

RAPIER 8-10 June 2012



Jacksonville Garrison Banner and Raffle Loot Greet Gamers Entering the Ballroom
Once again RAPIER returned to the Airport Clarion. I have attended since it was a game day at Borderlands Hobby Shop. But after various adventures the Clarion offered a great price and some plant improvements. The outdoor sauna was not restored to use, but with a weekend of rainy weather most of us were quite happy to stay indoors to enjoy gaming and a breakfast buffet each day.

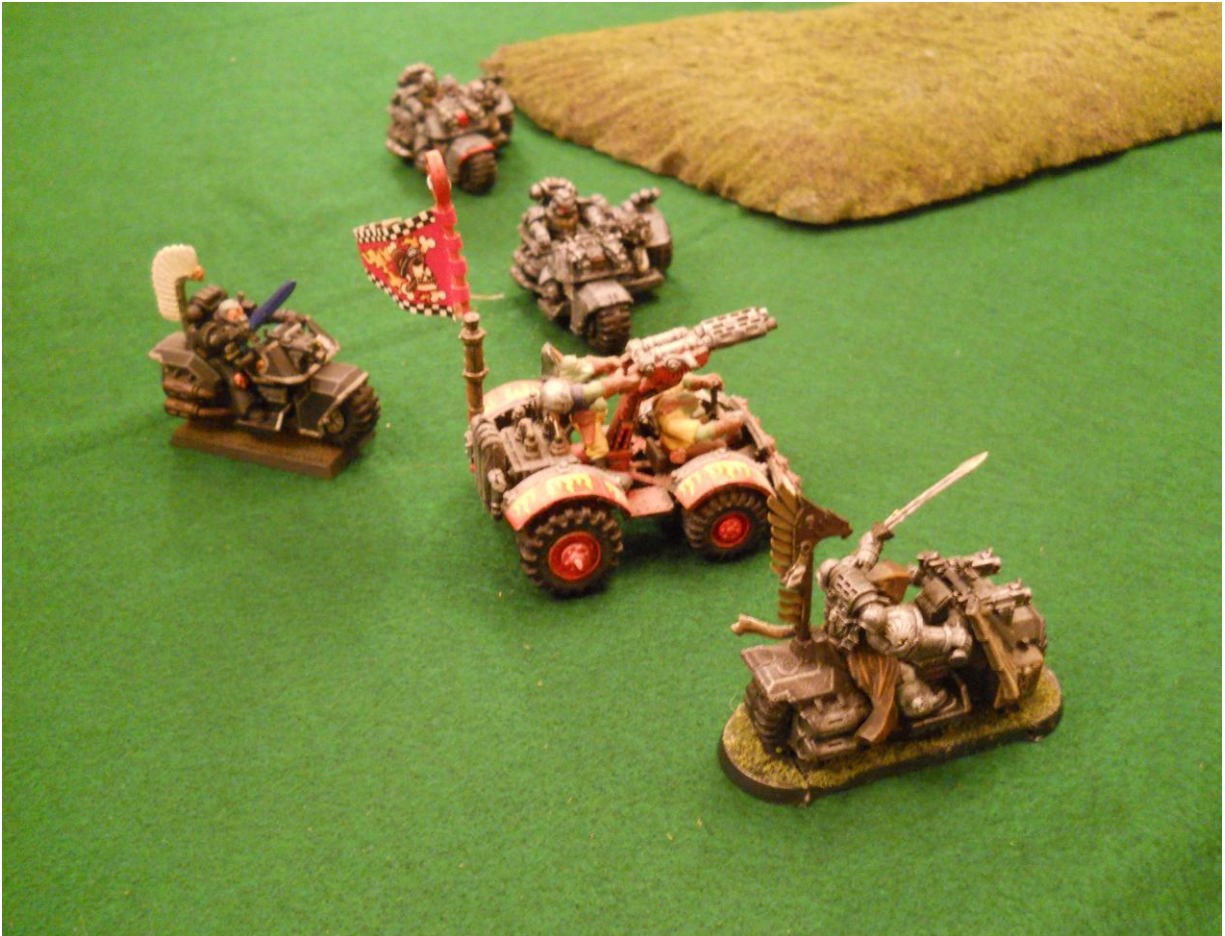
For some years there has been much comment about the decline in board gaming not only in the face of pervasive computer games, but by comparison to miniature gaming (playing with toy soldiers) since the collecting aspects of the latter have provided a modicum of insulation against electronic gaming. This year at RAPIER, however, board and related card gaming were prominent-though hardly to the exclusion of the traditional genre. Of course, in all cases the offerings ranged the gamut from the historical to the not exactly historical. And sometimes it was hard to tell the difference. And while I can't necessarily tell new from old in board games, there were some new historical miniatures offerings



There Was Lively Board Game Action Throughout in the Breakfast Room



And As Usual Bob Moon's ACW Action (The Hornet's Nest at Shiloh) Was Spectacular



But While Less Visually Spectacular, Joe Caso's 40K Bike Race Was Noisier



Although Lacking 25mm Column Line and Slaughter, Napoleonics Were Represented



Again, Some Napoleonics-But None Over 15mm



And As Usual Zombies Were Well Represented-Why I Don't Know



Hobkirk Hill From the AMR Was More Respectable, Though in 22mm Plastic not 15mm



I Think This is WWII in 3mm-But I'm Not Sure Because the Toys Are Too Small



At The Other Extreme Charlie Croft and Boyd Bruce Ran 54mm AWI



The Highlight, For me at Least, Was Bill Moreno's "Titans Of The Tchernaya



Tennyson's Gallant 600 With 17th Lancers In Foreground



Sort of a Board Game-In Spite of the Unpainted Toys



Dwight Jones' Impressive French and Indian War Canoe Race



Upstairs DBA And SEEKRIEG



Of Course Saturday Night It Was Casino Time, Presided Over by Kellum Sowers



Raid on Sackett's Harbor-War of 1812 With Edgar Pabon's Big Boats



Missed The 40K-But Caught Part Of FOW In The Penthouse

Of course, I have never fully understood how people could settle for cardboard tiddly winks when they could have genuine toy soldiers. But RAPIER 2012, for all its interesting miniatures games, impressed me with the number and quality of board gaming. There have always been board games, FRP, etc. at RAPIER. But while I've seen at least as impressive miniature offerings in the past, I don't think I've seen as much in the way of board games and the like.



Playing By Daylight In The Breakfast Room