

Communiqué #2: 19/04/08

# CLASS WARGAMES

PRESENT  
GUY DEBORD'S

## *THE GAME OF WAR*

*An untrained militant would only be  
an object of embarrassment to  
the vanguard.*

**Our Next  
Engagement**



**1968 & All That**

An international conference  
and book fair to celebrate the  
hopes & dreams of May 1968.

**Saturday**

**10 May 2008**

10am - 10pm

Conway Hall

Red Lion Square

London WC1

Class Wargames are playing Guy Debord's *The Game of War* using a replica of his original 1977 design for the board game.

Guy Debord is celebrated as the leader of the **Situationist International** and author of the searing critique of the media-saturated society of consumer capitalism: *The Society of the Spectacle*. What is less well known is that after the May '68 Revolution, Debord devoted much of the rest of his life to inventing, refining and promoting what he came to regard as his most important project: *The Game of War*.

*Politics is a continuation of war by other means.*

*The Game of War* is a Clausewitz simulator: a Napoleonic-era military strategy game where armies must maintain their communications structure to survive - and where victory is achieved by smashing your opponent's supply network rather than by taking their pieces.

For Debord, *The Game of War* wasn't just a game - it was a guide to how people should live their lives within Fordist society. By playing this Clausewitz simulator, revolutionary activists could learn how to fight and win against the oppressors of spectacular society.

*The 1789 French Revolution brought great changes in the art of war. Similarly, the establishment of spectacular domination has radically altered the art of government.*

**[www.classwargames.net](http://www.classwargames.net)**

# Class Wargames

## *Spring Offensive*

*Wargames are a continuation of politics by other means.*

As winter drew in, we returned to our homes to plan our strategy for the forthcoming year. Despite entering the field late in 2007, **Class Wargames** achieved a decisive victory at the **London Games Festival Fringe** in October. Having mapped out the territory, the first goal of our spring offensive was to advance into the world of Art. The month of March had hardly drawn to a close when we'd successfully infiltrated the **Institute of Psychoplasmics** at the Pump House Gallery in Battersea Park.

Having recruited our avant-garde artists, we've now switched flanks by fielding our pieces at **Salute '08**, located in London's Docklands. While the underlings of finance capital scurried hither and thither, barricading nearby Canary Wharf against the implosion of the credit bubble, **Class Wargames** has seized the high ground at the Excel Centre – the annual resting place of the DSEI Arms Fair. We welcome hardened wargamers to our ranks. We know that their contribution will prove decisive in the struggles to come.

However our Trained Bands would not be worthy of the name unless committed political agitators rally to our blood-red banner. To complete our mission, **Class Wargames** will liberate Red Lion Square *by any means necessary*. Here the social turmoil of the May events is being brought to life at the **1968 and All That** conference and book fair.

Our Summer Campaign will consolidate these startling gains, bringing together artists, wargamers and political activists through regular club nights at the **Flea Pit**, on the outskirts of Shoreditch. This venue offers a variety of organic food with a licensed bar. As well as playing Guy Debord's *The Game of War* with our recruits, **Class Wargames** will experiment with both figurine and board games that lay bear the sinews of our class oppression.

*Ludic Labour!*



### Summer Campaign

Club nights on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm till 11:00 pm:

- 20th May
- 17th June
- 22nd July
- 19th August
- 16th September

#### **The Flea Pit**

49 Columbia Road  
London E2 7RG

[www.theleapit.com](http://www.theleapit.com)

### The Players

**Dr. Richard Barbrook**  
University of Westminster

**Rod Dickinson**  
University of the West of England

**Alex Veness**  
University of the Arts

**Ilze Black**  
Waterman's Art Gallery

**Fabian Tompsett**  
Class War 1985

**Mark Coplestone**  
Coplestone Castings

**Lucy Blake**  
e-learning developer

### *The Game of War*

Guy Debord and Alice Becker-Ho's book & game is available from:

**Coplestone Castings**  
Stand TD08 at Salute '08  
next to Osprey Books

or  
**Atlas Press**  
27 Old Gloucester Street  
LONDON WC1N 3XX  
[www.atlaspress.co.uk](http://www.atlaspress.co.uk)

[www.classwargames.net](http://www.classwargames.net)

