

Welcome to Gary Mitchell's Wargames Page.

Page last updated 17th January 2013

In addition to being a writer Gary is a professional teacher of history: *this page only covers his 'civilian' work on historical and gaming simulation.*



(BTW the pics are Gary 'reenacting' a 'Viking' invasion with elder brother Chris, back in the Sixties; a Birmingham newspaper article from the mid-Seventies; when he had hair in the Eighties and at a Bristol show in the Noughties with his Dad, step brother-in-law Stephen, and Steve Purbrick of the 'SFVM' roadshow team).



'Veteran wargamer and author'* Gary has been a keen historian since childhood, and currently belongs the Southbourne Tabletop and Boardgamers Club (STaB) ([website www.stab.org.uk](http://www.stab.org.uk)) . Gary contributes to the club newsletter, 'The Gladius' and has written material for top international journals '[Miniature Wargames](#)' (for whom he wrote the monthly sci-fi / fantasy review column '[Darker Horizons](#)'



between 2009 and 2013); ['Battlegames'](#), ['Wargames Illustrated'](#), ['Wargames, Soldiers & Strategy, The Ancible'](#), and for ['Ragnorak'](#), the journal of [The Society Of Fantasy And Science Fiction Wargamers](#), of whom he is a member. Gary also now writes for charity review site [Reviewing Wargames](#).

Following his retirement as regular ['Miniature Wargames'](#) correspondent Gary has already concluded negotiations with another gaming publication. Watch this space!

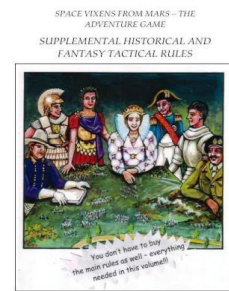
* *'Miniature Wargames'*, August 2009 - a polite way of saying 'old'.

'SVfM' - AND MORE!



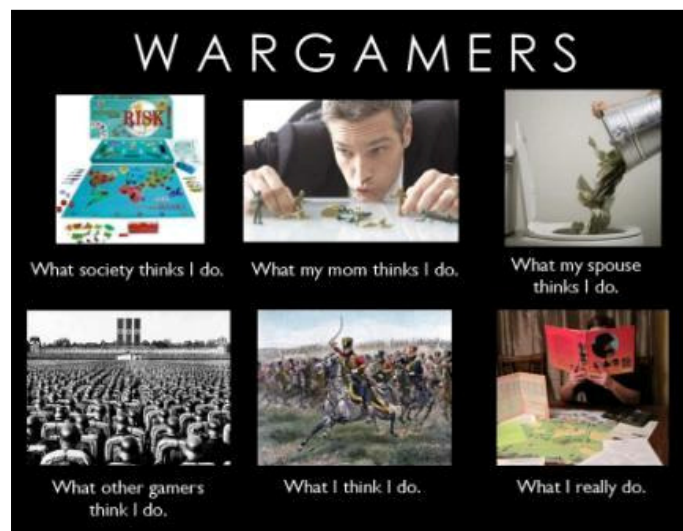
These days Gary is most infamous in gaming circles for his role-play-wargame ['Space Vixens From Mars'](#) - including the Historical and Fantasy spin-off rules and miniatures.

Thus far Gary has written one purely historical novel - 'Pax Romana', and the quasi-historical 'The Legend Of Arthur' and 'Amazon'.



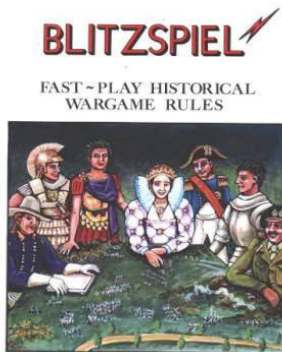
As a historical gamer one of Gary's main interests is counterfactual history, the 'what might have been' conflicts of the past. From Operation Sealion, to Anglo-French intervention in the ACW, 'The Old Git' has an angle on it. That's mainly it - apart from mentioning that Gary has (past and present) collected over two hundred wargame armies and fleets from all periods of history.

Back in the day Gary has designed many rule sets *'The Universal Soldier'*, (land warfare), *'La Garde Recule'* (a Napoleonic set with Pete Lowe), *'England Expects'* (Napoleonic naval), *'Sink The Belgrano!'* (C.20th naval) and *'Les Champs De Mars'* (a DBA derivative). He has also devised *'Diplomacy'* variants and the board game *'Grand Strategy'* (with input from Eddie Kenworthy and James Sinclair). In the mid 1990's Gary produced a successful set of sci-fi role-play and combat rules entitled *'Invasion Of The Geography Teachers From Mars'* (not to be confused with the *Radio Boscombe* tape of the same name), and these have now evolved into *'Space Vixens From Mars - The Adventure Game'*. Along with members of [STaB](#) Gary is currently working on a 'back of a postcard' naval rules set called *'Warship!'*



SCROLL DOWN FOR INFO ON THE 'BLITZSPIEL' RULE SYSTEM AND A LIST OF GARY'S GAMING ARTICLES...

'BLITZSPIEL'



by Gary Mitchell

Based upon years of developmental and playtesting experience *'Blitzspiel'* is a fast-play and fun historical wargames system for 15mm-25mm miniatures. Together with 'add-on' rules for specific eras the basic rules cover all military history - from the first civilisations of ancient Mesopotamia to the Gulf War.

In addition to full gaming rules *'Blitzspiel'* comes complete with easy guides to getting started, research, modelling, and with starter 'army lists' suggesting basic forces for the major conflicts of history. All rules are numerically cross-referenced for ease of play and provide a complete system for gaming military developments throughout the ages.

After general play information the rules detail how to organise forces for battle - this explanatory chapter also includes a 'points system' to ensure games are fairly balanced between competing armies of differing quality. Instructions are provided on how to set up a playing area and deploy forces, plus a helpful 'Sequence Of Play' and a unique 'Nightfall' system for halting games for re-starting at a later date.

The rules next cover the mechanics of play - the Command and Control of forces, their Manoeuvring over the table, Shooting And Firing, Close Combat, and finally Field Engineering and fortification. Provision is also made for warships and aircraft.

As suggested above *'Blitzspiel'* is more than just a set of rules - it is a complete game system. Appendix 1 explains how to conduct further research, choose and paint a model army and terrain, and includes a useful bibliography plus details of how to contact local wargames clubs and manufacturers.

Appendix 2 contains rules for running a wargames campaign, whilst Appendix 3 details variations to 'stands' players may wish to use - such as non-standard armoured vehicles and how to classify the more unusual troops and stratagems from history.

Appendix 4 is the most exhaustive, providing an historical overview and guide to each of the distinct historical eras identified by the rules - The Ancient Era (to c.500 CE), The Medieval Era (c.500 to c.1490), The Renaissance (c.1490 to c.1700), The Flintlock Era (c.1700 to c.1850), The Industrial Era (c.1850 to c.1925), and finally The Mechanised Era (since c.1925). Each section includes a brief history of military development within the period and short 'starter' list guides to the historical armies that could be fielded, together with details of their weapons, equipment and doctrine.

Finally blank templates and a quick reference sheet are provided as aids to play.

Novice or grizzled old veteran looking for something new - *'Blitzspiel'* is for you.

Interested? See www.spacevixensfrommars.com



A big *'Blitzspiel'* game was played on 18th June 2005 - the 190th anniversary of the Battle Of Waterloo. The battle was refought on five hours using over 1500 figures. This time the French won Wellington's 'damn close run thing'.

'Blitzspiel' let's you fight even the biggest battles rapidly and with historical accuracy - in this case Grouchy *did* delay the Prussians - Napoleon did chuck the Imperial Guard in early - and Wellington decided Hougomont was indefensible!! Also - for those of you into counter-fictional history - Major Sharpe *didn't* shoot the Prince of Orange!

LIST OF GARY'S *'The Ancible'* ARTICLES, MANY STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episodes 24.1 - 'Tribunal'. Issue 3 Apr. 2010.

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episodes 25.1 - 'Bar Fight'. (FREE GAME) Issue 3 Apr. 2010.

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episodes 25E - 'Horswell Common'. Issue 5 Sept. 2010.

LIST OF GARY'S *'Battlegames'* ARTICLES, MANY STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-

'Sharpe's Pride And Prejudice'. Issue 2 May/June 2006.

'Gaming The Balance' (Harry Turtledove's alternate WWII). Issue 20 November/December 2009.

Book Review *'Martian Empires'* Issue 11 January/February. 2008

LIST OF GARY'S *'The Gazebo'* ARTICLES, MANY STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-

'The Lost Patrol' Issue 1 April 2012 (PDF magazine – visit http://issuu.com/the_gazebo/docs/the_gazebo).

'1984: A Very British Revolution' Issue 2 August 2012 (PDF magazine – visit http://issuu.com/the_gazebo/docs/the_gazebo).

**LIST OF GARY'S '*Miniature Wargames*' ARTICLES, MANY STILL
AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-**

'The normal rambling star of every issue delivers gold again. Darker Horizons is several pages of gold for Sci-fi and Fantasy players. Crammed full of release information, options, web addresses and general ranting it is worth the cover price on its own to me. Well done Gary Mitchell. I am looking forward to when this section gets its own magazine'. Gavin Syme (<http://www.gavinsyme.co.uk/> June, 2012)

DARKER HORIZONS (before MW 343 'Dark Horizons')

'Episode One - Yes, It's My Real Name', MW 317 Sep. 2009

'Episode Two - The True Faith', MW 318 Oct. 2009

'Episode Three - A Sense Of Wonder', MW 319 Nov. 2009

'Episode Four - Anglepoise', MW 320 Dec. 2009

'Episode Five - Starfleet Academy', MW 321 Jan. 2010

'Episode Six - That's Life', MW 322 Feb. 2010

'Episode Seven - The March Of Ides', MW 323 Mar. 2010

'Episode Eight - April Cool', MW 324 Apr. 2010

'Episode Nine - Also Sprach Gerry Anderson'. MW 325 May 2010

'Pulp Friction'. MW 325 May 2010

'Episode Ten - Turn On, June In, Drop Out'. MW 326 June 2010

'Episode Eleven - Hotter Than The Sun?'. MW 327 July 2010

'Episode Twelve - Amy Pond: The Jury's In' MW 329 Sept. 2010

'Episode Thirteen - More Tea, Vicar?' MW 330 Oct. 2010

'Episode Fourteen - The Thrill Of The Chase' MW 331 Nov. 2010

'Episode Fifteen - Never Write Off The Germans' MW 332 Dec. 2010

'Episode Sixteen - The Festive Spirit' MW 333 Jan. 2011

'Episode Seventeen - What The Papers Say' MW 334 Feb. 2011

***'Episode Eighteen - Things To Do When It Rains'* MW 335 Mar. 2011**

***'Episode Nineteen - Aardvarks Are Go!'* MW 336 Apr. 2011**

***'Episode Twenty - Juggling Act'* MW 337 May 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-One - Indoor Hang-Gliding On Ice'* MW 338 June 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-Two - Kath Kidston Knew My Father'* MW 339 Jly 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-Three - I'm Not Hitler'* MW 340 Aug 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-Four - Keeping Busy'* MW 341 Sept 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-Five - Waterloo Road'* MW 342 Oct 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-Six - Strike!'* MW 343 Nov 2011**

'Episode Twenty-Seven' - DARKER HORIZONS SPECIAL - Issue the 13th - Winter 2011

Foreward by Dave Clubmember (*Intro*) / View From The Bridge (*Column*) / Sensor Report (*Reviews*) / Atlam Convoy (*Article*) / Tomorrow's War (*Review*)

***'Episode Twenty-Eight - The Shape Of Things To Come'* MW 344 Dec 2011**

***'Episode Twenty-Nine – Alternate Title'* MW 345 Jan 2012**

***'Episode Thirty – Keep Calm And Carry On'* MW 346 Feb 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-One – Build A Rocket, Boys'* MW 347 Mar 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Two – Be My Guest'* MW 348 Apr 2012 (as Dave Clubmember)**

***'Episode Thirty-Three – Ward 101'* MW 349 May 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Four – 3D Or Not 3D?'* MW 350 Jun 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Five – Sir Patrick Has A Point'* MW 351 Jul 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Six – Redundancy'* MW 352 Aug 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Seven – Headline Subject To Change'* MW 353 Sept 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Eight – Reality Check'* MW 354 Oct 2012**

***'Episode Thirty-Nine – Blimey Smithy, Jerry's Everywhere'* MW 355 Nov 2012**

***'Episode Forty – Random Chance?'* MW 356 Dec 2012**

***'Episode Forty-One – Over And Out'* MW 357 Jan 2013**

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 318 Oct. 2009

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 319 Nov. 2009

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 321 Jan. 2010

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 322 Feb. 2010

Figure Review - 'Black Pyramid', MW 325 May 2010

Game Review - '*Faction Wars*', MW 326 June 2010

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 329 Sept. 2010

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 330 Oct. 2010

Sci-Fi & Fantasy Reviews, MW 331 Nov. 2010

'It's Us Jim...' Not '*Star Trek*' Figures, MW 335 Mar. 2011

Game Review - '*7TV*', MW 337 May 2011

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Game Review - '*Dwarf King's Hold: Dead Rising*', MW 339 Jly 2011

Review - '*Mantic Games Orx*', MW 344 Dec 2011

Rule Review – '*Zombie TV*', MW 345 Jan 2012

Rule Review – '*A Call To Arms: Star Fleet*', MW 347 Mar 2012

Rule Review – '*Tribes Of Legend*', MW 348 Apr 2012

Figure Review – '*Blue Moon Miniatures*', MW 347 Mar 2012

Review – '*Mantic Monday*', MW 349 May 2012

Review – '*There Is An Alternative*', MW 349 May 2012

Review – '*The Cyprian Rift*', MW 351 Jul 2012

Rule Review – '*Empire Of The Dead*', MW 351 Jul 2012

Figure Review – *'Lucky Black Cat'*, MW 352 Aug 2012

Review – *'Building Up A Head Of Steampunk'*, MW 352 Aug 2012

Review - *'An Inspector Calls?'* (*Games Expo 2012*), MW 353 Sept 2012

Review – *'Kings Of War'*, MW 354 Oct 2012

Conversion Article – *'Reader's Skives'*, MW 355 Nov 2012

Product Review – *'Zombie Vixens'*, MW 357 Jan 2013

Review – *'Fanticide'*, MW 358 Feb 2013

Review – *'The World Of Might And Magic'*, MW 358 Feb 2013

GENERAL ARTICLES

'The Wargame As Costume Drama - A Scriptwriter's Approach'. MW 73 June 1989.

'The Wars That Never Were'. MW 81 Feb. 1990

'A Little Trip - New Orleans 1815'. MW 112 & 113 Sept./Oct. 1992

'STaB 2002'. MW 235 Dec. 2002

'Cortes - Mission Impossible'. MW 236 Jan. 2003

'The Amazons - Girl Power To The Nth Degree'. MW 309 Jan. 2009 (*for more on this theme see the author's novel 'Amazon'*).

'Santa Claus Is Gunning You Down - A Festive Game'. (FREE GAME) MW 320 Dec. 2009

'SELWG's Back'. MW 321 Jan. 2010 (with Andrew Hubback)

'Open Warfare'. MW 322 Feb. 2010 (with Chris Scott)

'Pilgrimage To Penarth'. MW 323 Mar. 2010 (with Chris Scott)

'Gaming In A Cavalier Fashion'. MW 325 May 2010 (with Barry Slemmings)

'A Tale Of Two Salutes'. MW 327 July 2010 (with Barry Slemmings)

'Something Completely Different' / 'Hammers Slammers - Not Just Vietnam In Space?' MW 328 Aug 2010

'In Living Colours' MW 331 Nov 2010 (with Chris Scott)

'We Salute You' MW 338 June 2011 (with Andrew Hubback)

'South West Showtime' MW 339 Jly 2011 (with Nigel Pell)

'Do We Look Bovvied?' MW 342 Oct 2011 (with Nigel Pell)

'Autumn Season Collection' MW 344 Dec 2011 (with Nigel Pell)

'To Bosworth And Beyond' MW 345 Jan 2012

'Shock Of The New' MW 351 Jul 2012 (with Andrew Hubback)

'Boxing Clever At Fisticuffs' MW 352 Aug 2012 (with Nigel Pell)

'Apocalypse Vow – The Mayans' MW 352 Aug 2012

'Wargames Heaven At Valhalla' MW 353 Sept 2012 (with Nigel Pell)

'Giving Your Game A Kickstarter' MW 353 Sept 2012

'Rain Doesn't Stop Play' MW 355 Nov 2012 (with Nigel Pell)

'Colours Us Impressed' MW 356 Dec 2012 (with Andrew Hubback)

'On The Attack' MW 356 Dec 2012 (with Nigel Pell)

Book Review 'Fantasy Gaming: A Guide To Fantasy Role Play And Tabletop Battles' MW 291 Jly. 2007

Book Review 'Armies Of Arcana' MW 310 Feb. 2009

Book Review 'Arthur And The Fall Of Roman Britain' MW 310 Feb. 2009

Book Review 'Aethelred II - King Of The English' MW 314 Jun. 2009

Book Review 'Napoleon' MW 316 Aug. 2009

Book Reviews 'Napoleonic Scenarios Vol. 4 - Against the Ottomans', 'Champs De Mars - 1806 Campaign Against Prussia', 'Snappy Nappy', 'Warfare In The Age Of Napoleon' MW 317 Sep. 2009

Figure Review 'Perry Miniatures 28mm Wars Of The Roses' MW 323 Mar. 2010

Book Reviews 'Champs De Mars - 1806-1807 Campaign Against Russia', 'The Wargamer's Annual - Volume 1' MW 325 May 2010

Journal Review 'Wargames Recon' MW 326 June 2010

Book Review 'The Amber Treasure' MW 327 July 2010

Figure Review '*Cutting Edge Miniatures*' MW 330 Oct. 2010

Figure Reviews '*Spencer Smith Miniatures*', '*Frontline Wargaming*', '*Sgt. Major's Miniatures*', '*Plastic Soldier Company*' MW 331 Nov. 2010

Rule Reviews '*Imperial Lances*' MW 331 Nov. 2010

Book Review '*Wargaming On A Budget*' MW 331 Nov. 2010

Rules Reviews '*Field Of Glory Renaissance*', '*Age Of Honor*', '*General De Brigade Deluxe Edition*' MW 333 Jan. 2011

Rule Review '*Hail Caesar*' MW 338 June 2011

Rule Review '*Zouave II*' MW 342 Oct 2011

Book Review '*The Last Argument Of Kings*' MW 344 Dec 2011

Rule Review '*Witchfinder General: Days Of Revelation*' MW 344 Dec 2011

Book Review '*Hail Caesar Army Lists Volume 1: Biblical & Classical*' MW 345 Jan 2012

Rule Review '*Condottiere*' MW 350 Jun 2012

Rule Review '*Pike & Shotte*' MW 351 Jul 2012

Game Review '*Angels 20*' MW 351 Jul 2012

Book Review '*Hail Caesar Army Lists Volume 2: Late Antiquity To Early Medieval*' MW 353 Sept 2012

Rule Review '*Dux Bellorum*' MW 353 Sept 2012

Rule Review '*Bolt Action*' MW 354 Oct 2012

Rule Review '*Dux Britanniarum*' MW 355 Nov 2012

Rule Review '*Setting The East Ablaze*' MW 355 Nov 2012

Book Review '*Offa And The Mercian Wars*' MW 356 Dec 2012

Book Review '*The Wargamer's Annual*' MW 357 Jan 2013

Book Review '*Cold War Plans That Never Happened*' MW 357 Jan 2013

STARTER GUIDE SERIES 1

***'The Royalist Army Of The English Civil War And The Battle Of Edgehill / The Roman Army And The Boudican Revolt. Pt 1.* MW 182 July 1998**

'The Royalist Army Of The English Civil War And The Battle Of Edgehill / The Roman Army And The Boudican Revolt. Pt. 2. MW 183 Aug. 1998

'The French Army Of Napoleon And The Battle Of Corunna / The British Army Of 1944 And The Battle Of Normandy. Pt. 1. MW 184 Sept. 1998

'The French Army Of Napoleon And The Battle Of Corunna / The British Army Of 1944 And The Battle Of Normandy. Pt. 2. MW 185 Oct. 1998

'The English Army Of The Early Middle Ages And The Battle Of The Standard / The Parliamentary Army Of The English Civil War And The Battle Of Selby. Pt. 1. MW 186 Nov. 1998

'The English Army Of The Early Middle Ages And The Battle Of The Standard / The Parliamentary Army Of The English Civil War And The Battle Of Selby. Pt. 2. MW 187 Dec. 1998

'The British Army Of Wellington And The Battle Of Salamanca / The Modern Russian Army, the Cold War, And Struggles Since. Pt. 1. MW 188 Jan. 1999

'The British Army Of Wellington And The Battle Of Salamanca / The Modern Russian Army, The Cold War, And Struggles Since. Pt. 2. MW 189 Feb. 1999

'The Ancient Britons And The Defence Of Hengistbury Head / The Union Army Of The American Civil War And The Battle Of Elhorn Tavern. Pt. 1. MW 190 Mar. 1999

'The Ancient Britons And The Defence Of Hengistbury Head / The Union Army Of The American Civil War And The Battle Of Elhorn Tavern. Pt. 2. MW 191 Apr. 1999

'The German Army Of 1944 And The Battle Of The Bulge / The Medieval Welsh And Their Struggle For Independence. Pt. 1. MW 192 May 1999

'The German Army Of 1944 And The Battle Of The Bulge / The Medieval Welsh And Their Struggle For Independence. Pt. 2. MW 193 Jun. 1999

STARTER GUIDE SERIES 2

'The Prussian Army Of The Wars Of Liberation'. MW 223 Dec. 2001

'The Soviet Army Of The Great Patriotic War And The Battle Of Kursk'. MW 224 Jan. 2002

'The Scots Army Of Robert The Bruce And The Battle Of Bannockburn'. MW 225 Feb. 2002

'The Imperialist Army Of The Thirty Years War'. MW 226 Mar. 2002

'The Austrian Army Of The Napoleonic Wars'. MW 227 Apr. 2002

'The Modern United States Marine Corps'. MW 228 May. 2002

'The Seleucid Empire'. MW 229 Jun. 2002

'Queen Victoria's Army And The Battle Of Rorke's Drift'. MW 230 July 2002

'The German Army Of 1941 And Operation Barbarossa'. MW 231 Aug. 2002

'The Confederate Army Of The American Civil War And The Battle Of Newmarket'. MW 232 Sept. 2002

'The Swedish Army Of Gustavus Adolphus'. MW 233 Oct. 2002

'The Army Of The Roman Republic And The Battle Of Zama'. MW 234 Nov. 2002

LIST OF GARY'S '*Ragnorak*' ARTICLES, MANY STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episode 15.5 - The Pope Must Die'. #50.

'Dr Who - The Regicides Of Pokeham'. #53.

'Planning Ahead - Space Vixens From Mars, Book 6'. #53.

'PDF And The SFSFW'. #54.

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episode 25B - Divine Wind: The 'Amazon' Incident'. #54.

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episode 25C - Divine Wind: Everything I Do I Do It For You'. #57.

'Space Vixens From Mars - Episode 14A - God Moves'. #58.

'Star Trek - The Drake Incident'. #59.

Figure Review '*Arthurian Figures*' #50

Book Review '*MARS - Savage Worlds*' #55

LIST OF GARY'S '*Wargames Illustrated*' ARTICLES, MANY STILL AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-

Figures Reviews '28mm Perry Mercenary Infantry 1450-1500' ['May 2011 Online Content'](#)

Book Review 'Black Powder' ['July 2010 Online Content'](#)

**LIST OF GARY'S 'Wargames, Soldiers & Strategy' ARTICLES, MANY STILL
AVAILABLE FROM THE MAGAZINE:-**

Book Review 'To War With Wellington' #58

Book Review 'Warriors - British Fighting Heroes' #64
