

DBM - A bad thing ?

Although I play DBM and DBR most of the time, and enjoy doing so, it struck me that these sets of rules prevent us from wargaming a number of interesting periods. How can this be - after all DBM allows us to use a wide range of armies from a wide time period and always find an opponent and play a fair game or so the perceived wisdom of WRG tells us.

However it is generally accepted that the earlier armies are no match for the later ones (unless they're my Sumerians of course !) and people tend to select the better armies. After all nobody wants to spend ages painting an army that has no chance (except one or two we can all name). The game mechanism is rather like an extended version of "paper scissors stone " - if I can get my elephants against his warband I'll win - deployment can be everything.

There are some armies/periods that I would be interested in - for example the Saxon invasions of Post-Roman Britain, the Baron's Wars, the Wars of the Roses, the Italian Wars, and the English Civil Wars - all these need to be fought in period. Its no fun trying to run down late 17th Century Musketeers with early 16th Century Gendarmes in DBR, but matched armies can be fun. The problem is in trying to find a pair of matched armies - they're hard to come by as most armies for the periods mentioned above are in overall DBM/DBR terms pretty poor. This means no demand, no research, no figure ranges which leads to poor army lists, no demand

However when talking to Richard Bodley Scott at Usk last year we discussed the new range of army list books - DBM Book 2 will be the list to be republished first. New "research" has led to an improved list for the Maccabean Jewish Army (yes well-known for well if you know write to the editor) - low aggression = equals always at home, lots of compulsory terrain, even better troops, and what do I see in September's Wargames Illustrated - a new Essex Range - yes you've guessed it. Off I went to Foyles to find a good book on the Maccabeans - but the only one I could find was film-wrapped at £80 so I'm none the wiser.

Results from DBM doubles competitions indicate the best DBM army is Medieval Portuguese, now I do know that they are well known for their conquest of the Asia (or was that the Mongols ?). Really can this be right ?

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