

Dark Alliance - 1/72nd War Trolls Set 1

Review: Jonathan Aird



The box art tells it all really – 1/72nd scale War Trolls advancing in a menacing manner through a desolate landscape with a Dark Tower with an Every Watchful Eye atop it. Yes, Dark Alliance are once more taking inspiration from The Lord of The Rings (and

specifically the movies of the book).

There's another couple of important things on that cover though – the trolls in the background are carrying catapults, and sure enough there are other sets available from Dark Alliance that provide those figures, and the crews for them with huge rocks ready to fire. However I have not (as yet!) invested in these on the grounds that I think that they are silly.

I know, it's all Fantasy but one is still allowed to have preferences – big trolls with armour and swords I am all for, catapults which could in a sensible world just be dragged along by hundreds of orcs being carried instead by trolls I am less attracted to. The other thing to note is that the box under review here contains 4 poses and 8 figures – the other sets of trolls from Dark Alliance have only 4 figures in them. So this is, in my opinion, not only the most useful box of trolls it is also the best value box of trolls. I believe we call this a win-win!

The following photographs show each of the poses, and it's clear that these are not your everyday hill troll but much more in the way of the "perfected" Olog-Hai – capable of being regimented and trained to use their viscous weapons. There is so much detail in these excellently posed figures and as a set they offer the gamer the chance to build up a really impressive set of units – a few boxes of these and one could have units of 10 or 20 trolls stomping all

over the battlefield in a most pleasing (visually and gaming-ly) way. Few will be able to stand before such a force!

The figures also remind me a lot of the Armoured Troll that was produced by Asgard Miniatures in the early 1980s, a figure which was one of my earliest purchases and which I always wanted to have in the double digit numbers but could never really afford / fully justify. Well, that's a problem now solved by this excellent set!







The attentive reader may, by now, have detected that I like this set – and I do, a lot. I can't really fault it in any way – I'm not quite such a fan of the sword bearing troll with an armoured facemask – I think the various helmets are more impressive but that really is the slightest of issues – and this was a style adopted in the Lord of the Rings films so it is understandable that it has been reproduced here.

The Troll figures stand an impressive 55mm tall – which makes them suitably tall for 20mm figures but they also look just fine with the true 25mm figures that Games Workshop produced for their Lord of the Rings wargame rules, as illustrated here.



They might be a little bit large with 15mm figures – although maybe they could be classified as Giants at that scale. For the 54mm gamer they would be perfect for a more brutal looking orc or similar monster.

Naturally they can be used far and wide beyond the obvious Middle Earth setting – few are the fantasy rules and backgrounds that don't include some sort of troll-like monster. Cut the sword away and that "face mask" troll would be just right for a larger than life supervillain in a 28mm figures superhero game - or even a hero like a scaled up version of The Fantastic 4's The Thing – as he advances rapidly it certainly looks as if it might be "clobberin' time"!

At the risk of being repetitive, I'll state again that a reputable online model store – like Hannants, but there are many others – should be used to obtain these figures. They will sell them for £8.99 a box (or an equivalent reasonable dollar price). Many Ebay and Amazon traders will offer them at twice that price, or even more.