

# WARGAMES

## illustrated®

### TIBETAN LOCKDOWN

By Andrew Gledhill

En route from lockdown in Santa Monica, California, to self-isolation in Matlock, Derbyshire I picked up a copy of the latest issue of *Wi* and saw your appeal for 'Quick Fire' pieces for the magazine, so I thought I would share my latest army building project.

The Tibetan Empire army list is unique in DBA 3.0 as it allows ten of the twelve elements to be Cataphracts/Knights, including the general, and lets them all dismount to become Spears.

They were famed for the completeness of their armour, which made them impervious to swords and arrows (if not slings), and for their readiness to leap off their horses if the first charge didn't work, and get stuck in on foot. Opponents include Burmese, Indians, Arabs, and Asian City States, as well as several Chinese armies.

I had never painted 15mm before, but I thought I could manage troops whose eyes, faces and facial hair were behind chain mail. I had not reckoned on exactly how many I had to paint, but I was stuck at home anyway.

The figures are from Khurasan Miniatures and while the metal is a bit soft, and needs some cleaning up, they're wonderfully three-dimensional castings with great detail, especially on the horses. Khurasan have an unusual range of armies to offer - worth a look.

My basic approach was to apply black (Golden Acrylics Bone Black) to the chain mail areas then use a paper towel to rub some paint away before it dried. For the plumes, horse blankets and fringes I used white, red, blue, green, and yellow, to create some uniformity for each base of four men, mounted or on foot. These are the sacred/elemental colours still recognized in Tibetan Bön spiritual practice. For the bow cases and quivers I used the same colours at random, except where a colour was already in use for the plumes, etc.

The flags are taken from the symbol used by the Ligmincha Tibetan meditation group. The same colours also appear on the flag, to give cohesion to the army. I applied a diluted Army Painter Strong Tone to indicate the effects on the flag of all that Tibetan weather.

Of course, it's anybody's guess when they'll get a chance to take the field, but they are ready to go.



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