

THE JOURNAL Issue 73 – Spring 2011

Subscription 12 – issue 3

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*The **Black Star Models** ranges are now available from Jeff Spain and Rolf Hedges.*

The Society and the Journal are run voluntarily in spare time, with all members of the Team in alternative full time employment. The Editor invites members to submit articles, letters, reviews, artwork, wants and swaps and inquiries for publication. Traders are invited to send adverts and contributions to Traders Forum.

We will endeavour to publish all submitted articles (even badly!) Membership details are mechanised and copy lists are sent to Traders to prove eligibility for discounts.

Subscription period no.12:

The Journal is the magazine of “The Society of Twentieth Century Wargamers” and is produced quarterly. The new subscription period covers Journals 71 to 76, and is £18.00 UK/BFPO, £20.00 Europe, £25.00 North America, \$50.00 Canada and £25.00/\$60.00 for Australia and ROW. The above rates are reduced by a third if photocopied proof of status is provided (senior citizen, student, unemployed.) North American and Canadian Journals are in European A4 size format. All locations are presently sent out by Mark Wheeler for Sub. #12, as are all back issues and Compendiums. Back issues sets are available through our website at £15.00 UK/BFPO, £18.00 Europe and £20.00/\$40.00 for the United States. For ROW the rates are £15.00 or \$40.00. Compendiums of issues 1-8, 9-12, 13-16, 29-31 and 32-34 are £6.00 UK/BFPO, £7.00/\$14.00 for the United States and £7.00/\$18.00 ROW. All non United Kingdom/BFPO subs should go to Mark Wheeler as cheques in £ sterling payable to ‘M Wheeler’. UK/BFPO subscriptions should go to Mark Wheeler in pounds sterling. Cheques should be made payable to ‘SOTCW’. Alternatively cash can be sent at senders risk. Cheque payments not made in £ sterling will be accepted in local currency but must be payable to “M Wheeler” and include an equivalent extra of £6.00 to cover bank charges. All non United Kingdom current subscription Journals will be sent air mail; back issues and Compendium will be sent surface/economy.

All these items including membership can now be purchased via Paypal through the new website shopping cart.

Visit the website at: www.sotcw.net or

Chat to other members on the new Forum: www.sotcw.net/forum

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<http://elheimfigures.com/index.html>

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M A T T S L A D E P A I N T I N G

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Price also includes Special Delivery (UK only) for SOTCW members.

Standard basing style is sand, which is washed and dry-brushed with patches of static grass applied. Please supply Flames of War bases if required. If you are happy to base the figures yourself, reduce the cost by 10%.

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ModRus5 5 MVD/OMON special forces combat poses	£2.40
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ModRus7 Regulars 60mm mortar & AT-14 (3 crew)	£3.70
ModRus8 SPG-9 & AGS-17 each with gunner wearing Sphera helmet and Gorka suit armed with AK74s	£2.80
ModRus9 Tank riding regular with AK74, tank riding MVD/OMON with RPG, dismounted tanker	£2.50

FIGURINES 13ème legion

Pascal Mahe, 82 Rue de Rohan, Appt.11, 56000 Vannes, France
Legio13@hotmail.fr

20mm figures for Bir Hakeim

All figures 1 Euro unless marked, Paypal accepted

Thirteenth half-brigade Foreign Legion

- LE 1 Foreign Legion officer standing with a map
- Soon ! Foreign Legion officer with pistol in hand
- LE 3: Foreign Legion infantrymen attacking with fixed bayonets
- LE 4: Foreign Legion sapper standing with mine detector
- Soon ! Foreign Legion sapper kneeling with a shovel
- LE 6: Foreign Legion officer looking with binoculars
- LE 7: Foreign legion artilleryman bending down
- LE 8: Foreign Legion artillerymen with shell
- LE 9: Foreign Legion hotchkiss MMG
- LE 10: Foreign Legion officer with binocular in right hand
- Soon ! Foreign Legion machine gunner seated for the hotchkiss
- Soon ! Foreign Legion 2nd man feeding ammo for hotchkiss
- Soon ! Foreign Legion 81mm mortar
- LE 14: Foreign Legion mortar loader with bomb in hand
- Soon !: Foreign Legion mortar loader with and over ears
- Soon ! Foreign Legion mortar loader putting a bomb (not present) in the mortar with his right hand
- LE 17: Foreign Legion officer arm raised giving order to fire
- LE 18: Foreign Legion officer seated with a map in hand
- LE 19: Foreign Legion officer seated with binocular in his right hand
- LE 20: Foreign Legion officer seated looking with binocular
- Soon ! Foreign Legion vehicles crew seated
- Soon ! Foreign Legion vehicles crew standing.

Battalion of the Oubangui – Chari (BM 2)

- BOC 1: White officer in kepi bendig down with a map
- BOC 2: White officer in kepi with pistol in hand
- BOC 3: White officer in colonial helmet with pistol in hand
- BOC 4: Black infantrymen in chechia attacking with fixed bayonets
- BOC 5: Black infantrymen in English helmet attacking with fixed bayonets
- BOC 6: Black infantrymen bear heads attacking with fixed bayonets ;
- BOC 7: Black sapper in Chechia standing with mine detector
- Soon ! Black sapper in English helmet kneeling with a shovel
- BOC 9 White officer in colonial helmet looking with binocular
- BOC 10: Black artillerymen in chechia bending down
- BOC 11: Black artillerymen in chechia with shell
- BOC 12: White officer in kepi standing with hand on the hips
- Soon ! Black machine gunner in chechia seating for firing the hotchkiss
- Soon ! Black hotchkiss 2nd man in chechia feeding ammo
- Soon ! Black hotchkiss 2nd man in bear head feeding ammo
- Soon ! 3” mortar for the battalion of the Oubangui - Chari ;
- BOC 18: White officer in kepi arm raised giving order to fire
- BOC 19: Black loader in chechia with mortar bomb in hands
- BOC 20: Black mortar loader in chechia with hand over ears ;
- Soon ! Black mortar loader (bear head), putting a bomb (not present) in the mortar with his right hand ;
- BOC 22: Black vehicle crew in chechia standing ;
- BOC 23: Black vehicle crew in chechia seatead ;
- BOC 24: Black vehicle crew bear head seated.

First regiment of artillery (F.F.L.)

- RA 1: White officer in colonial helmet arm raised giving order to fire
- RA 2: White artilleryman in side cap bending down ;
- RA 3: White artillerymen in side cap with shell.

Infantry Battalion of Marine and Pacific

- Soon ! White officer in kepi seated with a map
- BIMP 2: White officer in colonial helmet seated with a map
- BIMP 3: White man in side cap seated ;
- BIMP 4: White man in colonial helmet standing.

All the white officers, nco's and soldiers of the battalion of the Oubangui – Chari are good for the first regiment of artillery (F.F.L.) and the infantry battalion of marine and pacific and vice versa because these 3 unit are all of the coloniale (French Colonial Troops).

Editorial

Welcome to Journal 73, hopefully you've not had too much gap between this and the last issue, as I began this one whilst J72 was winging its way to Mark Wheeler.

At the end of January I paid my annual visit to Penarth near Cardiff for the Crusade show. This as I've said many times is the only proper wargames show I get to all year and is therefore my one chance to see new stuff in the flesh and chat to traders.

The general attitude seemed to be positive with most traders I spoke too having had a good 2010, but were not so sure about 2011 with the impending cut-backs, etc. It was good to hear several traders make favourable comment about both The Journal and our society and the couple of members I met (who were not trading) also had good things to say. I came away with a positive feeling that The Journal and society is doing a generally good job and still has a function in our internet world. On a more personal note 2011 has started with your editor deep in a "can't be arsed" period. In fact it wasn't until late February I even considered picking up a paint brush and actually doing something wargaming. But thanks to Games Workshop (I kid you not ☺) and my son wanting to join in the half-term tournament at their shop in town; I am now back in saddle and more myself.

Mark Wheeler has moved

Please note the inside cover that Mark Wheeler has now moved, so any correspondence or membership/treasurer issues (such as re-sub payments or compendia purchases) should now be sent to –

**Autumn Lodge, Sorrell Green, Wyverstone, Suffolk
IP14 4TS**

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SCW

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SCW139 81mm mortar with Foul Weather crew (3) £1.20

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SCW141 Foul Weather artillery crew (10) £1.20

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SCW142 Hotchkiss M1914 MMG team (3) £1.20

Foul Weather Cavalry –

SCW143 Officer, capote manta, walking (5) £1.20

SCW144 Holding rifle, capote manta, walking (5) £1.20

SCW145 Rifle slung, capote manta, cantering (5) £1.20

International Brigade -

SCW146 Bomber, throwing grenade, Adrian helmet (10) £1.20

SCW147 Officer, pistol raised, Adrian helmet (10) £1.20

SCW148 Foot, kneeling, firing, pasamontana (10) £1.20

SCW149 Foot, kneeling, firing, Adrian helmet (10) £1.20

Moroccan Falange Militia (puttees, shirt sleeves, fez) –

SCW150 Officer, pistol raised (10) £1.20

SCW151 NCO, waving forward (10) £1.20

SCW152 Bomber, throwing grenade (10) £1.20

SCW153 Falangista, standing, firing (10) £1.20

SCW154 Falangista, running, weapon across chest (10) £1.20

SCW155 Falangista, walking (10) £1.20

SCW156 Falangista, at trail (10) £1.20

SCW157 Hotchkiss M1914 MMG team (3) £1.20

Gauntlet 2011

To be held over the weekend 2nd/3rd July at the Wings Social Club, Broughton, Flintshire, Nr Chester. Following on from our Rif War game in 2010, the society team will once again be putting on a participation game at this friendly show. For 2011 we have decided to go make to the very start of the C20th and do a game based on the Siege of the Peking Legations, during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. Anyone free is welcome to pop over and join in, if you have time but don't want to play just come over and say hello, it would be great to meet as many members as possible. Richard Crawley has created a blog for all SOTCW events - <http://sotcw.blogspot.com/>

This issue sees us returning to a themed issue style, but only because once again Alan Hamilton has submitted an excellent series of articles and scenarios which are just too good to split up. Gathering it all within this one issue, make logical sense as you do decide to game the period won't have to flick between issues for references and scenarios. In this issue you will also find – another SCW scenario by Chris Salander; Ian Dewar brings us a air-war scenario set during the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 (*jet age air-war seems very popular of late and we will see more scenarios in the next few issues by various authors*). John Agnew provides a Cold War game and Mark Bevis gives us one set in Korea in 1991. Among the other featured pieces is an informative guide to painting 28mm figures by Peter Antill.

Obituary

On Saturday 22nd January - Dave Howitt of **Britannia Miniatures** passed away.

A genuine, nice man and credit to our hobby.

I hope you will all join with me in wishing his family and friends our deepest condolences.

New society discounts

I am delighted to announce some new companies now offering the society a 10% discount:

Baker Company (28mm Vietnam, Winter War & Zulu War) www.bakercompany.co.uk

Heroes of the Dark Age (28mm Vikings, Saxons & Ancient Greeks + accessories) www.heroesofthedarkage.com

Ambush Alley Games (rules and accessories)

Only through their web-shop

www.ambushalleygames.com

I'd like to thank all these companies for their generous offer and wish them all the best

The Mad Mullah

British operations in Somaliland around WW1 by Alan Hamilton

Where large armies starved and small ones were swallowed in the bush.

To the British, Somaliland had little interest in itself. Its importance came from its location and the policy was to deny Somaliland to other European powers or the Abyssinian Empire rather than to take it as a colony. The reason was that it lay directly over the Red Sea from Aden. The Treasury was, of course, reluctant to fund an adequate military force of occupation or proper policing of the area.

Negotiations with Abyssinia led to the treaty of 1897 which defined the southern boundary of British territory and in 1898 the responsibility for administering the region was transferred from India to the Foreign Office in London. The Consul, Colonel J Hayes-Sadler and experienced Africa hand was promoted to Consul General of what was known from 1899 as the British Somaliland Coast Protectorate. It was one of the few regions that might be self-sufficient due to its mineral resources and the traditional trade in frankincense, hides and sheep.

The quiet and prosperity was not to last very long for in 1899 word reached Col Hayes-Sadler of a Mullah (holy man) called Mohammed ibn Abdullah Hassan who was fomenting rebellion amongst the tribes. He had made the Hajj (pilgrimage) to Mecca in his teens and returned as an Islamic extremist member of the puritanical Salih *tariqa* (religious order or brotherhood). He was in direct opposition to all foreign influence whether British, Italian, French or Abyssinian. Reports soon linked his name with raids on friendly tribes, collecting arms and ammunition, recruiting warriors and preaching Jihad (Holy Struggle). It did not take long for the Mullah to be declared an outlaw.

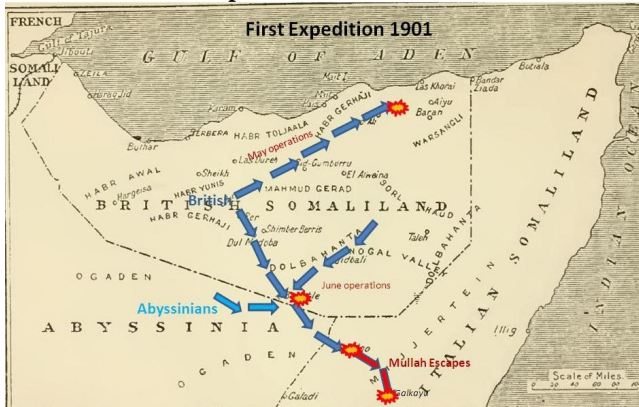
Mohammed ibn Abdullah Hassan is better known to the British as the Mad Mullah because of the scathing irony and sarcasm contained in his letters, much of which was lost on his readers. He was born in the interior of Somaliland, possibly at Kirrit, in the late 1860s. His father was an Ogaden Somali and his mother came from the Dolbahanta tribe. His boyhood was much like that of any other Somali boy, sometimes he spent time with his fellow-tribesmen and their flocks in the interior and sometimes in Berbera. When he was about seventeen or eighteen, he set out to see the world, and is supposed to have enlisted in Aden as a fireman on one of the passenger liners sailing east and west. In the Egyptian ports and in native caravanserais he would, no doubt, have heard the story of the Mahdi from the refugees from the Sudan. After some time at sea he made the pilgrimage to Mecca - a journey which is the common ambition of all Muslims. He was very impressed by what he heard and saw. So much so that he returned several times to the holy city, joining the *Mohammed Salih*, an insignificant but fanatical Mohammedan sect, with a harsh and uncompromising nature compared with those of the *Kadariyah*, which is the predominant sect in Somaliland. When he returned from the last of these pilgrimages in 1895, he denounced certain

practices of the *Kadariyah* to the somewhat unsympathetic audiences in Berbera. He was a born orator and agitator and spoke out against luxury, the immorality of chewing "kat," or the gluttony of gorging the fat of sheep's tail. At this time he depended upon the alms of the charitable. He gained only a very few followers among the comparatively sophisticated and wealthy inhabitants of Berbera. So in 1899 he went inland, where he lived in the Nogal valley amongst his mother's tribe. Here he started a movement preaching the expulsion of the British infidel from his Muslim country. Some of his followers were fired by his religious and political teaching while others were attracted by promises of the wealth to be gained by raiding the herds of those tribes which had sided with the infidel others again had their own personal motives. Many saw a great opportunity to lay up treasure in the Islamic paradise for themselves by confiscating other tribes' treasure upon earth. For three years the Mullah disciplined his followers and in doing so he eradicated the tribal feelings, which is normally the chief characteristic of the Somalis, and replacing it with devotion to his own authority rather than that of the elders of the tribes. Then, early in 1899 he made his first attack at Burao a large native centre some eighty miles from Berbera. He followed this up in April when he raided the wealthy Habr Yunis tribe and forced a section of the Dolbahanta tribe to join him. After these successful raids, his following had risen to about 3000 fighting men.

He then followed up his raid on the Habr Yunis with another in August during which he reoccupied Burao with a force of about 5000 men. He now styled himself as the Mahdi and ominous rumours spread around him prophesying a blood soaked advance on Berbera. The Consul General asked London for a military expedition but British commitments elsewhere, most particularly the Boer War, precluded any regular forces being committed to Somaliland. For the first seven months of 1900, the Mullah was comparatively quiet until in August he suddenly launched his followers on the Aidegalla tribe and caused all the tribes friendly to the British to evacuate the Haud region in confusion. Then in September the Habr Awal tribe suffered severely at his hands.

An expedition sent to arrest him under the command of a young political officer, Haji Musa Farah at the Mullah's Base in the Golis range 40 miles south of Berbera. The Mullah, forewarned of the mission, escaped to the Haud Region. The failure of this mission led to 21 years of operations in Horn of Africa and a struggle that devastated the Somali Peninsula and resulted in the death of an estimated one-third of northern Somalia's population and the near destruction of its economy.

1901 – The First Expedition



Support for the Mullah was not by any means universal. Some tribes remained loyal to the British and others were alienated from his cause by his cruelty or simply because the promised plunder did not materialise. These latter defected. His greatest support came from the Doldbahanta, his own tribe. The British commander, Lt Col EJE Swayne began his task of dealing with the situation by raising a new properly equipped and trained Somali Levy. By February 1901 he had raised a camel corps of 100 men and infantry force of 954 men of whom 160 were mounted on ponies. This latter force was under strength as the friendly tribes were unwilling to allow their best horsemen to join the Levy. At this time the Mullah had an estimated army of 1,200 cavalry and 6,000 infantry with only about 300 rifles between them. These two forces were destined to clash and their initial actions at Samala on 2-3 June and Ferdiddin on 17 July were indecisive.

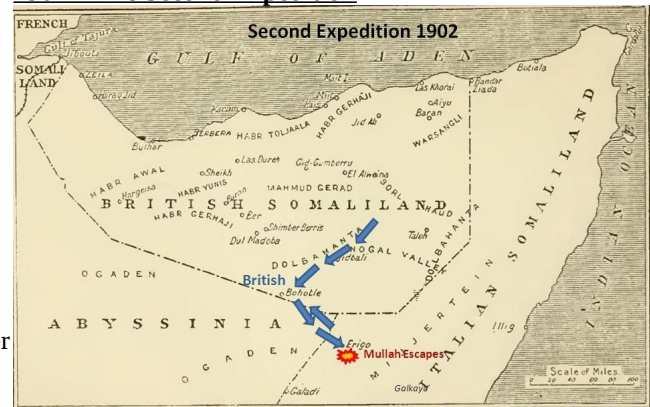
The supply dump at Samala was defended by 370 rifle armed infantry, 70 spearmen, a handful of horsemen and a Maxim gun commanded by Captain M McNeil of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders was attacked by a force of 5,000 Somali Dervishes with about 80 riflemen. In a two day action in which the Dervishes made repeated rushes and attempts at infiltration, McNeil's men inflicted several hundred casualties in return for 9 killed and wounded one of whom later died of his wounds.

In retaliation for the attack at Samala, Swayne made a night march against a Dervish camp at Erigo with a column of 75 cavalry, 500 infantry 16 camels carrying 4 Maxims,, water and supplies. At dawn the column reached a bush filled valley. Concealed within the cover, Dervish riflemen directed heavy fire against the mounted men who formed the advance guard. Swayne fell back into the open to form square from where his rifles and Maxims would be most effective. The Mullah, knowing the effect of massed rifle and Maxim fire, would not be drawn into the open and withdrew deeper into the scrub and thence to Italian Somaliland where he was safe from pursuit.

These two actions brought home the fact that the courage and fanaticism of the Dervish was every bit as great as it had been under the Mahdi in the 1880s and the Khalifa Abdullah a few years ago. This gave Swayne and his superiors considerable cause for concern. On the other hand it also showed that the new Somali Levy was, itself, a reliable and solid fighting force. During this expedition the Dervishes sustained some 1400 casualties, lost a large

number of prisoners and some 25,000 camels, in addition to many sheep, cattle, and horses. But disorganized transport and the shaken morale of the Somali levies prevented the pursuit of the Mullah to his retreat in the Mudug district.

1902 – The Second Expedition



The Mullah continued spreading his revolt throughout Somalia and by May 1902 the Dervish forces had increased to somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000 with at least 600 rifles. The British, similarly, had more forces available following the end of the Boer War. Swayne now had a force of 2,400 men. Swayne, now promoted Commissioner, was to be superseded by Brigadier William Manning and now decided to launch a further expedition against the Mullah before Manning arrived.

By September he had assembled a column comprising five companies of the King's African Rifles (KAR), a Sikh unit from Aden, the Somali Levy (now 1,500 strong), two 7pdr guns, Maxims and 4,000 baggage camels. He set off down the Nugal valley before crossing a hundred miles of the waterless southern Haud to the Mudug Oasis. The Mullah was reported to be in the oasis with several thousand of his forces including about 1,200 riflemen.

On 4 October scouts reported that the Mullah's forces were about a day's march ahead. The column camped on the night of 5 October at Erigo and moved out before dawn through dense brush towards their objective. From positions up in the trees observers from both sides watched each other's movements. The Dervish had laid an ambush within the brush and Swayne's column was saved by a scout's warning from a battle in dense foliage with visibility down to a mere 5 yards. In this close terrain Swayne called a halt and formed square in typical style with the baggage animals in the centre. This was just completed when the Dervishes attacked from three sides. The left side of the square formed by Somali Levy panicked and fell back. Major GE Phillips commanding them was killed attempting to rally his men. Only the Yaos of the KAR held firm on this side of the square as did the rest of the square.

The climax of the battle came when a fresh wave of Dervish spearmen with supporting fire from riflemen charged the remnants of the left face of the square. Under Swayne's personal direction the square reformed and drove the attackers back with concentrated rifle, Maxim and artillery fire. The front of the square was also heavily