

A Starting Guide to Wargaming Resources on the Net

By Michael Dollin

When I volunteered to be sub editor it was not my plan to go AWOL at the time of the 1st edition, but marriage related duties have intervened. So rather than go AWOL and just leave my deputy (a deputy deputy !?! James Kemp god bless ya) to help round up articles this week, I thought I'd go AWOL and leave an article with Dave Bodger to help fill the first edition of ComPOST... (better to be a bit of a help than no help at all huh?) So here is a first effort which sets out some helpful ways to use the internet as a wargaming resource.

So to start, let's try one of the best sites on the net... South London Warlords's own site at

<http://www.salute.co.uk>

Not only does this site have an excellent break down of what the club is on about, what's happening about Salute 2000 and a nice doomsday style clock counting down to Armageddon/Salute 2000 but has many useful links on its links page. One of the most helpful of these, I find, is the Miniatures Page-

<http://members.xoom.com/minipage>

This site gives a very detailed break down of available miniatures and rules across the whole gamut of periods and genres... from historical to fantasy and Sci Fi. Where possible there are further links to internet sites by manufacturers or rules designers, or at least contact details for phone or post... I am still looking to get my contacts back home to investigate the 20mm WWII figures manufactured by Ostmodels in Tasmania... Geographical aside- the ex Australian PM Paul Keating once described Australia as being at the arse end of the world, making Tasmania the tiny little Island floating near the bottom (crude inference intended)... Digression aside my point is that if they have that level of detail you should be able to find what you're looking for...

As for the rest of the sites listed, I'll leave the break down of what's there to yourselves to discover when you drop in... as you should !

I mean there's lazy journalism and there's lazy journalism and what'd be the point of rattling off all that's available from the site when you can go look it up yourself... suffice to say that most manufacturers are there and its well worth a look...

Also worth a look is the Wargamer's Ring. Not Wagner and not another dubious taste reference, this is a collection of wargamer sites all linked together. An index of sites on this ring is located at

<http://www.webring.org/cgi-bin/webring?id=001&ring=wargamers&list>

or by clicking on the icon at the Warlords' site.... though one of the handicaps with the latter method is that it will give you sites in batches of 5 and there are 564 sites on the ring so it can take you a while to sift through to find what you're interested in.... I clicked onto the Wargamer's ring from the Warlords site and it gave me 5 of the sites available, one being "Ichors page of Puke" , so like Wagner it aint all Ride of the Valkyries....

More generally, the Web ring people are very good and their site is

www.webring.com

They have a handy search facility and there is an unbelievable collection of rings, each devoted to a particular theme. The other day I came across the Italianisti Web ring devoted to the Italian fighting forces of WWII (set up by John Moher who has an ace site on Spearhead related WWII in the Mediterranean but I again digress). It contained only 2 sites but I think gives an indication of the wealth of information out there....I mean a small ring devoted to the Italians ??? Webring on the Luftwaffe has 121 sites for example...

Another excellent resource is the Grognards at

<http://grognard.com/index.html>

Grognards deals mainly with board games, but also covers wargame magazines, miniatures rules and various links to free stuff, such as downloadable helper programs and Play by e-mail communities.

Grognards is a huge resource and I have not even scratched the surface in describing it here.

Finally a word on another site which can be helpful for gamers-

www.onelist.com

Onelist is a collection of lists where people of like mind discuss their interest. When I had a hotmail account I was signed up to a range of groups, the process is easy peasy... You just create an account with the onelist people (it's free), by giving your contact e-mail and assigning yourself a password. The you can add yourself to various mailing lists and get e-mails from people all over the globe on the subject of your choice. You select either digest form or normal, digest gives you a group of e-mails flying around over a period of time, while normal gives you everything sent to that group (digest is preferable, as it gives you a list of what e-mails constitute the digest and you can scroll down to the headings that interest you....)

I was signed up to Lacewars (18th Century conflict but also a great discussion site on gaming concepts in general), the Spearhead site (rewrite of rules and variants amongst other helpful stuff) and Navwars on all aspects of naval warfare... At one time I was signed up to 8 lists and was spending hours a day reading and joining in e-mail conversations.... now I have broken the habit I am just reading digests when I have the time (being at work there are limits to the time you can spend reading about someone else's WWII naval campaign or the ongoing WWI Palestine campaign with made up clippings from the papers of the day (v funny in a Python meets Black Adder kind of way)....

Anyways I must back to work. If this has been of no use to anyone, net surfing wise, then at least I will have helped Dave fill the mag (unless it's cut for space of course !). [No chance of that!- Ed.] Any positive feedback will result in another edition of this guide..... you have been warned. In all seriousness I hope that this has helped some people get more/something out of the net...