

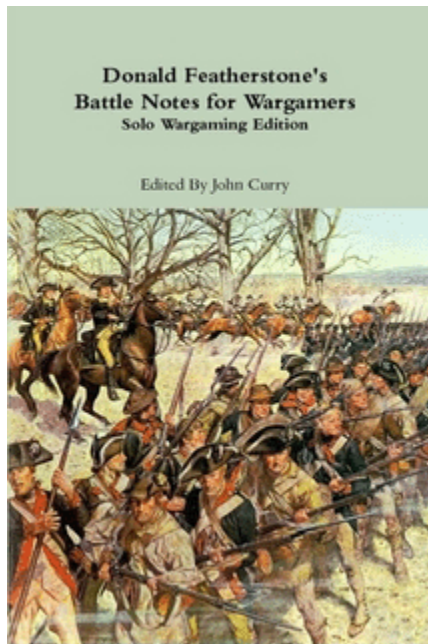
# 'Battle Notes for Wargamers'

by Donald Featherstone

Review by Paul Le Long

Like its companion volume *Wargaming Pike and Shot*, this is a book of scenarios. There are 15 battles from Pharsalus to Pork Chop Hill.

We start off with an introduction covering familiar "Featherstonian" ground – classification of commanders, morale, surprise, chance cards (always useful for soloists) and military possibilities.



Then we go on to the heart of the book – the 15 battles. They all follow the same format: 6-8 pages each, with a map/schematic of the battle plus another map of the wargame table, which is a simpler, more abstract version of the first map.

For each battle there is a description of the battle itself, covering several pages. This is followed by several pages of advice on how to wargame the battle where the author talks about the terrain, classification of commanders, quality of troops and morale and some military possibilities.

The book ends with a few appendices covering figures, terrain and rules – obviously this has dated since 1973 when the book was first published.

The battles covered are:

Pharsalus (48BC)

Poitiers (1356)

Barnet (1471)

Cheriton (1644)

Wynendael (1708)

Prestonpans (1745)

Guilford Courthouse (1781)

Maida (1806)

Aliwal (1846)

Wilson's Creek (1861)

Little Big Horn (1876)

Modder River (1899)

ANZAC landing at Gallipoli (1915)

Raid on St Nazaire (1942)

Pork Chop Hill (1953)





As you can see there are a range of periods here so there is probably something for everyone. Even though it is nearly 40 years old, this book has not really dated that much and the scenarios are all well laid out and easy to set-up as a wargame; this makes it a really worthwhile book to get hold of if you can.

Details:

- **Hardcover**
- **Publisher:** A. H. & A. W. Reed (1973)
- **ISBN-10:** 0589008137
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0589008130

This is currently selling for £15 on Amazon (in the U.S., new \$21.50 and up; used \$7.50 and up). John Curry's History of Wargaming Project has issued a revised copy written with soloists in mind – I don't have a copy so I can't tell you what it's like except to say that it covers the same battles as the original. It will be on my Amazon wish list if anyone's feeling generous!