

Sword & Lance journal (1975)

Review by Rob Morgan

Quite how it comes to pass that in my 'archive' or what my wife persistently refers to as 'the boxes in the attic,' I only have one copy of this journal, No. 10 in the series and published just before Christmas 1975, I really don't know! Over 40 years old, and from the 'golden age,' I came upon it for the first time in ages, looking for material on USN China Station gunboats. 'Wargames,' 'Boardgames,' and 'Uniform Information' were its thrust, according to the cover. This issue's a touch Napoleonic in flavour, with articles on the loss of Eagles in the Peninsula (Wellington called them 'Cuckoos for Chelsea') and one on the Hanoverian Militia and 'Free German' troops in Allied service in 1814. Some nice reviews too. Did you know that in 1975 Minifigs foot models were a mere 8 pence each? Not to mention that Skytrex WWI 1/3000th battleships rattled out at a decent 25p each! It has a note by the renowned John Bennet on page 17, incidentally, all about the ludicrous problems caused by figure scales.

I thumbed through issue number 10, and found part 4 of a series by Alan Buttery on 'The Soldiers of Pharaonic Egypt.' This one was on military emblems and standards and very useful and interesting. But, as I don't have any other 'parts,' I wondered, as I would, if anyone knew more about this series. Perhaps it dealt with ships and war at sea? Alan's work drew some interesting debate, and the same issue has a two-page discussion on links with his own 'Armies and Enemies,' published by the WRG in 1974, a book I still have on my shelves. It comes to pass from this debate that there is (or then was) only one reference to the Egyptians using cavalry! Maybe? But then I've never subscribed to *Slingshot*.

Anyone know anything? In 1975, by the way, annual subs to *Sword & Lance* were £2 per annum, or \$6 US!