

Caesar Ratmen

£6.99 (about \$10)
Review by Jonathan Aird



This latest release from Caesar Miniatures moves away from the historical figures that they are well known for, but stays firmly rooted in the crisp sculpting and moulding that they are justly famed for. These figures are quite simply superb -- beautifully proportioned, posed in believable but dramatic stances and -- with a sprue of shield variants included -- wonderfully varied beyond the bald statement that the box has 38 figures in 11 different poses. The Ratmen portrayed have a distinct likeness to the Skaven of Games Workshop fame -- but without the cartoonish sculpting style or the presence of hand guns and other such technological weapons. In fact, the sculpts are really very nice with a lot of detail on figures so small.



Caesar have imagined their Ratmen as a humanoid race of warriors with jutting jaws and prominent oversized incisors. They wear a variety of ragged costumes and most carry different

types of curved daggers, swords or spears, and most also have a wicked looking double bladed punching knife. The other popular Ratman weapons are the bow and sling, with eight of the figures so equipped.



Amongst the poses, there are variations in height with the larger figures clearly meant to be leaders, whilst there are packs of younger warriors -- that's how I intend to use them anyway. With a little careful selection, there are enough figures in one box to provide a full Hordes Of The Things (HOTT) army -- using the following suggested army list:

Hero Leader x1 at 4AP
Wizard x1 at 4AP
Spear 1-2 at 2AP each
Shooters 1-2 at 2AP each
Blades 1-2 at 2AP each
Warband of younger warriors 2-3 at 2 AP each
Sneakers - Ratmen assassins (no shields) x 1 at 3AP

Lurkers - Ratmen emerging from concealed burrows - 1 element at 1AP

I'm also going to recruit a spare 28mm ratman/skaven as a Behemoth element worth 4AP -- any figure standing a substantial 28mm high will more than do for a giant of the species. The other quite obvious use for these figures would be as stand-ins in a Warhammer or Vis Magica or similar fantasy rules type army -- 20mm has become increasingly a viable option for these big battle games, if approached with a little imagination. As I hope the pictures demonstrate, this is an excellent set and well worth picking up if fantasy wargames are an interest.