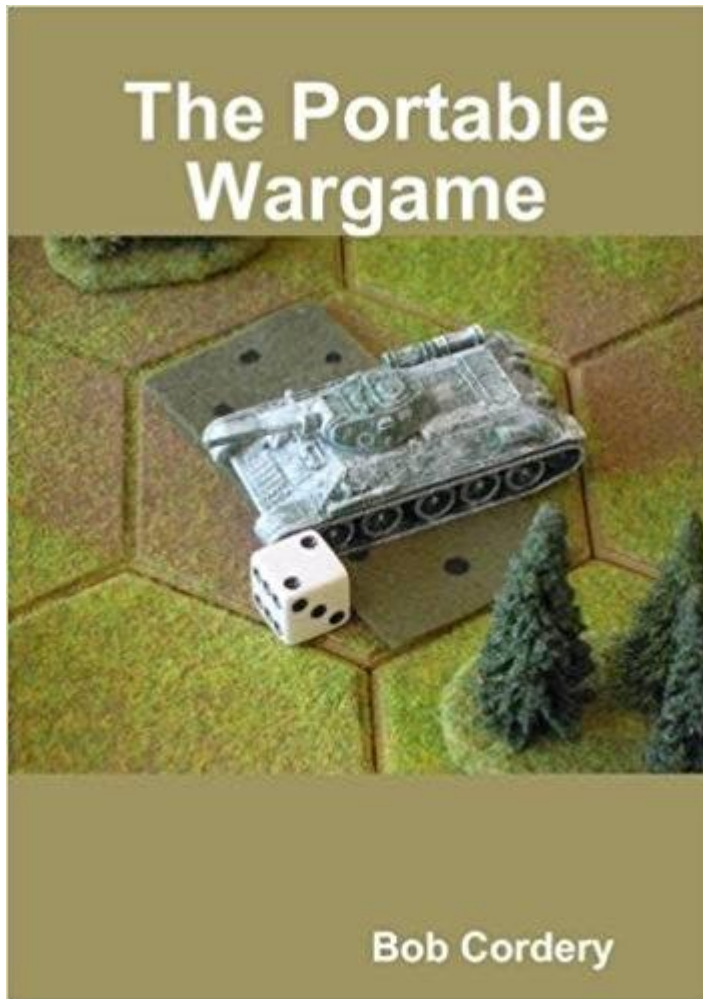


The Portable Wargame

Review by Mike Crane

The *Portable Wargame* was written by Bob Cordery to produce rules for portable wargames involving small armies on small gridded playing boards. For several years, Cordery has written a daily blog, *Wargaming Miscellany*, in which he has expressed his enthusiasm for smaller, quicker games. This book is a good example of his thinking.



After the introduction, Cordery writes about the history of gridded games. The photos of the historical games are very enlightening. Then he continues with helpful information about square and hex grids. The definitions of words and terms may seem unnecessary for a veteran player but they are given for the benefit of beginners.

Next, the mounting of figures and models on bases to represent units is considered. After this, exhaustion points, turn sequences, movement, combat and weapon ranges for portable wargames are all defined. Then he deals with solo gaming and the sudden death option.

Two sets of rules are included, one set for conflicts occurring in the late 19th century and another for actions occurring in the early and middle 20th century. A

sample wargame with a battle report is included for both sets of rules and each game is profusely illustrated with a map and photographs.

The first game is a colonial battle called 'The Hunt for the Madhi.' It is set in the Sudan and is played on a board with a grid of squares. The combat mechanism is different from

the one used in *The Clash of Empires!* but is effective and is used for both sets of rules in this book.

The second game is played on a board with a grid of hexes and the setting is the Eastern Front in WWII. This game is called "The Soviet Combined Arms Assault." Both games are enjoyable and demonstrate the use of the rules.

The book reviewed was a 102-page paperback, ISBN 978-1-326-90458-6. (The text is also available in hardback form and as a digital edition.) The publisher is Eglington Books of London, and the copyright is 2017. The dimensions of the book are 5.8 x 0.3 x 8.3 inches, and the price of a new book on Amazon begins at \$6.99 + shipping and tax. At that price, one certainly gets his money's worth.

The Portable Wargame also contains a Table of Contents in the front and an Appendix, Bibliography, and End Notes at the back.

Cordery plans to publish other rule books in the future covering the Napoleonic wars, naval wars, air wars, etc. If they are all as good as this one, they will certainly be worth waiting for!