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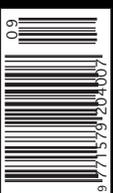
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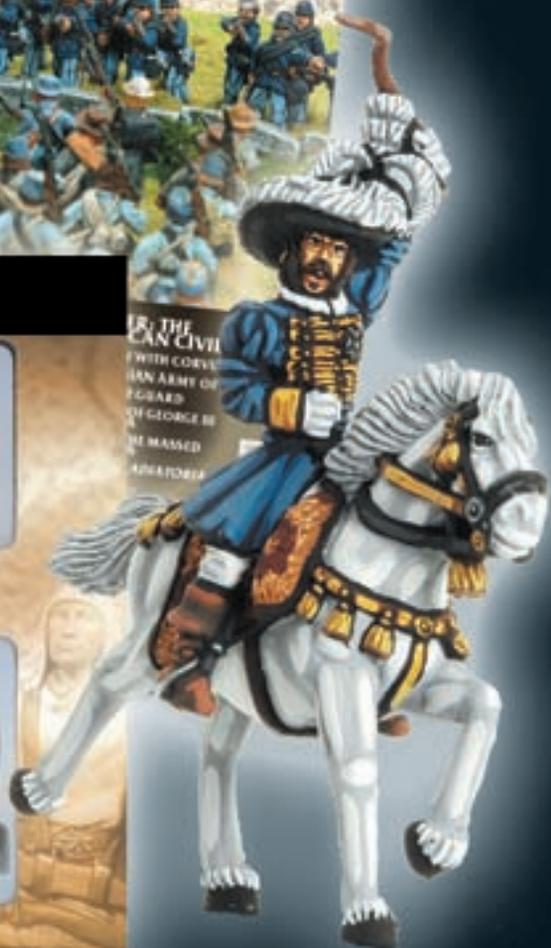
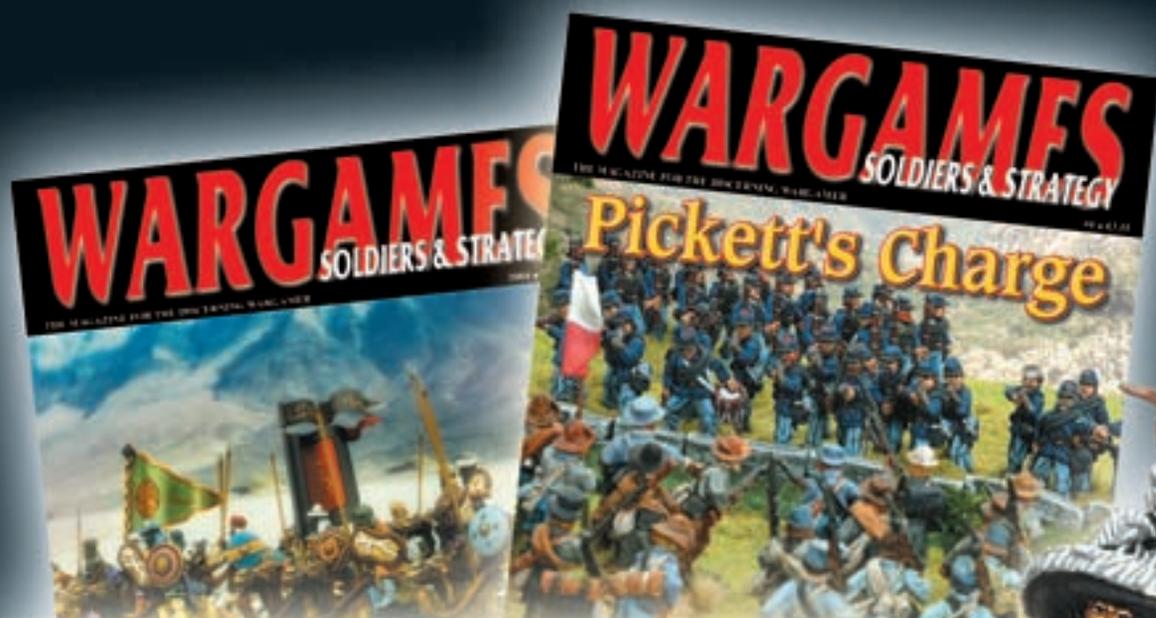
## The Hundred Years War



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## Leader

Spring is in the air...and we're back –a bit crazy (well, like always!). For this month's issue we have picked material especially for our readers who are wargamers. Even though we have focused more on scenarios and rules, we haven't forgotten about the essential articles on military history. And this time around it is not just any old theme; we take a look at the Hundred Years War, perhaps the bitterest conflict of the Middle Ages that began with British hegemony and finished with the resurgence of France from her own ashes.

Plus we will give you the low-down on Salute 2005, our yearly commitment in which we take a glimpse at our hobby on an international level. We also bring you up-to-date with events taking place in Spain, such as the "2 de Mayo" Show. Don't miss a full report on this encounter in our next issue. Strength and Honour!

Wargames Editorial Staff

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# News



## SALUTE ZERO FIVE

As we mentioned in the last issue of S&S, on 23 April, St. George's Day, Salute Zero Five, the largest wargames show in Europe, was held at Olympia Hall in London. We got there about an hour before the doors opened and there was already an enormous queue waiting to enter. On entering we religiously paid the entrance fee (no more and no less than 8 pounds, about 12 euros) and were given a bag that contained a map of the hall and the exclusive figure of St. George and the dragon. Once inside, we were all overcome with hysteria that was more typical of the sales at Harrods than a wargames show. People filed in with a nervous yet excited look on their faces. They held the map in one hand and a backpack (the more restrained) or a trolley (the hoarders) in the other and made a beeline for their favourite stands.

As in previous years, the presence of the sector's companies was astonishing and the number of attendees, unbelievable. Every brand on the market had some sort of representation at the convention. This year organisers added another floor to the three that they had used in the past. Here they located the "Bring & Buy" area (second-hand market), various recreational activities and a break area. This left more space on the other three floors for stands and visitors. Despite this, there were still masses of people in the aisles which made it really difficult to get to some stands.

The exhibitors were brands and stores marketing one or several of their products. We got a close look at Redoubt, Front Rank, Vendel, Gripping Beast, Old Glory, Battle Honours, Essex, Langton, Wargames Foundry, Perry Miniatures, Artizan, Crusader, A&A, Copplestone Castings, The Assault Group, Renegade, Skytrex, Fantassin, Battlefield, SHQ, Bicornie, Westwind, Black Tree Design, Dixon, Chariot, Connosieur, Navigator, Newline Design, Corvus Belli, Peter Pig, Lancashire, Scotia, Venexia and many more. There was also room on the floor for fantasy brands. Their presence is increasing more and more each year. This year we saw stands from Games Workshop, ForgeWorld, Confrontation, Freebooter, Reaper, Crocodile, Celtos, Dragon Rune, Kryomek, etc. Besides miniatures, there were stands from resin scenery manufacturers (Grand Manner, Steve Barber Models), bookstores, publishing companies and magazines specialised in military history (Hersant's Books, Paul Meekin's Books, Osprey Publishing, Wargames Illustrated, Miniature Wargames) or role games (Wizards of the Coast, Leisure Games, Hasbro UK). There were also stands from military illustration stores, others selling T-shirts or films and others selling magnets for bases. You also had Chessex's stand that had every type, price, class and condition of dice you could ever want all packed into 4 metres.

There were demonstration games for all scales and themes, from Antiquity to WWII and, of course, for Warhammer and Confrontation fantasy. And while all this was going on, groups of reenactors dressed as soldiers from the American Civil War or as Late Romans marched around the convention performing their historical recreations and another group of "gladiators" fought tooth and nail. They were truly amazing and the wallops they gave each other seemed real!

Among the hordes of people, we came across the Perry Brothers (who we had the chance to speak with) as well as Alec Brown from Front Rank, Mark Sims from Crusader, Rod Langton from Langton Miniatures, etc. We also ran into quite a few Spanish visitors, about 30 or 40 in all. Some were familiar faces from previous years and others were attending the show for the first time.

Well, between one thing and another, the clock struck five (pm) and much to our regret the show was over. For a little while, we acted like we didn't realise they were closing (I think all of the Spaniards that were there did the same) and were able to get in a last look. But, in the end, we were politely told to leave and we had the door shut behind us as we walked out. Salute Zero Five, the last to be held in the Olympia Hall venue, was over. All of the people that I was able to talk with were very happy with the outcome. The next show, Salute Zero Six, will be held on 22 April 2006 at ExCel-London. We will be sure to give you all the information on this event in future issues of S&S.

Well, as my good friend Pepe said at the end of the show... "Only 365 days left for the next Salute!"

