

The Lone Star Dispatch

May 2015



2015-2016 LSHM Officers

Joe Shaffer	joeshaffer9@gmail.com	President
Ian Straus	ian_straus@att.net	
Mark Leroux	mleroux@gmail.com	
Mike Gomez	mret@texas.net	
Charlie Torok	torokc@hotmail.com	

Inside this issue:

Welcome & BOD update	Page 1
FOWSA update	Page 2
FOWSA Early War forces	Page 3 – 4
Upcoming Events	Page 5
MillenniumCON update	Page 6 - 7
Past Events	Page 8 - 11
Future Events	Page 12 - 14
Gamers Workbench	Page 15 - 16

The Lone Star Historical Miniatures

(LSHM). We promote miniatures wargaming in primarily historical periods but also fantasy/sci-fi. We are not dedicated to one rule set or scale. We promote miniatures wargaming by running events, helping local conventions, and assisting with tournaments, financial backing and run demo games. We will also run gaming classes at schools. We encourage all gamers to be a part of our group to help support our common hobby.

Please forward to all miniature gamers here in Texas and beyond.

"Officers Mess - a note from the LSHM Board"

By Ian Straus

Greetings, Lists are coming in for Early FoWSA 2, the second annual San Antonio Early War Flames of War tournament, to be played May 30th at Dragons Lair Comics, San Antonio. If you intend to participate, please send your lists by 5PM May 16th. Last year we had 16 players, this year we have space for 22, and ten already have their lists submitted:

Justin Baeza, German
Mark Bayne, French
Chris Lisanti, French
Nathaniel Lisanti, Soviet
Michael Lisanti, German
Jacob Mayer, German
Tom McBrayer, Soviet
Michael McGrail, Soviet
Mark Reed, German
Charles Torok, Italian

That's 4 German, 3 Soviet, 2 French and one Italian. Who out there has British, Finns, and Japanese? Last year we had one Dutch PDF list.

I have just received generous prize support from Mark IV Miniatures, maker of 15mm buildings.

So please consider participating in the table contest: He who sets up the table that is voted best, will get a prize.

Make 1390 point lists from the Barbarossa, Blitzkrieg, Burning Empires, Hellfire and Back, or Rising Sun books; request permission for PDFs. Lists must show the source page and company name, types and numbers of stands in each platoon, and point costs; and should list any special rules and options that apply to them.

Please email all lists to ian.straus@att.net, with the subject line "Early FoWSA 2 List."

For FoWSA tournament and San Antonio Flames of War events information see our blog

<http://fowsa.blogspot.com/>

Or the facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/fowsa/>

Ian Straus

Tournament organizer



May is Flames of War Month in LSHM



Early War FoWSA II

May 30, 2015

The second annual EARLYWAR Flames of War San Antonio tournament will be at 10AM Saturday May 30, 2015 at Dragons Lair Comics, The tournament will accommodate 22 participants. First registered and with lists in, first served; others on standby; and we will look for a volunteer on standby to ensure an even number of players.

The Tournament will cost \$15.00, but \$10 for LSHM members.

Tournament fees are payable on the day of event at the door. Lunch is included in the entry fee. On the day of the event, registration opens at 10:00 AM and play begins at 10:30 AM.

Make 1390 point lists from the Barbarossa, Blitzkrieg, Burning Empires, Hellfire and Back, or Rising Sun books; request permission For PDFs.

Please email all lists to ian.straus@att.net by **5PM May 16, 2015 for approval.**

Flames of War San Antonio (FOWSA)

When: 30 May 2015

Where: Dragon's Lair San Antonio

Contact Ian Straus: ian.straus@att.net



My Early War Flames of War (FOW)

Tournament preparation

By Chris Lisanti

When my son Michael wanted to play Germans with a Dicker Max, then it was my keen opportunity to try out this great armored force that worked well in the past. This company is "Compagnie de Combat" from the Blitzkrieg rulebook. I am looking forward to the "High Command" French special rule of moving any French objectives placed in enemy territory 4 inches closer.



Although the French have this cool special rule, nothing compares to having the mighty Renault Char B-1 bis tank with two main guns and a machine gun. Flanking this monster of the early war are the Renault R-35 light tank and the vaunted Panhard AMD-35 armored car with a very capable 25 mm gun with AT 6 ... watch out Hans!



The French are rated as trained in the early war, and that allows you to take extra forces that would be lacking in a veteran force. Backing up this armored force is a very capable 105mm C mle 1935B howitzer battery of 4 guns capable of hitting anything on the table. Hans can run, but he can't hide! Smoke as needed and ability to pin infantry units will make these hard hitters a great complement.

The unit is not complete yet. These fine forces will be augmented by a keen 47mm SA-37 gun unit with an AT 9 (notice the smoke plume from the gun) and a Fearless Trained Colonial Fusiliers-Voltigeurs Platoon. Don't even think about taking our objectives without serious bloodshed!

Looking forward to another excellent FOWSA.



Vive la France!





Working on my Early War Flames of War (FOW) Tournament army.

By Charlie Torok

I pulled out my Italian FOW army the other day in order to get them ready for the Flames of War San Antonio Early War tournament - 30 May 2015 at Dragon's Lair SA.



I have not used this army in over a year now, but thought it would be a good candidate for an early war scenario. This army could be used for 1940-1943. I am now toying with either running it as an Bersaglieri infantry company or as a Italian Compagnia Carri (tank) company. Both lists allow for infantry or tank supporting elements - it just depends if I want to be aggressive (tank) or defender (infantry). Either way it will be a fun event.

Flames of War is not my primary gaming system, but I have collected a number of armies over the years (Italian, Russian, British and American). I look forward to playing and enjoying some World War II miniature gaming in 15mm scale.



If you are interested in playing contact Ian Straus at (ian.straus@att.net) or visit the FOWSA webpage at: <http://fowsa.blogspot.com/>



Join us for these upcoming events:

May - June 2015

Operation Overlord

The date set is **Saturday June 6, 2015.**

There is an opening for 5 Armored Platoons for the Axis and 5 Armored Platoons for the Allies. All other platoons are to be Reinforced Platoons.

Cost: \$5.00...

Points: 1500 Armored Platoon or 1250 Reinforced Platoon

Restrictions: Maximum Platoons allowed in an army list is two or less.

D-Day theater lists or normal army list of 1944 and earlier troops, vehicles, and equipment is allowed.

Arrival time: 10:00 AM (sharp, after set up has been handled the start time will be 11:00 AM)

This will be like the Battle of the Bulge event I previously ran. A one full game event with all tables to be linked to one overall score to determine if the Allies or the Axis win. Will the Atlantic Wall hold or will the Allies establish the much needed second front?

Any questions - please ask and spread the word.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/708364662615535/>

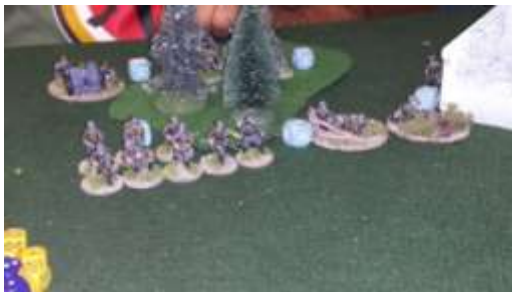
Contact: Will Easton at txntemplar@gmail.com

San Antonio

Bolt Action Group (BAG)



Bolt Action at Dragon's Lair



Oscar Barela, Brandon Escalera, and I (Joe Wicker) had a great battle last Friday. Brandon and I took 650 points of Brits against 1250 points of Oscar Spaniards. Turn 1 was a decisive moment as Brandon's Arty forced Oscar to clear his center and right into our fortified right flank. On the allied left flank, I had a lot of trouble getting my forces to deploy. This allowed Oscar to setup withering support fire and advance almost un-opposed for three turns (on the allied left flank)! In the meantime, the allied center became bogged down by hedge rows. By Turn 4, the allied left flank was in danger of being over run, the allied center had managed to get to the row of buildings in the center of the battlefield but was heavily punished, and the right flank held strong against push from a panzerfaust team. Brandon's die rolling had won the day on the allied right flank but he had to leave after turn three and my lousy die rolling started to turn the tide for the hard pressing Spaniards. Oscar was able to sweep the left flank entirely with three squads and withering MMG fire, hold the center and right flank in order to pull out a decisive victory for his Spaniards. Congrats to a game well played by Oscar and his Spaniards!



MillenniumCon 18 Update

Hello all! This is Mark with a short report about MillenniumCon. The dates for the convention are 6-8 November.

Charlie has been doing a great job contacting new people all over Texas. We have some GMs already preparing game sessions and tournaments. We have a SAGA and DBA tournaments in the planning stages with more to come. We will also have a new vendor for this year, David Beeson will be selling his inventory of high quality miniatures.

Expect to see some changes to the MillenniumCon website <http://www.millenniumcon.info/>. It will be optimized for viewing on tablets and smartphones as well as desktop screens. These changes should be in effect by 4 May.

We will open the registration website <http://millenniumcon.gamecon.us/reg/> so GMs can submit their games on or about 1 June.

We are still open for volunteers willing to help out on the convention staff. So, if you ever wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes of a gaming convention, this is your chance. If interested, send an email to me 'mlerouctx@gmail.com' or Charlie Torok 'torokc@hotmail.com'.

We look forward to seeing you at MillenniumCon this year.

Contact us if you have questions or any suggestions.

Mark Leroux



We need volunteers !

Contact Charlie Torok at: torokc@hotmail.com

If anyone has a trailer to transport 50+ folding tables that would be a great help.



Volunteers Needed

- Front Desk – Hospitality
- Concessions
- Table setup and teardown
- Prize donations

We are looking for individuals or groups to work 2 hour shifts during the convention. Contact Charlie Torok: torokc@hotmail.com for more information.



Truck and Trailer needed:

We need someone to volunteer To haul our folding tables from San Antonio to Round Rock on The morning of 6 November, then Take them back Sunday afternoon. We will provide The labor to load and unload.

If you have a trailer and vehicle To haul it we would very much Appreciate the assistance.

Contact Charlie Torok or Mark Leroux for details.



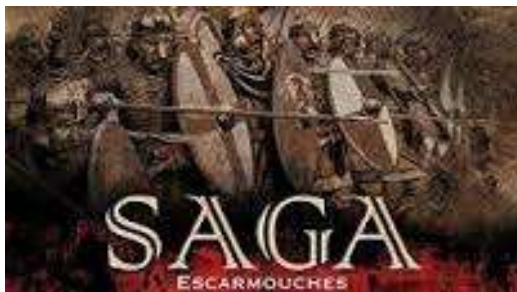
Past Events

Bolt Action at Dragon's Lair - 4 April: Spanish attack a Russian village

Oscar and I met up at DL yesterday for a 1,250pt Russian vs Spanish Blue Division match. Both armies attempted to capture the Russian village. The game began on the first dice chosen - Spanish Blue. Oscar's sniper then proceeded to roll 3 x 5+6's to kill off the Russian sniper.

Spanish and Russians continued to battle and die for the unnamed village. This was a summer 1944 scenario. We had a great time a...s always. Many a Spaniard died this day, those who survived had many dark tales to tell of their failed expedition to Russia. Those taken prisoner were immediately executed by the Commissar. The highlight of the battle was Oscar's Puma that continually hit the T-34, but failed to penetrate the thick armor.

Don't forget June 6th is the next Bolt Action Tournament. Contact Will Easton for more details, we hope to see you there - both experienced and new players.



SAGA game night at Dragons Lair

Blake Radetzky and Johnny Rod played a SAGA of Rome battle. This game pitted Imperial Rome vs Celts.

If you are interested in playing this fun and easy to learn, but hard to master game there are 3 very active groups in San Antonio, Austin and Houston areas. Come join us.



Past Events

Bolt Action in El Paso Texas

3 April, 2015

To: General Charlie Torocko

From: 1st Lt. Chris "Happy" Gilmore

1st Airborne Division, 3rd Regiment

Sir:

It is my duty to report to you actions on the 3rd of April in and around the village of Wickerdam along the Waal River. 2nd squad of the 2nd Company, 3rd Regiment advanced to the bridge crossing the Waal in the early morning. While approaching the bridge, Corporal Beckingham of the 6th Kings Artillery Regiment spotted a German Reconnaissance patrol from the Grossdeutschland Division driving toward the bridge from the south. Artillery support was called for but was ineffective.

We engaged the enemy with our mortar section, scoring a direct hit on the Hanomag as it started to cross the bridge but only caused minor damage. The Germans pulled back to regroup.

A second assault was attempted in which the Germans were able to reach our side of the bridge. The enemy disembarked from their transport and began to fire on 2nd squad. Private Hicks was killed, followed by Privates Jones and Lincoln. Sergeant Kella with the remaining five men decided to try and drive the German squad from the bridge by direct assault. Even though outnumbered, after intense combat, the assault was successful and the enemy were destroyed.

Our mortar section as well as my headquarters team tried to provide covering fire for the remnants of Sergeant Kella's squad but were unsuccessful. The Hanomag approached and I regret to inform you that 2nd squad was annihilated. As we had no anti-tank equipment, the combat was a draw and both sides withdrew. Most respectfully,

Christopher J. Gilmore



Past Events

April 11th

Bolt Action Tournament

A great time was had by all at the Bolt Action Tournament on Saturday 11 April at Dragon's Lair San Antonio. Thanks' to Will for putting this thing on and to DL for the great prize support. The battle closed with a tie; the American/Russians forces having killed 18 units and in control of two OBJs while the Germans killed 17 units and were in control of one OBJ. Here the German Pioneers advance in their 251/1, jump out and incinerate a Russian Communist SMG squad hiding in a building



Mean while on the German left flank....!!! Had a blast this Saturday with the Bolt Action Tournament Battle Royal!!! My free soviet inexperienced unit became heroes for Mother Russia!!! Their first turn they fired their rifles like true expert marksman and scored 7 sixes to hit!!!! Then killed 6 Germans causing them to panic and flee from the battlefield!!! Feeling the adrenaline flow through their veins and the victorious shouts from their fellow comrades they surged forward... to prove themselves!!! The then came up over the crest of the hill where they found the command half track and assaulted it! The German Lt. stood firm and fought valiantly dispatching 2 soviets in melee before succumbing to 10 bayonets! With the battle raging and their hearts filled with glory they quickly destroyed the command half track ensuring its mounted PaK 36 would never be used against them. They then assaulted and destroyed a second half track pitching Molotov cocktails and setting them ablaze!!! No longer being inexperienced they then saw the immobilized panzer III slowing traversing its turret!!! CHAAAARGE!!! The soviet squad then assaulted the tank destroying it!!!! Propaganda has circulated thought out Mother Russia of these few Heroic Men!!!!

More Past Events

Bolt Action in Killeen Texas



Tyler and I met up at Fort Hood at Battlefield Games in Killeen for a game of Bolt Action on Tuesday 21 April. I was TDY to Ft Hood so had a perfect reason to play Tyler. First let me say Battlefield Games is a great venue for gaming. Excellent number of gaming tables (8) and tons of excellent terrain.



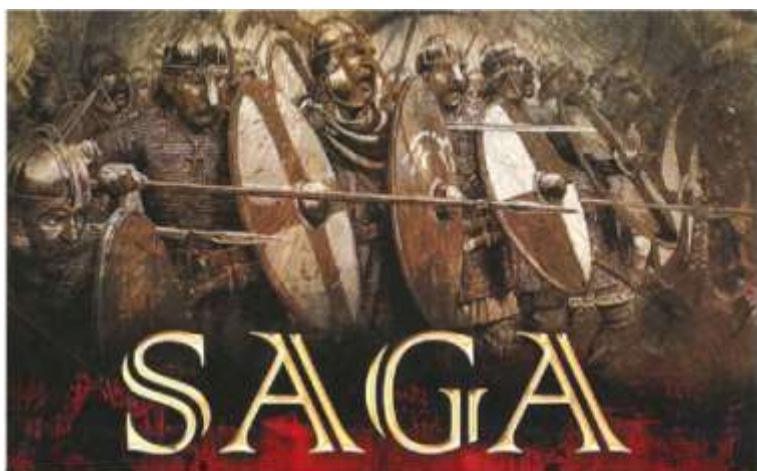
Tyler fielded his excellently built, modified and painted Hungarian army. I showed up with my Russians (of course). We played a meeting engagement and battle for the ruined town (somewhere near the Danube). Outstanding game and loads of fun. The highlight of the game (for Tyler) was his Hungarian Turin tank knocking out my T-34 at long range - nice dice rolls.



It was a hard fought battle - going back and forth, ending in a draw as we both had lost 9 units/vehicles/crewed weapons.

Thanks for a fun game, and I look forward to many more down the road. If you are ever up in the Killeen area Battlefield games is worth a stop

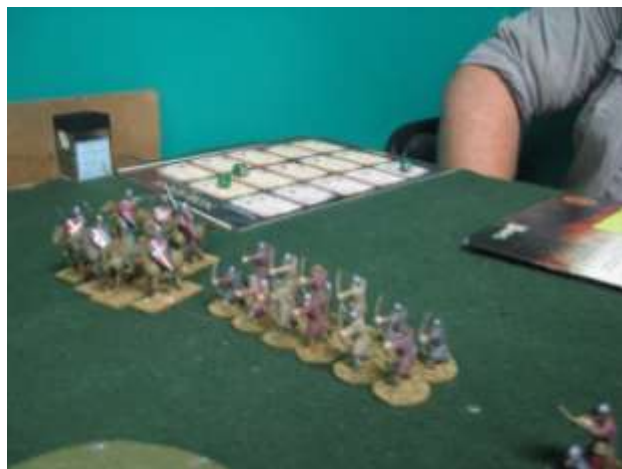
Future Events



WHO: San Antonio SAGA Game Group
WHEN: We play the 3rd Friday of each month (6pm-9pm)
WHERE: Dragons Lair San Antonio
All are welcome to join
POCs: Charlie Torok (torokc@hotmail.com) & Blake Radetsky (fifthussars@rocketmail.com)



WHO: San Antonio LoTR/Hobbit Game Group
WHEN: We play the 3rd Friday of each month (6pm-9pm)
WHERE: Dragons Lair San Antonio
All are welcome to join
POCs: Charlie Torok (torokc@hotmail.com)



Waterloo 200th Anniversary Battle [18 June 1815] Napoleon at War 15mm

When: 20 June 2015

Where: Dragon's Lair San Antonio

Join us for a re-fight of the famous battle between Napoleon – Wellington and Blucher!

Contact Charlie Torok: torokc@hotmail.com

Future Events



LSHM is planning to run a few Games at GAMEXPO this year. If interested contact Charlie Torok or Mark Leroux

GameExpo San Antonio

October 9-11th there is a new con in San Antonio, GamExpo

A vertical poster for GameExpo. The background is black and features various gaming items like dice, a game board, and a miniature. At the top is the GameExpo logo. The text in the center reads: 'GaMExpo is San Antonio's premier gaming expo! GaMExpo will be providing San Antonio with all forms of gaming such as role-playng, board games, card games, miniatures and video games..'. Below that, it says 'GaMExpo: October 9-11, 2015 Hilton San Antonio Hill County Hotel and Spa 9800 Westover Hills Blvd. San Antonio, TX'. At the bottom, it says 'To purchase tickets and make hotel reservations, go to: www.theGaMExpo.com' and the GameExpo logo again.

GAEXP
Games and More Expo

GaMExpo is San Antonio's premier gaming expo! GaMExpo will be providing San Antonio with all forms of gaming such as role-playng, board games, card games, miniatures and video games..

GaMExpo:
October 9-11, 2015
Hilton San Antonio
Hill County Hotel and Spa
9800 Westover Hills Blvd.
San Antonio, TX

To purchase tickets and make hotel reservations, go to:
www.theGaMExpo.com

GAEXP
Games and More Expo

More Future Events

We have a date set for our second annual San Antonio MUSTER II

When: 25 July 2015.

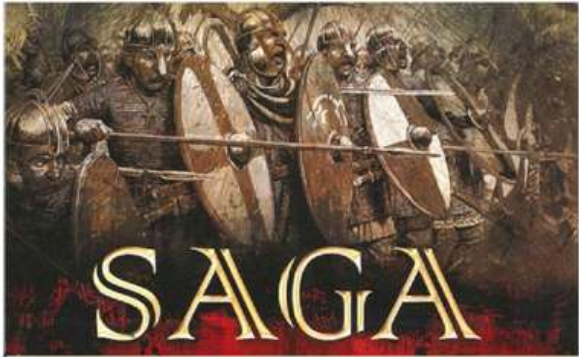
Where: Dragon's Lair San Antonio

Time: 11am – 4pm

What: 4-6+ games being played.

This will be our second Muster in San Antonio, and just like last year we will be hosting a number of historical miniature games. If you are interested in attending or running a game contact Charlie Torok: torokc@hotmail.com

We are looking for Game Masters to host a game for 2-6 players



SAGA – Houston Texas

When: 6 June 2015

Where: Fat Ogre, Houston TX

The Houston Area SAGA Players can be found on Facebook (under the same name). Currently we have a recurring SAGA tourney/event on the first Saturday of every even numbered month at Fat Ogre in The Woodlands.

Contact Russell Helms at: vorthrax@gmail.com



Ed Youngstrom's 7YW game at Muster I



We need your event listed here!

The Workbench

Gamers sharing their projects
across Texas!

My D-Day Terrain Project

by Russell Pickett



So this all started with the Battle of the Bulge game up in San Antonio. Will had already started to bounce around the idea of doing another big themed game for D-Day. Once I got back into Houston I just happened be discussing the need for some terrain for the game with a friend of mine. He said that he had actually come across a number of large foam pieces that had been left at a local game store. Someone had been doing some demolition work somewhere and just offered them up for free. My friend offered me a few of the pieces for the project. So that jump started the idea, you just can't pass up free material!

The idea that I had was to design a modular Cliff line/Hill. We could use this to make the beach cliffs for the landings or swing them around and use them as the ridge line for a valley. So I have 2 pieces that are 4' long and another 2 that are 2'. Along with the large pieces, I wanted to make some additional smaller pieces. These included Hedgehogs to scatter on the beaches, Hedgerows that resembled the ones Warlords has, and them some other obstacle style terrain. I have even got plans for plowed fields and mine fields to round out the collections.



So with all the ideas bouncing around in my head, I needed to start getting the rest of the supplies. Luckily there are a number of model train and craft stores in Houston. G&G Model Shop, Trains, Hobby Lobby, and even Dibble's up in San Antonio all were great places to get what I needed. I made sure to refresh my knowledge on the different options for making larger terrain pieces by viewing a number of the videos on the Woodlands Scenic's website. (More to follow in next months letter)



We need your project here!!!

Send your article and pictures to Charlie Torok: torokc@hotmail.com





Join us on the 3rd Friday
Of each month for the
SAGA gaming group at
Dragon's Lair SA 6-9pm

My First SAGA Army

By Martin Zamarripa

In a previous edition of this newsletter I described some of the “goods” and “bads” of the Wargames Factory line of plastic 28mm Vikings. Since then, I have managed to assemble them into my very first six point SAGA Army. These boxes left me with plenty of spares so that in the future I should be able to vary this list considerably or use them as the basis for a second army. I'm thinking Anglo-Dane. But for now, I opted to paint up four points of Viking hearth guard and a point each of warriors and levies.

For the most part I equipped the hearth guard with the chainmail, shield and melee weapons found in the armored Huscarls box. To add some variety a few figures were armed with an axe in each hand or a larger two-handed Danish axe. One figure was given a horn and extra long spear with the intention that he may one day be used as an optional standard bearer. The figures for my warriors and levies were drawn from the unarmored Bondi box. I equipped the warriors only with shield and spear to distinguish them from the better-armed hearth guard while the levy was given bows.

Enough painting, time to roll the bones!



We need your project here!!!

Send your article and pictures to Charlie Torok: torok@hotmail.com