

# Panzer Digest

Wargame Journal

Issue 14



*Viking Fury*  
*Battle over Europe*  
*North Cape*

Three Complete  
Wargames Inside

Sample file

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# PANZER DIGEST

Summer 2019

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## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

*Panzer Digest* is an award-winning wargame journal dedicated military boardgames. Each issue contains articles, reviews, and variants for popular games of strategy. In addition, at least one complete historical wargame is included in each issue, usually more than one.

Minden Games publishes designs that emphasize historicity and playability. They are crafted to reflect historical battles and topics, and place gamers in the role of guiding their side to victory via sound strategy, and good gaming tactics.

This issue contains three wargames. **VIKING FURY** is a solitaire game about the Viking expansion in western Europe beginning in the late eighth century. **BATTLE OVER EUROPE** is a World War II air combat card game, employing warplanes from several countries using the *Battle over Britain* game system. **NORTH CAPE** is a solitaire WW2 naval design that uses the *Salvo!* game system.

In addition, we've included a variety of short articles, variants, and wargame reviews from several contributors. We trust that you will have fun with the games and content in this issue. A small set of counters has been included for the *Combat Leader* variant (page 37) that adds scout dogs to that system. Those familiar with Minden designs know that we strive for games that stress historicity and playability... and a small footprint. In that respect, the titles included in this edition are typical of Minden designs.

Visit the Minden website for information about our the military history games and books--covering land, sea, and air, in a wide variety of time periods and game systems. Our web address is:

**[minden\\_games.homestead.com](http://minden_games.homestead.com)**

## HOW TO CONSTRUCT GAME COMPONENTS

The components for each of the three games in this issue are contained in the pages of the book. To play a game, you will need to scan, then print, the maps and markers for the games. Specifically, the game map for **VIKING FURY** is found on page 11, and the game counters for all three games (**VIKING FURY**, **BATTLE OVER EUROPE**, and **NORTH CAPE**) are provided on page 13. The Reference Card and Dogfight Display for **BATTLE OVER EUROPE** are found on pages 33 & 35. The Sea Display and game tables for **NORTH CAPE** are found on page 41.

Alternatively, instead of scanning the components, you may carefully remove the pages that contain them, and then mount on cardstock and cut apart the counters.

Either way, with a little practice your efforts will be well rewarded, and you will soon have attractive and serviceable components with which to play the games.

**For those who wish separate, professionally printed game components--counters, maps, Reference Cards, and displays--are available for purchase separately via the Minden website.**



### CREDITS

Panzer Digest #14

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Cover painting by 19th c. artist Edward Moran.

PDF edition.

# From the Editor

Welcome to this issue of *Panzer Digest*. I've assembled a lot of bang-for-your-buck material in this edition and hope you have fun with it. Before I delve into some background material and discuss part of the ongoing Minden philosophy, let's turn to the issue games for a moment.

Three games are included in this edition. *VIKING FURY* is a simple, solitaire design covering the first years of the Viking expansion occurring at the end of the eighth century. The object of the game is to explore and plunder new areas while bringing treasure back to the homeland... and perhaps establishing new Viking settlements in far flung areas while you're at it. Next up is *BATTLE OVER EUROPE*, which forms Vol. 6 of the *Battle over Britain* game series. This is a good introductory game for those unfamiliar with the WW2 aerial system, while providing some new planes and scenarios for *BoB* veterans. Finally, *NORTH CAPE* is a solitaire game using the *Advanced Salvo!* game system to simulate the Battle of North Cape occurring in 1943. So you have three completely different games on three completely different subjects this time around.

On the subject of variety, and multiple games, I was never too keen on those "five games in one" ads that I grew up with in the early days of our hobby. Most of the time, this simply meant there was one game in the box, with some added scenarios or rules that were somehow supposed to equal "extra games". We all knew what the ads meant, of course, and there was no harm done, but I've always taken the claim of multiple games seriously... whether in the pages of *Panzer-schreck* in years past, or in *Panzer Digest* now. I do hope you have a lot of fun with this issue's three offerings on what all will agree are very different topics and very different game systems.

Special thanks must be extended to the contributors of this issue listed in the masthead. The call for articles/reviews went out rather late this time, and these gentlemen rose to the occasion, and we all benefit from their contributions. A

special shout out goes to our game review editor, Robert "Smitty" Smith, who continues to do yeoman work in writing and collecting timely wargame reviews for our readership. They say brevity is the soul of wit; I believe that brevity is the soul of a good game review as well, and no one does it better than Smitty. Thanks to you all.

I'd like to take a moment to explain the new direction that Minden has taken recently, and the rationale for it. You will notice a few new things about this issue. First, it is in full color. This is new for us, made possible through advancing technology that brings such printing within our means. And while the name *Panzer Digest* hasn't changed, this is the first edition that is not digest sized. It is much more economical to have 46 standard sized 8.5" x 11" pages, than 92 digest sized ones, so this was not a difficult decision to make. The real change concerns our distribution.

Print-on-demand services are revolutionizing our business model. For the past year, I have been busy producing new and reprint editions of games in book format, now available through Amazon.com in North America, Amazon.co.uk in Britain (and Europe), and Wargamevault.com (everywhere). We currently have over a dozen titles available in this way (including the edition you are now reading), with several more coming later in the year. This move helps reduce inventory space, and saves money (especially for overseas customers), while allowing for professional printing and presentation. We'll see whether or not this form of distribution is the wave of the future for the hobby; but it is for us. I should also add that we have nearly forty game and magazine items (some current titles as well as many previously out-of-print Minden designs) now available in PDF format, for gamers who enjoy that option. Please visit [minden\\_games.homestead.com/pdf.html](http://minden_games.homestead.com/pdf.html) for more information about these inexpensive electronic releases.

For those wishing to order directly from Minden as in the past, nothing has

changed; you can continue to do so.

Using alternative distribution allows us to extend our customer reach, cater to domestic and international credit card purchases, and--especially for British and European buyers--offer lower delivery costs. As a result of this arrangement, many new releases will have game components (maps, counters, reference tables) contained within the pages of the book itself, as is the case with this issue of *Panzer Digest*. Gamers may scan, print, and assemble the components on their own. Separate, professionally printed game components are available for purchase separately directly from Minden, should you wish to buy them.

We're also excited about our new line of *BATTLEGAME* book releases, which offer new titles and/or new editions of out-of-print designs. The first ten *BATTLEGAME* books now (or about to be) available are: Vol. 1 *Battle of Dogger Bank*; Vol. 2 *Torpedo Raiders Advanced Ed.*; Vol. 3 *Battle of the Somme*; Vol. 4 *Masada*; Vol. 5 *Beatles Diplomacy*; Vol. 6 *Naval Warfare 1862-1918*; Vol. 7 *Battle over Dunkirk*; Vol. 8 *Battle of the River Plate*; Vol. 9 *Great War Salvo 3rd ed.*; and Vol. 10 *Tsushima, 1905*. Each volume contains a complete game within its pages, along with historical background articles pertaining to the subject. These are also available via Amazon and Wargame Vault, as well as directly from us. Once again, a visit to the Minden website will provide more details about each volume.

For those new to Minden designs, our gaming philosophy may be summed up thusly: *small* beats *large*, and *playable* trumps *complex*. Our goal is to emphasize historicity and playability. The games included in this edition illustrate this philosophy. There's a little bit of everything in this issue--games, reviews, variants, news--and I hope you enjoy everything this edition has to offer.

Editor

