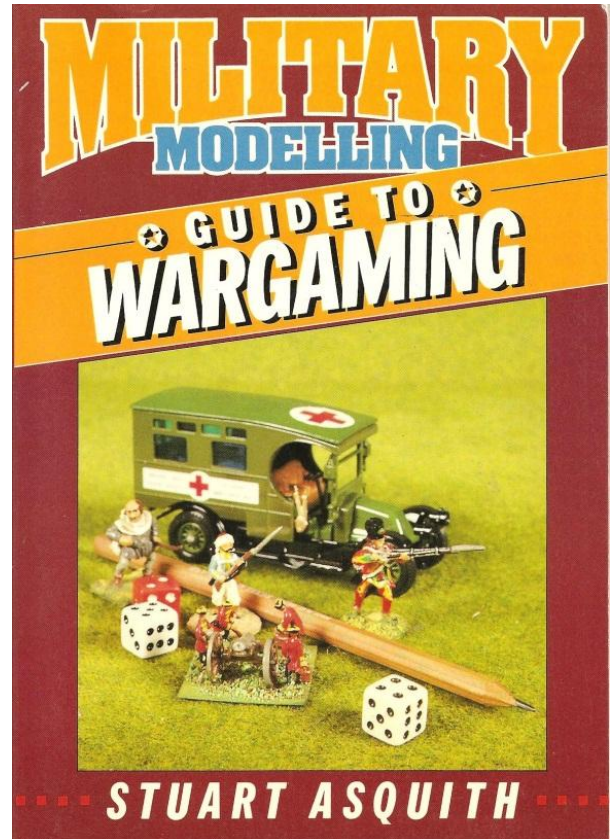


Military Modelling Guide to Wargaming

By Stuart Asquith

Review by Jonathan Aird

The majority of the books being reviewed in this roundup of all the classic wargame books date to the 1960s and 1970s. However, most – if not all – were out of print or generally unavailable by the mid-to-late 1980s. Established wargamers had all the old books they needed, but naturally there was a new generation joining the hobby that now lacked a “guiding light.” This apparent gap in the market was filled by a series of volumes from Argus Books published under the banner of “Military Modelling Guide to....” Several of these were written by Stuart Asquith, a well-known wargamer by then. Having taken over Terry Wise’s Observation Post column in *Military Modelling* magazine and also being a regular contributor to that magazine (and *Battle* before it) on wargame subjects, he was well placed to take on the mantle of mentor to the new gamer.



This title acts as a general introduction to wargaming and aims at the same sort of entry level information as Featherstone’s “Wargames” had done some 25 years earlier. The book is split into three sections – *The Background*, *The Rules*, and *In Closing*. The first of these sections gives a somewhat scattergun of general information such as a short history of wargaming, scale, figure types, the ethics of wargaming, measuring devices and so on.

Nicely laid out, and brimming with Black & White Photographs

The main part of the volume – *The Rules* – is actually a potted history of warfare with simple rules for every identified wargaming “period.” And these are very simple rules – there are no morale or command rules at all and no real

assessment of the effects of cover on firing. They will give a fast, and bloody, game – possibly too fast and bloody in the modern period! Each subsection covering a certain period of history is also provided with a reading list offering more detailed information on the battles, the uniforms, the weapons and the major commanders.

In Closing is the final short section providing information on how to research a wargame period, a very full list of figure manufacturers (many, sadly, now gone) and a comprehensive guide to published wargaming literature.

In all honesty, the experienced wargamer will find little of great value within the covers of *The “Military Modelling Guide to Wargaming”* – but for the complete (or junior) beginner it would have some value. And evidence of this is that the book was reprinted in the first year of publication, so it clearly sold well and also encouraged Argus Books to bring out further, more useful, books subsequently (several of which were also by Stuart Asquith). It’s certainly an interesting snapshot of how the hobby had changed and expanded in its first couple of decades, and a reminder of how much more it has changed again in the 25 years since 1987.

Copies are currently (June 2012) available on Amazon UK for £2-£3 (with of course the usual few optimists wanting £50-£75!).

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