

Final Combat Demonstration Game

On Sunday January 28, 2007 Rick Berry of Michigan Toy Soldiers Company sponsored a Militaria, Wargames and Toy Soldiers Show in Lavonia, Michigan. In conjunction with The Old Northwest Trading Company, Ben Lacy was invited to present a series of Final Combat demonstration games. The terrain table was a diorama created by renowned artist and sculptor, Ken Osen. Ken is best known for his work with Richard Conte and most recently, William Britain and The Old Northwest Trading Company. The 1:32 scale miniatures are exquisitely hand painted and are available from many online vendors. What follows is a description of the demo with a few pictures.



The Game

The demo was designed around a meeting engagement and control of the church (see page 4). Each player had six soldiers divided into two sections. One section acted as the fire team and included a light machine gun supported by rifles. The assault team carried grenades, rifles and submachine guns. Each player began an equal distance from the church, and there were prominent terrain features that provided cover for their advance.



Mike Reese, the author of *Tractics* (1971) was a German player during one game. He rushed an MG42 to the window of the damaged house pictured below. This allowed him to cover the crucial road between the barn and the Priory. The U.S. players realized too late that the only means of reaching their objective was impossible to traverse. In desperation, the U.S. player threw a smoke grenade and attempted to dash across. The smoke proved inadequate and the German machine gun killed the entire fire team.



Mike Reese's tactic was repeated in two other games. However, during the third game the U.S. players finally realized that they could come down the cobblestone road and out flank the German machine gun. Final Combat provided the players with an authentic and realistic close quarter battle simulation. Furthermore, the perspective of the toy soldier collector was augmented to include wargaming.

