



CLASSICAL HACK



Issue: 2

News Letter

Volume 2

Hacking Points

Finally I am able to return to getting to issue two of volume two of the *Classical Hack News Letter*. With various activities such as finishing *Knight Hack Third Edition*, traveling, construction of new models like the Hadrian's Wall and Chepstow Castle, the several articles for Historical Miniature Gamer Magazine, I can finally focus on the *Classical Hack News Letter*.

Did I mention retiring in October? Twenty eight working days? Odd as it ay seem but this too is a distraction of immeasurable stress. Stress not from leaving after 29 years but in making all the proper plans for our financial security. It is all very grown up and it is obvious to me, the perennial adolescent, that adult things must occasionally take precedence over gaming. I guess I haven't grown up much, just gotten bigger.

End days at work have caused some time problems. We will not be able to devote the time we would like to travel and shows. It was for this reason and no other that we had to cancel our annual trip to *Origins*. So if we are invited to places and have to refuse it is due only to a lack of time not desire. So forgive us.

Did I mention money? *All things come to those who wait*, goes the saying. Wait being the key word. December will find us without any income for the month. Consequently we have to hoard money to carry us through this most expensive month of the year. In January our funding will return and hopefully all new adventures to be spent in time and money.

At *Historicon* we did Hadrian's Wall and a Saxon revolt on a plain battlefield. We are now making plans for *Fall In!* doing Chepstow castle scenarios. It will feature Chepstow castle in east England in different periods. See the castle change over the centuries.

January will see us return to *Siege of Augusta* with something new and yet to be built. Without the eight hour a day interruption called *work* much more will be possible. The city of Carthage is rumbling round up stairs in my mind. Then there is the Web site.

All this will require some home improvements too. This is a must do thing to keep gaming separate from our daily life.

The Main Event Pittsburgh

We had nothing short of a wonderful weekend in Pittsburgh putting on two *Knight Hack Third Edition* games. Steve Boyle and Frank Sciulli hosted the games at Steve's new house.

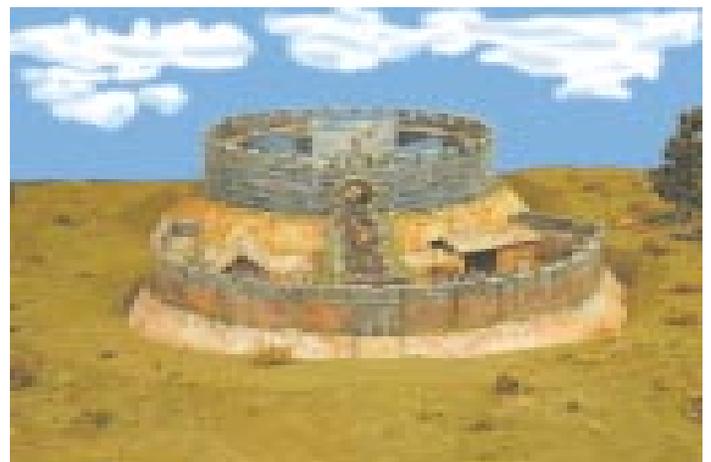
We used the Norman shell keep in one game. At the same time Steve ran a Crecy game. There were some ten players all round.

The Saxons were once more posed with the ejection of the Normans from their ruthless subjugation of Saxon lands. Proving *violence is not strength and compassion is not weakness* the Saxons were able to give the Norman lords a drubbing but not a conclusive victory.

Pittsburgh Band of Gamers



Pittsburgh Event The Saxons & Normans



What's New?

If you have some interesting news let us know and we will gladly post it here or on the web site. We love to hear about special deals, vendor new releases and more. So don't be shy.

Missing In Action

If you subscribe to the *Classical Hack News Letter* and have missed an issue let us know and we will get it out to you. Back Issues are available too.

Let Me Know

If you are putting on a convention or want to do a seminar let us know and we would consider coming to it and put on one of our scenarios.

Time To Renew?

If it is time to renew your subscription please do so by mail or Pay Pal. When to renew? After 12 issues from the date you started.

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Events of Note

Conquest LA, Los Angeles, California. September 1-4, 2006.
POC Avalon Games ConQuest <http://www.avalongame.com>.
Strategicon LA, Los Angeles, California. September 1-4, 2006.
POC <http://www.strategicon.net/>.

More Information can be found at the Classical Hack Web Site:
<http://www.classicalhack.com>.

Fall In!TM 2006 (10 -12 November) celebrating The American Soldier: 1607 - 2006! <http://www.fall-in.org/> .

Siege of Augusta January 12 through 15, 2006. We will be there with something all new! This will be the 16th Siege anniversary. This is one of the best. P.O.C. Jim Birdseye:
jbirdseye000@comcast.net & <http://www.narniaweb.com>.

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Stamp

Crecy A Frustration

Crecy is a campaign conducted by the English in an attempt to make good King Edward's claim to the Kingdom of France in 1346. After endless marching through the French King's northern duchies with the French royal army in hot pursuit, the English stopped and turned to face the much larger French army.

The French King was a good decision maker and ordered his army to halt. Philip the French King was not however a forceful personage and as the army came onto the field in three columns each dashing itself on the English lines. A frustrated Philip watched as his van (the lead units in advance of the other columns) ignored his commands and moved to the enemy. The van deployed its units of crossbowmen. A freak down pour made their bow strings slack, their volleys fell short of the English lines. The English archers took a step forward and loosed thousands of arrows on the crossbowmen. The crossbow units began to move back out of range. The mounted units of knights came up fast and chaos set in. The knights began hacking their way through their own crossbowmen. Eventually the knights advanced on their objective; the English line. The knight units did not go much beyond the crossbowmen before their units were shot to a stand still by the English archers. The French knights' horses refused to advance through the hail of English arrows. Many were felled or simply stood their ground. In the confusion English dismounted knights advanced through the archers and cut down many of the French knights.

The only place the French made any head way was on the French left. These faced the fifteen year old English Prince of Wales. French and German knights rode through the English archers crashing into Welsh spearmen and dismounted knights. With great difficulty the Prince's men beat back the French and Germans. King Edward refused to send help to the Prince and calmly answered the call for help by saying, "Let the boy win his spurs." Some help did come though from the English far left and the Prince won the day. Edward anticipated a renewed battle the next day and was not prepared to spend the lives of valuable men from his tiny army's reserve. Little did he realize what a resounding victory his army had won. A great many of the French and German knights had been killed. The French had enough and left the field to the English King.

Crecy Scenario Set-Up

The English deployment was simple and straight forward and in Pittsburgh we attempted to address each of the tactical issues for both sides via a scenario game.

The English stood in three separate commands. These were left, center and right in a continuous double line along a low ridge. King Edward stood behind the center in reserve. In front of the first line were a line of stakes covering the front of each English archer unit. The archers in each command were backed up with units of dismounted knights and units of spearmen. In the real battle there were some 5000 English and Welsh archers, spearmen and knights.

The English stakes could inflict casualties on any knights that might charge the archers. This was incorporated into ***Knight Hack Third Edition*** and we owe this idea to Frank Sculli. The French would count the number of figures in a unit crossing the stakes; using a factor of 5. So on the Casualty Calculation Matrix used in ***Knight Hack*** cross-referenced factors and figures. Casualties on the knights were then determined by a D-10 die roll.

The French army numbered about 20000 knights and foot units. King Philip was in the center with the crossbows and units making up the center column. Philip had to roll to keep control of his units. On each side of his command was another command each of equal size. So many knights were needed that we removed casualties and routed units to make up new units arriving on the field. To give the French a chance to win weather was rolled for. Much to the frustration of the French it rained. This caused a reduction in crossbow ranges and the knights moved at different speeds determined by the roll of a die. Had the French won the weather roll history might have been changed. It was not to be. The English were handed a great victory by the grace of God in France and Pittsburgh.

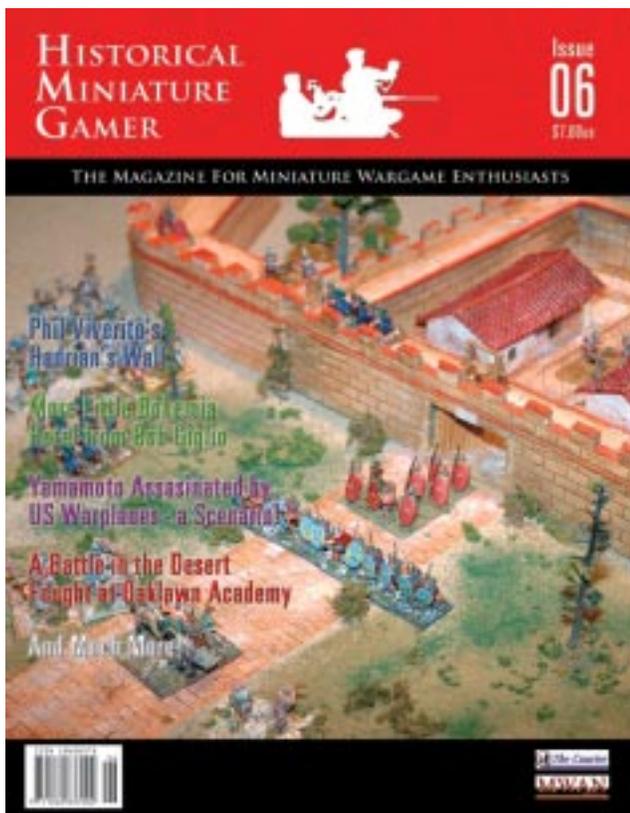
Crecy proved a frustration to the French and a hoot to the English. It is very important to address the tactical issues to recreate these historical masterpieces in miniature. Luck as Napoleon commented is all important to generals and this battle gave all the luck to the English. We all agreed that Crecy for a scenario with weather and obedience going against the French is a not much fun for the French. That is war for you, when you least expect it you too can snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. How the mighty are humbled.



**French Frustrated in Pittsburg
Hadrians Wall Honored**

I was very much honored when Historical Miniature Gamer Magazine asked me to do an article on my Cold Wars Scenario Hadrian's Wall. Readers will find historical notes, army information and the entire scenario including Q.R.S. for playing out my Hadrian's Wall Scenario; Issue 6.

As a subscriber I cannot recommend enough others to beg borrow, subscribe but not to steal a copy of this important trade journal. For information on line: <http://www.hmgmagazine.com>.



New Site In Sight & On Line

Wargames in Tridelpphia West Virginia has changed it web location and can be found at on line at <http://www.wargamesinc.biz/>. *Wargames* has a wide variety of gaming miniatures and these all come highly recommended.

Special Deals From Old Glory

Old Glory is making a *grand* offer for it's ranges of figures. Go to their site for more details on some good deals <http://oldglory25s.com/store>.

Mail Call

With the ever advancing use of e-mail I have been delighted to be the receiptant of a new style of advertising. E-mails that have ads in them not unlike a web page with pictures of products, pricong and even links to purchase those much needed, ok much wanted goods. If you are not getting e-mails of this nature go to Old Glory (<http://oldglory25s.com/store>) & On Military Matters (<http://www.onmilitarymatters.com>). It will be necessary to ask to sign up for this kind of service. The cheap and shy should not apply.

New Projects

At *Fall In!* you can expect to see a new model I have built, TheCastle of Chepstow.

For *The Siege of Augusta* I will be presenting the city of Carthage, in miniature of course. The city will featurethe harbor with its round boat house and admiral's HQ, the citadel and general common buildings within the city itself. Oh yes there will be walls, walls and more walls.

In addition to building I will be releasing *Classical Hack Scenarios: The Celts* in 2007.

