discarded by the men) was usually (but not always) replaced by the Danish 1842 field cap.
- There is a possibility that some men in these battalions wore the Danish 1842 greatcoat.

The cap cockade was replaced with one in either 'German' or 'Schleswig Holstein' colours.

- A white armband worn on the left arm. This armband was worn by all regular and irregular units of the army.

Figure 2 – Prussian Style Uniform. This experimental Prussian style uniform was only worn by the V Battalion and closely followed the Prussian regulations including the new pattern pack and waist belts. The main exception was the use of the Prussian “peak less” field cap rather than the helmet. An illustration, apparently of a captured soldier, shows him wearing Danish pattern equipment rather than Prussian.

Figure 3 – Dyed Danish Uniform. The VI Battalion (and later the VII & VIII battalions) wore the 1842 Danish uniform with the following changes:

- While the Danish jacket was retained it was dyed black or possibly green. As the dye used was not adequately “fixed” they quickly faded producing a range of colours usually tinged red and possibly including the gray shown here. However as all the fighting in which the SH army was involved was in the first month or so of this dying process it is probable they were still mostly black or green. Collar and cuffs probably remained cornflower blue and turn backs white.
- As with the first four battalions the Danish 1842 field cap was generally worn however some men may well have continued to wear the 1842 shako.
- While usually the cornflower blue trousers were retained some men may have worn white and possibly even grey trousers.

As the campaign progressed as many as 25% of the men in each of these battalions were new recruits and, as the stores in Rensburg were quickly exhausted, these men

were reduced to wearing whatever could be found, including, in many cases, civilian clothing.

Figure 4 - Jager Style Uniform. The old Danish 4th and 5th Jagers became the 1st and 2nd Schleswig-Holstein Jager Corps and continued to wear their Danish 1848-pattern uniforms but, unlike the Danes, normally wore the shako. However when new recruits were added they were forced to wear green dyed Danish jackets which, as was the case with the line battalions, was imperfectly fixed and consequently tended to “bleed” out with use leaving a reddish green colour.

In theory all units used regulation Danish equipment and arms but, as was the case with uniforms, shortages quickly developed. To alleviate this any Dane, unfortunate enough to be captured was stripped of his uniform and equipment and given red jackets and whatever trousers could be found.

Officers

“Line” Infantry Officers

As mentioned earlier most of the officers of the battalions which supported the Schleswig Holstein rebellion remained loyal to the Danish crown. This shortage was addressed by promotion of non-commissioned officers and by incorporating volunteer German officers who had flocked to the Duchies from all over the Confederation. Such a situation produced a wide variety of uniforms among the officers. However they can be divided into two principle groups.

Officers wearing Danish 1848 Uniforms. When the war began most officers were already wearing the new 1848 uniform. Those few who sided with the rebels appear to have retained this uniform. As issued it consisted of a dark blue double breasted tunic which had red collar patches, red piping on the cuffs, coat and rear pockets. Buttons were silver and rank distinctions followed Danish system and white gloves were often worn. Headdress could be the 1842 Shako, the 1842 field cap or the 1848 “Hungarian style” kepi.

Where the uniform did differ from Danish regulation was in the pants which although remaining cornflower blue featured a red stripe down the outside seam. Additionally some officers replaced the tunic with a black "oberrock". This fairly long double breasted coat featured dark red collar patches and piping.

- **Officers wearing the uniform of their previous regi-**



ments. Generally the officers who volunteered to join the SH army retained their previous uniform. For example von der Tann, who commanded one of the 'freikorps' (volunteer units) retained his Bavarian uniform. This practice must have added significantly to the general confusion which appears to have reigned during this period.

Jager Officers

Jager officers continued to wear the 1848 Danish regulation uniform which consisted of dark green coats with red collar patches and piping, silver buttons and rank insignia. The dark green trousers differed from Danish regulation by having a red stripe. Gloves were black as was all equipment. Headdress could be either the 1848 field cap or the 1848 kepi. Some may even have retained the 1842 shako which was worn by the men of their company.

Musicians and Standard Bearers

As the SH army kept its Danish equipment it is probable that the drummers and buglers also retained their Danish equipment. Standard bearers in the Danish line regiments (Jagers had no field standards) were NCO's and wore the uniform of an officer although some illustrations show

them with white cross belts as a private.

It would be reasonable to conclude that, if the role was retained, they wore their uniform with the same modifications as noted for the infantry depending on which modified uniform they wore. The flag itself could have been either the German or Schleswig Holstein tricolours in either vertical or horizontal stripes.

Wargaming the Schleswig Holstein 1848 army.

Not surprisingly, no manufacturer makes figures in these early uniforms in any scale of which I am aware. However, remarkably, it is quite possible to improvise. The uniform worn by the first four battalions closely resembles that worn by US infantry (and Mexican light infantry in fatigues) in the Mexican-American war of 1846. Consequently it would be easy to use figures from manufacturers who produce such figures. Also in 25-28mm the Wargames Foundry Colonial China wars range has figures in forage caps and bell top shakos which could not only be used for the SH army but also for the Danes as well.

The next article will cover Cavalry & Artillery

The work of Henri Boisselier

Henri Boisselier was born in Paris on 13 April 1881, into a family of artists and craftsmen. His father had fought in the campaign of 1870, which may have kindled his interest in the period of the Second Empire and the Franco-Prussian War. After his schooling he studied sculpture, but living in Paris in the 'Belle Epoque' where the military influence was strong and the theme



arranged for a bench to be put in front of the window in which the book was displayed and proceeded to copy the picture on the book's open page. He had bribed a shop

of revenge against the German Empire was very marked, he developed a passion for military history, especially uniforms.

He collected all kinds of documents on uniforms and a chance meeting in 1908 in a bookshop in the rue de Richelieu with Commandant Eugène Bucquoy (1879-1958) resulted in a life long collaboration. Bucquoy was greatly impressed with Boisselier's talent for illustrating uniforms.

Many French artists deal exclusively with the armies of their own country, but Boisselier collected information on many other European armies, corresponding with a well respected English collector, the Reverend Percy White, Winand Aerts, a Belgian author and artist and Herbert Knötel in Berlin who was continuing his father's monumental work, the Uniformenkunde.

Besides his thorough researches, Boisselier's ability to work quickly had early been noted. A story had been told of his seeing a valuable book put on sale in a Paris bookshop, but for a price well beyond his pocket. He





officer who never collected it. After the war he again received many commissions for his uniform plates. He also produced a huge number of sketches, in black and white and colour which were eagerly sought by collectors around the world. One of his customers was Anne S. K. Brown (in whose collections many Boisselier originals now reside) the wife of John Nicholas Brown II, when he accompanied General Eisenhower to Paris in 1945 as Special Cultural Advisor for Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives (MFAA) of the U.S. Group Control Council. After the war, he helped supervise the return of art treasures stolen by the Nazis to their rightful owners..

When the 'Société des Collectionneurs de Figurines Historiques' (SCFH) decided to include colour plates with each issue of its newsletter, there began a long collaboration between Boisselier and his friend Bucquoy and the artist Pierre-Albert Leroux.

Leroux died in early 1959, and Boisselier, although unwell continued working, and

assistant to turn the page of the book every now and again so that he could copy each illustration! It was well known that he could produce a drawing in no more than 15 to 20 minutes.

During the Second World war he produced an album of illustrations on the armies of Napoleon III, possibly on commission from a German





on 15th September while working on some plates for the SCFH he suddenly died.

Some of the known series produced by Boisselier (a number of which can be viewed on the internet):

- The Neapolitan army of the republic and in the Neapolitan kings Joseph and Murat
- The army of Jerome, King of Westphalia
- The armies of the Confederation of the Rhine
- The Italian army during the Revolution and the Empire
- The Prussian army in 1815
- The Anglo-Hanoverian army in 1815
- Several sets of the French armies and their allies in Spain

Other sets include:

- a series on the French armies of the former royal (Bourbon and Orleanist) regimes
- a series of urban national guards of the former regimes in the 19th century
- a series on the 2nd Empire in the style of the Strasburg paper soldiers
- a series of the exotic French colonial troops (sepoys, Tonkin, Levant etc.)
- a series on the French and her allies in Mexico.

There may well be many more sets and individual plates in private collections, occasionally ebay offers a Boisselier plate.

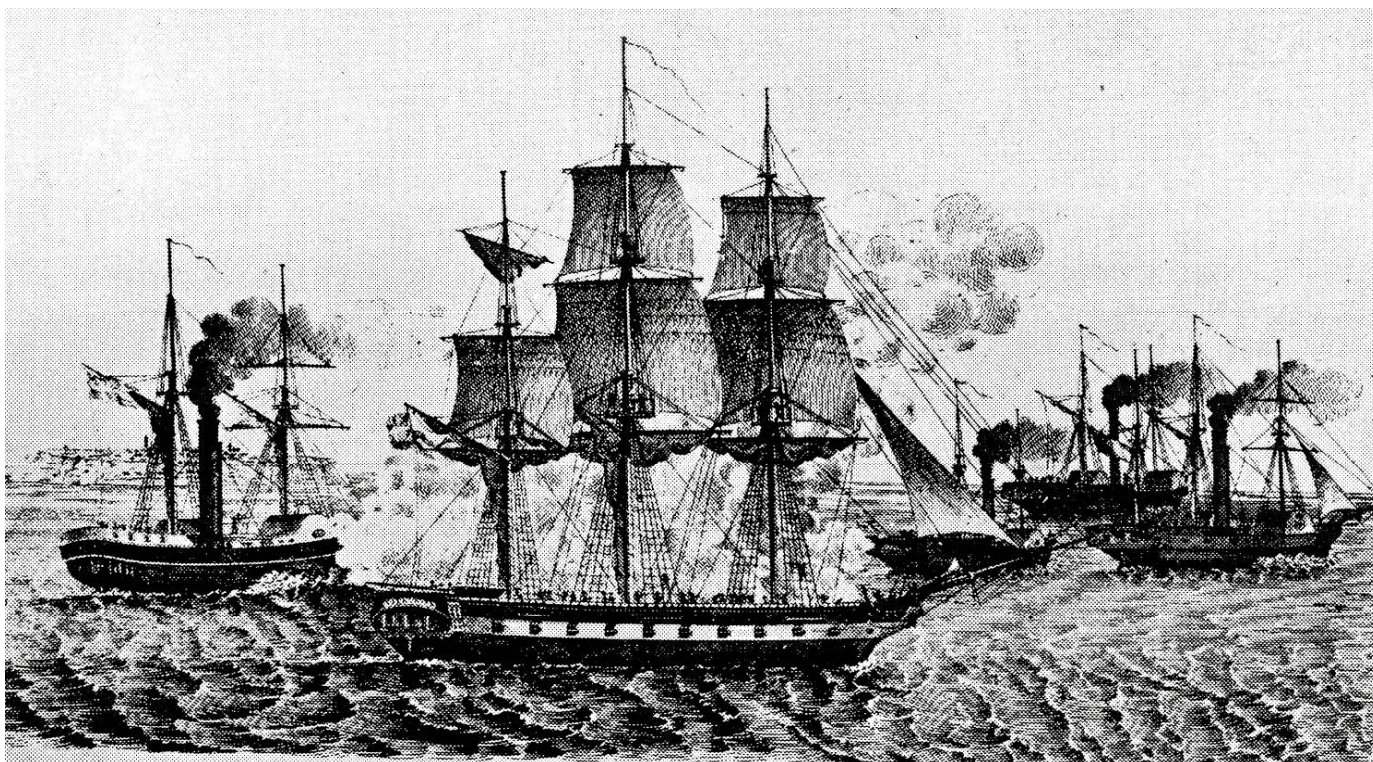
THE NAVAL 'BATTLE' OF HELGOLAND, 4 JUNE 1849

Main text by Raun Kristensen, additional text by Rob Morgan Introduction from Wikipedia

Introduction

The German Confederation, founded in 1815, was initially not in need of a navy, as it could rely on three members who commanded large fleets: The Grand Duke of Luxembourg as commander of the Royal Dutch Navy, the Duke of Holstein as the commander of the Danish Navy, and last but not least, the King of Hanover as commander of the British Royal Navy. This had changed by the late 1830s, though, as the Kings of the Netherlands

two Danish warships from the squadron blockading off Helgoland Island. The encounter took place between Helgoland and the port of Cuxhaven, some 40-50 nautical miles to the southeast. The Danish illustration portrays the action as a pursuit by the Danes of a 'fleeing foe'. There were no losses, and casualties were few on either side. Of the German vessels, 'Barbarossa' was a 440Hp paddle steam frigate, built in Glasgow in 1830, and armed with 9-68pdrs of British manufacture. She carried



and Great Britain ceased to be members of the German Confederation, and Denmark turned against Germany in the First Schleswig War that started in early 1848. Soon, the Danish Navy stopped all German trade in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea.

The Confederation decided to establish its own fleet and Prince Adalbert of Prussia was appointed admiral, but he had to resign due to opposition from the King of Prussia, Konteradmiral Karl Rudolf Brommy was given command in his place.

In the Battle of Heligoland (1849) on 4 June 1849, the fleet under Brommy saw its only combat action, which also remains the first and only naval combat under the black-red-gold Flag of Germany. The battle, involving five boats in total, was inconclusive with no losses on either side, and with the Danish blockade restored after the battle.

The 'battle'

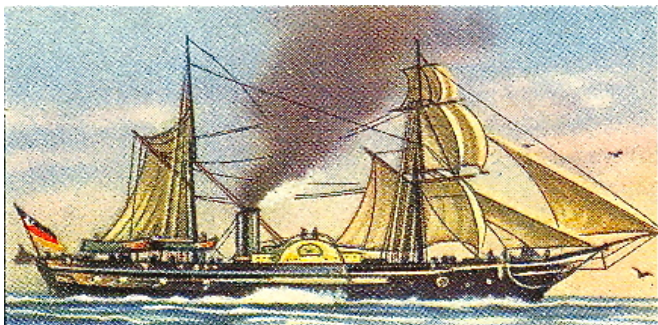
The encounter of 4th June 1849, was a running engagement between three German ships, all paddle vessels, and

a complement of 171. The 'Lubeck' was a former packet (*mail and passenger ship*) operating between Hamburg and Hull, and was a 200Hp paddle steamer, 'taken up' for naval service armed with 1 -84pdr. 'bomb cannon'(?), 1 - 32pdr carronade, and 4- 18pdr carronades, fairly elderly weapons by 1849, almost certainly British ordnance, and of a type which was not to linger in naval service beyond the 1850's generally. The third German warship, again a former packet on the same North Sea route, was 'Hamburg' a smaller paddle steamer (both she and 'Lubeck' are called 'Corvettes' in the Danish sources, of 160Hp, and with a crew of 60 volunteers. She carried identical armament to the other corvette, and must have been a very cramped ship to fight!

The two Danes involved were the 'Valkyrien' a sailing 'Corvette' as the Danish accounts term her, but with 26-18pdr guns, she would have been a small frigate in most navies of the first half of the 1800's. She was accompanied by a small 160Hp paddle steamer called 'Gejser' armed with 2-60pdr guns, and 6-18pdrs; even more

cramped than the two German steamers! The action took place between the Danish blockaders position and the German port of Cuxhaven, which suggests the German flotilla was being pursued, but with a heavier weight of metal, the 'Barbarossa' should have disposed of the Danish sailing ship with ease! While the two auxiliary paddle-steamers with their lethal carronades, were more than a match for 'Gejser' at close range, if they could avoid the punishment

The Barbarossa at sea



of the heavy 60pdrs, one at least of which is firing in the illustration, and almost certainly was the determining piece of weaponry in the encounter, perhaps the Danish gunners were of a high standard.

This must have been a strange sea action, since the more powerful steam warships were heading away, unless perhaps the German commander was executing a planned 'luring' tactic rather like that performed at Jutland sixty years later. If battle in the open sea had been given, then it's hard to see how 'Valkyrien' could have survived.

Gaming

No French, British, Russian or Italian captain of the time would have declined the opportunity to win an important naval engagement. Incidentally, with the 1/2400th scale 19th century paddle and sailing warships made by 'Tumbling Dice' this encounter can be wargamed with ease. Having used my own ships for the purpose in my game, German victory, though probably for the loss of one of the smaller ships, is virtually assured.

THE LATE COLONEL PEMBERTON

Casualties of the Franco-Prussian war were not limited to the combatant parties, a report in the *Illustrated London News* for 1st October 1870 chronicles the death of a *Times* reporter, who while accompanying the Crown Prince of Saxony's staff, strayed into the firing line and was shot at close range by a French infantryman. Although war correspondents did not wear military uniform, they usually equipped themselves with clothing that would serve in the rigours of the field which did tend to suggest a military appearance. The French presumably saw a horseman approach from the German lines and naturally treated him as a German officer.

Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Peach Pemberton, a Captain in the Scots Fusilier Regiment of Guards with the nominal rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the British Army, was employed by the *Times* to report from the German troops then besieging Metz, working under the *Times's* chief correspondent, William Howard Russell.

The circumstances of his death were given in the report. On the day of the battle of Sedan Pemberton was with the headquarters staff of the Saxon Crown Prince, commanding the German 12th Corps. Around six in the afternoon, when the battle was in its last stages, Pemberton asked permission of the Crown Prince to inspect a part of the battlefield where it appeared that the fighting was over. The prince gave him an escort of two mounted Staff Guards. He had ridden about a quarter of a mile towards a position which looked to be deserted, when he was fired upon by three Frenchmen hiding behind a bush. He fell down dead with a bullet through the head. The sound of the firing brought horsemen from both sides to the scene, but after a brief skirmish the area fell silent. Captain Furlley of the Society for Succouring the Wounded was informed and he went forward to find the body. Pemberton's pockets had already been plundered and the body was quickly buried by the side of the Sedan road. The article adds that it is hoped that the body can be recovered and brought back to England for a decent internment.



A BRITISH VC AND IRON CROSS HOLDER

Staff Surgeon William George Nicholas Manley was awarded the Victoria Cross for service in the Maori Wars in New Zealand, 1864 to 67. He accompanied the assault party on a Maori fort on 29 April 1864. He attended the wounded under fire and volunteered to return to see if there were any more men left in the fort.

In 1870 he commanded B Division of the British Ambulance sent to France during the Franco-Prussian War. His unit was attached to the 22nd Division of the Prussian Army, and accompanied it during the operations consequent on the advance on Orleans.



He marched with it between 200 and 300 miles during the severe winter of November and December, and was present at several engagements. Manley was thanked by General Von Wittich, Commandant of the division.

He was granted the Iron Cross Second Class for his devoted and excellent conduct, in seeking out and caring for the wounded of

the 22nd Prussian Division in the actions of Cha-teauneuf and Bretoncelles on the 18th and 21st November, and the battles of Orleans and Cravant on the 2nd and 10th December 1870. Manley also received the Bavarian Order of Merit for 1870–1871. He was subsequently present at the siege of Paris. On the declaration of the armistice he went into the city with supplies for the hospitals. He was awarded the French 'Croix de Secours aux Blessés' for his work in Paris. He occupies the almost unique position in having been decorated by three different armies during the war.



Manley's decorations are on display at 'Firepower' the museum of the Royal Artillery in Woolwich, on the south bank of the River Thames (well worth a visit). The Iron Cross included in the display has a combatants' ribbon, black with white stripes.

SALUTE 2014

April 12th, 2014 is still a long way off, but.... We are planning something a little different for next year, a participation game which will involve members of the public as well as society members (although you are all welcome to take part). During the siege of Rome in 1849, the French army captured one of the villas overlooking the walls of the city. Garibaldi, who was in command of that section of the Roman defences, saw that the occupation of this position was vital if Rome was to keep the French out. He ordered his volunteers and several units of the Roman republican army, to retake the villa, with the result that much blood was spilt in trying to carry out this order.

The game table will consist of the Villa Corsini, filled with French infantrymen, the St Pancras Gate in the Roman walls and the garden and gate of the Corsini, across which the Romans had to advance. Each participant will command a company of the Roman army and will have to assemble behind the St Pancras Gate, advance up the road to the garden gate, through the gate and into the garden and to the villa steps. The French (through the medium of 'Chance cards') will of course try to stop them. Any participant reaching the villa door will be suitably rewarded!

Work has already begun on the table top, the construction of the St Pancras Gate and the Villa Corsini and the figures of French and Roman infantry (28mm size) and the game processes. More information in the next issue.

MY NINETEENTH CENTURY ARMIES

By Carlo Antonelli

Like Stuart Asquith who wrote some time ago, I am a child of Charles Grant and Airfix! This early 'fix' has meant that for most purposes I have remained in the 20mm mode when it comes to wargames.

As an Italian, I have always had a soft spot for the Italian wars of Unification, the 'Risorgimento'. In fact the C19th in general has always been a passion, mind you that has not stopped other projects! After the Napoleonic wars the main event that shaped Europe where, I believe, the 'Italian' and 'German' wars of unification and their add-ons.

Now, if you think they are hard enough in 25/28mm they must be impossible in 20mm, right? Wrong!

Actually they are reasonably covered and I would like to explain and describe some of the 20mm armies I have amassed to cover them.

Firstly I would like to explain that they are armies for gaming the period, not exact replicas of their uniforms etc., so if you are a stickler be warned and look away now!

They have proven to be quite cheap too, especially if you can get access to second hand plastic figures!

Neapolitan

This is a virtually 'straight from the box' army from *Irregular Miniatures* relatively cheap and even cheaper if you use their 'battalion packs'. Their range provides the basis for Line, Light and Guard regular infantry including command figures. They are quite accurate, if a bit on the small side.

Cavalry and artillery are also available from the same source, dragoons and Horse artillery. I converted Line artillery crews from the IMEX Alamo Mexican artillery by adding some Milliput 'skirts' to their tunic bottoms and painted appropriately. A further cavalry regiment was added using the Italian ESCI Napoleonic Guard Lancers with their aigrettes and cords trimmed away to produce a lancer regiment for them.

This is an era where traditional styles stayed in vogue, so other ranges etc. can be utilised. (TIP, when trimming off detail on plastic figures make sure you use a very sharp craft knife. To cover details on shakos etc. paint with PVA glue and when dry paint as if they were covered in oilskins etc.)

Austrians

My Austrian army was designed so that if needed it could serve from 1859 until 1866. In this scale the uniform differences are minimal in most cases. Figures for this army are easily available, *Waterloo* do several sets of figures in plastics and *Irregular Miniatures* do them in their 20mm ranges. They are broadly compatible, but I prefer them in their own distinct units. The plastics are a bit two dimensional, but once painted and based look quite nice.

Straight from the box you can create Line, Grenzer Infantry units and artillery crews and guns. They are all in the 'kittle' rather than the frequently used greatcoat for 1866.

The biggest problem is that neither produce a bespoke 'Jaeger' infantryman. Mine were converted using Napoleonic heads from jaegers etc., for 1859 it is all right as they also wore 'kittles' but not really right for the 1860s. (TIP, glue head in place using small length of pin to hold firm to the body).

Additional and alternative infantry can be created by using the *IMEX* ACW figures, especially the standing/kneeling firing figures and the loading figures as they have rolled greatcoats. Cut off the kepi but leave the peak and replace with a length of sprue to create the shako. Paint with PVA glue and paint as covered in an oilskin. The *Waterloo* sets are very officer heavy and include mounted officers, but if you are doing armies this is a bonus, mine provided plenty of unit command as well as spare figures for use/conversion in commands/brigadier bases etc.

As well as the cavalry from *Irregular Miniatures*, *Waterloo* provide a box of nice 1859 campaign light cavalry. The only 'extra' was to use Napoleonic cavalry again to produce lancers as per the Neapolitan army.

NB. Note also that Parma and Modena had infantry that used Austrian style uniforms in blue not white, so they can just be different paint jobs if needed.

Garibaldini

These, the Italian patriots, are also the easiest produced in 20mm. A reasonable range is produced by *Irregular Miniatures*. *Lucky Toys* produce a set, but they are considerably bigger as well as poorly moulded! They do allow some extra variety as well as a nice mounted Garibaldi as well as extra foot commanders (Nino Bixio etc.). The *Lucky Toys* are accurate but require a lot of trimming and assembly so be warned! They were useful for extras, but I would not base an army on them! Additional infantry can come from suitable ACW figures which are easily

available. A bonus with this army is very little artillery is needed as well as virtually no cavalry.

I used the older *Esci/Italiari* ACW figures and the metal figures from 'Irregular' to provide the infantry as these are almost identical in size. When using ACW use figures in campaign and without packs etc., Rebs in light order and blanket rolls are great. Artillery came direct from 'Irregular' but could be easily converted using odd ACW figures and guns.

I have provided some cavalry in the guise of mounted scouts and the Genoese Carabineers, easily converted ACW/Boer War figures for the mounted infantry and the Carabineers started as Airfix mounted RHA with tarletons replaced by kepis and carbines added. They have the right 'lace' on the front of their shell jackets.

This army is great fun to create and paint, its really got no uniform as such and so lots of variety can be incorporated into units.

Federal units for 1866

These started as odds and sods, to increase the Austrian army when fighting 1866 actions, but has grown into armies of their own, be warned!

Bavarians

Having recently bought the Campaign booklet I now know that it is wrong, but all my Bavarians have the helmet and not the soft hat, sorry, but it allows them to also serve in the Franco-Prussian War.

There are three main sources for Bavarian infantry: *B&B miniatures*, *Vintage 20mm* (*see note below) who both produce metal 20mm ranges which cover foot, mounted and artillery/command figures, or conversions from *Emhar* plastic Franco-Prussian wars ranges (use Milliput or Plasticene to add crests to the helmets). The metal ranges are much chunkier than the plastic figures, so again, separate units are *de rigur* here. Using these I have Line infantry, jaeger, cavalry and artillery units as well as commander bases for them.

* Vintage 20mm, this is run by John Cunningham and produces older ranges of 20mm figures and oddities covering several periods. Especially useful are the old Mini-figs S range of Franco-Prussian war as well as their Crimean ranges. Also produces 'Douglas' and 'Hinton Hunt' Crimean ranges amongst others. He provides a cheap and efficient service and is an altogether nice bloke!

Hanoverians

These Line infantry units were the result of an old Airfix Magazine article in converting figures for the 1866 war, *Airfix*, ACW infantry (Federals) with kepi, trimmed off at the peak and sprue added to the shako and Plasticene/Milliput blanket roll added if wanted. Trim the trouser bottoms to create gaiters and painted to choice (I have used the running figure for my regiments).

Artillery units were converted from ACW figures and *Airfix* WW1 German heads, or can be spare Prussian artillery as they are virtually the same!

Generals/Commands

During this period styles were a mix of Napoleonic/undress and mufti for lots of commands and officers. This allows a lot of licence when creating command stands. As few figures are needed you can convert quite complex changes, ie arms/heads and whole torsos of you feel like it. Napoleonic and ACW generals make good starting points for your own flamboyant ceations to add variety to the officers 'straight from the box' that are available. (*Airfix*, *Italiari* and *Strelets* make useful sets.)

Rules

For some time now I have used the C19 rules by Neil Thomas, simple, quick and most units only need four bases or elements. This has the advantage of providing nice excuses for vignettes in your units and a way to use up weird positions, as well as allowing units to be moved without gripping the actual figures, ensuring figures are protected. Mind you, I use acrylic paint and varnish and I have not had an issue in years of use...



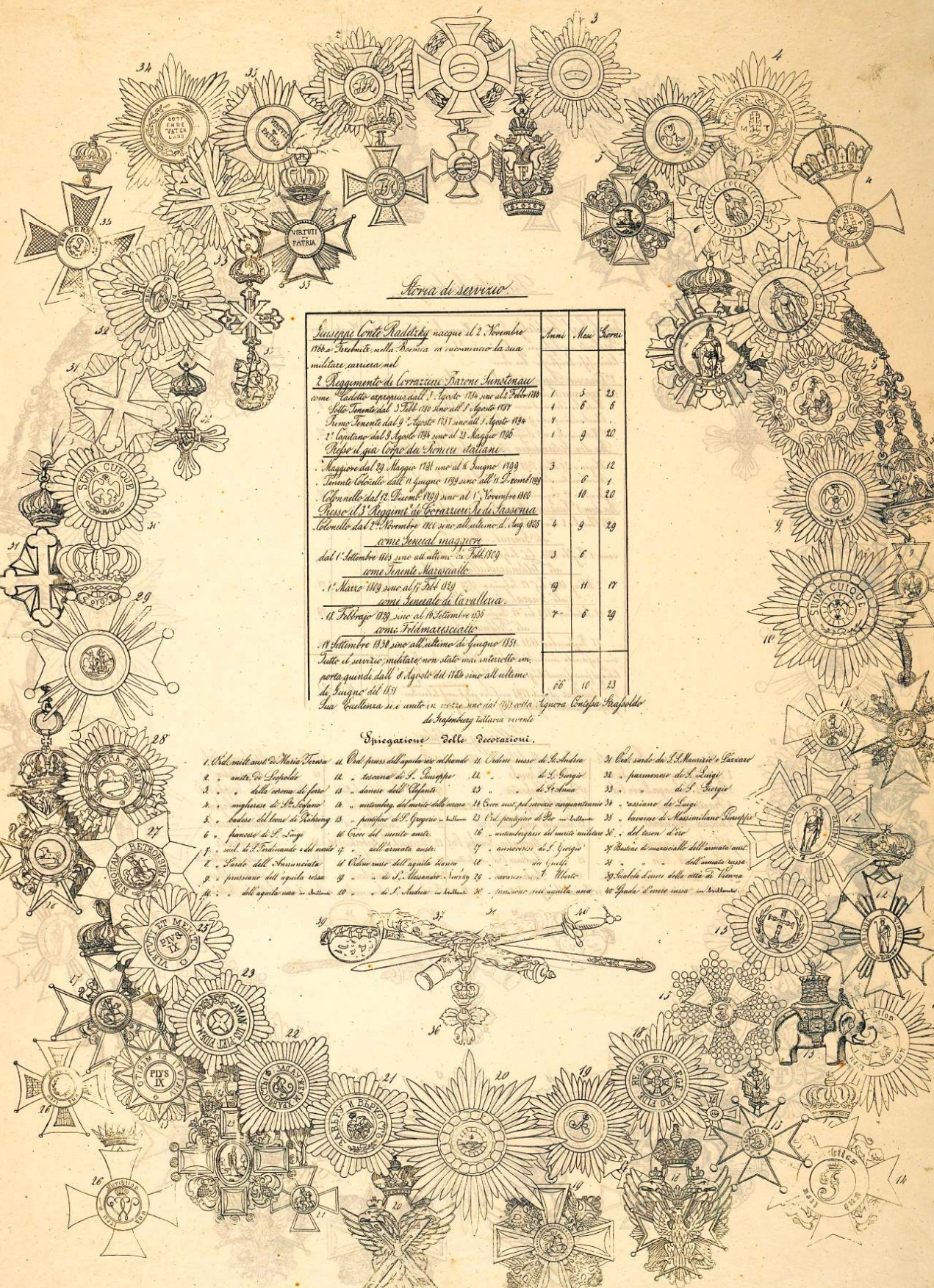
In March this year Russia joined with Bulgaria to commemorate the 135th anniversary of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78. They did this by a joint postage stamp issue, using the same design, but each with their own text and currency value. The image, take from a contemporary painting, depicts General Skobelev at the siege of Plevna.



ORDERS AND DECORATIONS AWARDED TO FM. RADETZKY



The illustration shown above comes from an Italian source and shows the various Austrian and foreign awards presented to Radetzky during his long military career. The reverse of the illustration (shown opposite) gives the names of the awards and the central panel shows his ranks and length of service.

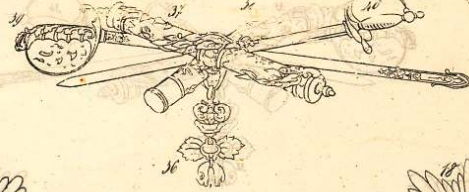


Storia di servizio

	Anni	Mei	Giorni
<i>Giuseppe Conte Radetzky nacque il 2 Novembre 1765 a Treviso nella Bassa Austria e cominciò la sua militare carriera nel</i>			
<i>2° Reggimento di Corazzieri Savoia Sardiniana come Capitano aggiunto dal 1° Aprile 1785 sino al 2 Febbre 1787</i>	1	5	25
<i>3° Reggimento dal 2 Febbre 1787 sino al 1 Agosto 1787</i>	1	8	6
<i>4° Reggimento dal 1 Agosto 1787 sino al 1 Agosto 1788</i>	1	9	20
<i>1° Reggimento dal 1 Agosto 1788 sino al 29 Maggio 1788</i>	1	9	20
<i>Reggimento dal 29 Maggio 1788 sino al 6 Giugno 1789</i>	3		12
<i>Reggimento dal 6 Giugno 1789 sino al 11 Dicembre 1789</i>		6	1
<i>Reggimento dal 11 Dicembre 1789 sino al 1° Gennaio 1790</i>		10	20
<i>Reggimento dal 1° Gennaio 1790 sino al 1° Agosto 1790</i>			
<i>Reggimento dal 1° Agosto 1790 sino all'ultimo di Aug. 1793</i>	4	9	29
<i>come Tenente Maggiore</i>			
<i>dal 1° Settembre 1793 sino all'ultimo di Febbre 1794</i>	3	6	
<i>come Tenente Maggiore</i>			
<i>1° Marzo 1794 sino al 1° Febbre 1795</i>	9	11	17
<i>come Tenente di Cavalleria</i>			
<i>11 Febbre 1795 sino al 19 Settembre 1795</i>	7	8	29
<i>come Feldmarschall</i>			
<i>11 Settembre 1795 sino all'ultimo di Giugno 1795</i>			
<i>Tutto il servizio militare non stato mai interrotto e porta quindi dall' 8 Agosto del 1765 sino all'ultimo di Giugno del 1795</i>	76	10	23
<i>Sua Eccellenza si è unito in veste sino dal 1795 alla Spiccia Contea Angoldo de Hapsburg italiana vivente</i>			

Spiegazione delle Decorazioni.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ord. militare di Maria Teresa | 11. Ord. feroce dell'Imperatore ribelle | 21. Ordine russo di S. Anna | 31. Ord. santo di S. Maurizio e S. Gervasio |
| 2. Croce di S. Leopoldo | 12. Ordine di S. Giuseppe | 22. Ordine di S. Anna | 32. Ordine di S. Luigi |
| 3. Croce della corona di ferro | 13. Ordine dell'Imperatore | 23. Ordine di S. Anna | 33. Ordine di S. Giorgio |
| 4. Croce imperiale di S. Stefano | 14. Ordine del merito militare | 24. Ordine di S. Anna | 34. Ordine di S. Luigi |
| 5. Croce del leone di S. Marco | 15. Ordine di S. Giuseppe | 25. Ordine di S. Anna | 35. Ordine di S. Maurizio e S. Gervasio |
| 6. Croce di S. Luigi | 16. Ordine del merito civile | 26. Ordine di S. Anna | 36. Ordine di S. Luigi |
| 7. Croce di S. Francesco e del merito | 17. Ordine del merito civile | 27. Ordine di S. Anna | 37. Ordine di S. Maurizio e S. Gervasio |
| 8. Croce dell'Annunciazione | 18. Ordine del merito civile | 28. Ordine di S. Anna | 38. Ordine di S. Luigi |
| 9. Croce di S. Maria Teresa | 19. Ordine del merito civile | 29. Ordine di S. Anna | 39. Ordine di S. Maurizio e S. Gervasio |
| 10. Croce di S. Maria Teresa | 20. Ordine del merito civile | 30. Ordine di S. Anna | 40. Ordine di S. Luigi |



Donald F. Featherstone

Donald F. Featherstone (born 20 March 1918) was the author of more than forty books on wargaming and military history. He wrote classic texts on wargaming in the 1960s and 1970s.

He was born in [London](#) and during the Second World War, Featherstone joined the Royal Armoured Corps; an account of his war experiences can be found in his book *Lost Tales*.

Originally a physiotherapist, Don Featherstone was first introduced to wargaming by reading H. G. Wells' *Little Wars* and his first opponent was Tony Bath in 1955. In 1960 they began editing the UK version of the *War Game Digest*, a seminal wargaming newsletter started by Jack Scruby in the USA. Disapproving of a trend towards articles that were "attempting to spread an aura of pseudo-science over what is a pastime, Don Featherstone started his own periodical in 1962, the *Wargamers' Newsletter*. While in discussion late one night with Dr. Paddy Griffith (the well known military historian), Don had a 'Eureka' moment when he came to realise that the hobby of wargaming could considerably aid understanding of military history. Featherstone appeared on the BBC to promote the hobby. In 1966 he organized the first UK wargames convention.

Don Featherstone died Wednesday 4th September after a fall at home. He was 95.

He was very prolific as this list of his books shows:

- *War Games* (1962)
- *Tackle Model Soldiers This Way* (1963)
- *Naval War Games*, Stanley Paul, London, 1965, ISBN 0-09-076581-8, Updated edition 2009[9]
- *Air War Games* (1966)
- *Bowmen of England* (1967 first ed.)
- *At Them with the Bayonet! The First Sikh War* (1968)
- *Advanced War Games*, Stanley Paul, London, 1965, ISBN 09-087350-5, reprinted 2008 [10]
- *War Game Campaigns* (1970) reprinted 2009 [11]
- *Battles with Model Soldiers* (1970)
- *Military Modelling* (1970)
- *MacDonald of the 42nd* (1971)
- *Solo Wargaming* (1972) Reprinted 2009 [12]
- *Poitiers 1356: Knight's Battles for Wargamers* (1972)
- *War Games through the Ages: Vol. 1 3000BC-1500AD* (Stanley Paul, 1972. ISBN 0-09-110240-5)
- *Tank battles in miniature: A wargamers' guide to the Western Desert Campaign in 1940-1942* (1973)
- *Battle Notes for Wargamers* (David & Charles, 1973. ISBN 0-7153-6310-7)
- *War Games through the Ages: Vol. 2 1420-1783* (Stanley Paul, 1974. ISBN 0-09-118760-5)
- *War Games through the Ages: Vol. 3 1792-1879* (Stanley Paul, 1975. ISBN 0-09-121250-2)
- *Skirmish Wargaming* (Patrick Stephens Limited, 1975. ISBN 0-85059-197-X), new edition 2009 [13]
- *Wargaming: Ancient and Medieval Periods*. David & Charles, UK, 1975. ISBN 0-7153-6939-3. Hippocrene Books, USA, 1975. ISBN 0-88254-353-9.
- *War Games through the Ages: Vol. 4 1861-1945* (1976)
- *Wargaming Airborne Operations*. Kaye & Ward, 1975, ISBN 0-7182-1172-3, reprinted 2009 [14]
- *Wargaming Pike and Shot* (1977)
- *Better Military Modelling* (1977)
- *Tank battles in miniature: A wargamers' guide to Mediterranean Campaigns 1943-1945* (Patrick Stephens Limited, 1977, ISBN 0-85059-275-5)
- *Featherstone's Complete Wargaming* (David & Charles, 1989. ISBN 0-7153-9262-X)
- *Victoria's Enemies: An A-Z of British Colonial Warfare* (1989)
- *The Peninsular War* (1991)
- *Victorian Colonial Warfare: Africa, from the Campaigns Against the Kaffirs to the South African War* (1992)
- *Victorian Colonial Warfare: India : From the Conquest of Sind to the Indian Mutiny*
- *Khartoum 1885: General Gordon's last stand* (1993)
- *Tel El-Kebir 1882 : Wolseley's Conquest of Egypt* (1993)
- *The History of the English Longbow* (1993)
- *Omdurman 1898 : Kitchener's victory in the Sudan* (1994)
- *Weapons and Equipment of the Victorian Soldier*

(1996)

- *Warriors and Warfare in Ancient and Medieval Times* (1997)
- *Khaki & Red: Soldiers of the Queen in India and Africa* (1997)
- *Bridges of Battle: Famous Battlefield Actions at Bridges and River Crossings* (1999)
- *Bowmen of England* (2003)
- *The Battlefield Walker's Handbook* (2005)
- *Donald Featherstone's Lost Tales* (2009) ISBN 978-1-4092-9431-3

Rob Morgan writes:

Don Featherstone.

Over the past year, visitors to the 'Solo Wargamers Association' web site have been reading re-appraisal reviews of many of the books written by "The Don", and on reflection there are so many of them. If not, obviously, the father of modern wargaming, he was very much a favoured Uncle, and no-one can dispute that during the sixties and seventies especially he was the main driving force behind the development of wargaming in Britain and abroad. If, and I suspect almost everyone reading this can do it, you sit quietly for a moment and think of which book inspired you most as an early wargamer, then for 90% of us it will be a Don Featherstone title which kick-started the interest. Not for anything less than the complete truth was he described in the cover blurb to 'Skirmish Wargaming', published by Patrick Stephens in 1975 as 'The world's best and best known war-games author'.

Donald Featherstone didn't write material specifically in the Continental Wars Society framework, he covered a few nineteenth century European battles in a couple of titles, but his was a broad canvas indeed. Very. For me the defining Featherstone title must be 'Naval War Games', published by Stanley Paul in 1965, and my Christmas present for that year. His scenario in that book, 'The Raid on the Kriegstaatz Batteries-1885' is a classic combined ops game, and thanks to that one gift (I think it was 21 shillings, in hardback) I have never looked back, over forty-eight wargaming years-not towards the land in any case!

For my own part, as a very rare attender at shows and large gatherings of wargamers of any sort, I never had

the opportunity to meet him.

However, we did correspond. After reading, re-reading and reading again, 'Naval War Games' I wrote to him via Stanley Paul the publishers of his first handful of titles; I suppose 'fan mail' for what might be regarded as 'hobby writers' was a rarity fifty years ago. but someone passed the letter on and Don Featherstone replied, helpfully, and I wrote again and received four or five replies over several months. He sent me a paper cut out of a 1/1200th galley model which I had for years, there were no cheap photocopying machines about in the 1960's. I wrote to him once more, many years later when Peter his son, no mean wargamer himself I understand, was killed in a motorcycle crash, and Don's handwritten reply I still have in my old files.

To live to the age of ninety five, after surviving hard wartime service in tanks, is no mean feat for any man, but to live to that age and to leave a legacy of Don Featherstone's dimension to an entire community, much of which would not exist without his encouragement and initiative over long years, now that's an achievement.

Rob Morgan.

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My own recollection of Don Featherstone was at a Victorian Military Society Fair, when a group from the 'Continental Wars Study Group' put on a wargame demonstration. During the course of the afternoon a small number of distinguished looking men approached our table and one of their number, after viewing the game for a moment or two, asked me what rules we were using. I replied that they were an amalgamation of various published and unpublished sources on a layer of simple propositions from a book by Don Featherstone. The gentleman looked me in the eye and said quietly, "I am Don Featherstone". I waited for a hole to open in the floor and swallow me, but as nothing happened, I turned an interesting shade of red and said something like, "Very pleased to meet you", or was it some other gibberish, fortunately my memory has been wiped of that part of the meeting! Needless to say there are a number of his books on the 'Wargames' section of my bookshelf. And all well-thumbed.

Ralph Weaver

More illustrations from the sketch books of Henri Boisselier. The pictures on this page are all from a work on the uniforms of the French and their allies in Mexico. Included are the Contre-Guerillas of Vera Cruz, the Egyptian battalion and Mexican National Guards.

