



Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter


XLV, No. 7

July 2019



From the desk of the CMH President

Message from CMH President

Natale (Nate) Forte 

Hello every one of our members. Well the elections of our new board members are over, and we have a new Secretary Eric Elder. Eric has been a long time member of CMH and has served on the board before also as Secretary. His first newsletter was last month. Check it out if you haven't.

Our next club event is Veteran's Wars which will be coming up in November. Prior to that CMH will be engaged in the annual DBX Smack down with the evil empire of Colorado Springs, the CSGA guys. This event will be hosted this year by CSGA at their Falcon Police station club venue. It will be happening soon Saturday July 27th. Thanks for those members participating and putting it out there to represent CMH.

I would like to say a few words about our club in general, I'm very proud to be involved with the members of this club and love the camaraderie, the games we all enjoy playing, and the historical knowledge that is shared by all. When it comes to history, most of us share a passion for it that entralls us in finding out more about a particular battle, event or happening. I don't know where my own historical passion came from. Perhaps it was growing up in Italy, where almost everywhere one goes, there he is confronted with major historical sites, of battles, of important cities etc. and of course the large quantities of museums that are usually attached to those sites goes beyond saying. Imagine if you will growing up in a school system where field trips are taken to say the battle site of Cannae after reading about it, or visiting the actual port where some of the Crusaders left for the holy land, or taking a field trip to a castle built, fortified and lived in by Holy Roman Emperor Frederick (also known as Barbarossa). I think it's things like that that grew a passion in me to find out more about these historical things. My interests then, grew more in the military aspect of history, simply because my own father was a career military and grandfather and cousins were all in the Italian military. This has fascinated me.



Cannae battlefield

Why I wanted to share this with the membership, is to share something which I truly believe in and that is societies that forget about the world's histories are doomed to repeat their failures. Our school systems today place a much diminished emphasis on history that to me is worrying. Of course the STEM courses are valuable, but time should be devoted to make history a part of one's life growing up, not simply rote memory of dates that really have no meaning save for standardized tests. If only one could make learning history enjoyable, maybe by participating in it, kids would find that it's not so boring and useless after all. With so much of today young society shaped by the instant gratification of media and videos, and computer games and game boxes, actual participation is the key. I am troubled by the current trends to avoid recreations of historical events of battles by reenactors. I feel that by experiencing those sights and sounds, young minds might be swayed to learn more about them, and that is not a bad thing.

I was lucky to grow up in Italy, but in this country there is also plenty of history as well, even in Colorado a relatively young state when compared to the original 13 colonies, where much of the early part of this country's history lies.

When you the members read this, try to remember where your passion for history and their events of their battles came from, what started it all for you? Was it a particular field trip? Was is something tangible like sitting on a Tank and inspecting it as a kid? I encourage you to remember and try to share this with young minds of today, because we can't let them forget about history.

Regards, your CMH President
Natale Forte



Castel del Monte, built during the 1240s by the Emperor Frederick II.

Facebook

Message from CMH Secretary

Eric Elder

I joined Facebook back in 2007 probably reluctantly. I guess it was just a way to connect with family, friends and old friends I had lost contact with, even public school classmates. A way to share photos with everyone and post the occasional life excitement. But what about beyond that, such as the historical miniature hobby, does it have a presence on Facebook? Well...look out, it has a large presence.

It has only been recently in the past couple years that have I discovered the great wargame resources on Facebook. You don't really connect one on one with specific gamers, but join a group where likeminded gamers mingle to discuss and share. Yes, I would say you can become Facebook friends with specific gamers, but the real benefit is the sharing of knowledge in groups. The types of groups are game rule, terrain or period focused. I probably have only touched the surface with the groups available out there.

Here is a sample of groups I belong to:

- Solitaire Wargames
- Rebels & Patriots
- Wargaming World War One
- Blitzkrieg Commander Fan Group
- 10mm Wargaming & Terrain
- Naval Wargaming
- 19th (1815-1914) Century Warfare
- Wargames Terrain Tips and Talk
- TheTerrainTutor's Terrainiacs
- Mal's Old Historical Wargames
- The War of 1812 Group
- Cold War Commanders
- Colorado Military Historians
- Spanish-American War Reenactors
- 10mm Wargaming
- The Wars at Sea BC to AD
- The Crimean War 1853-1956
- Philippine-American War
- 28mm scratch built terrain
- 6mm wargaming and terrain
- The Civil War Naval Forum
- Wargaming WWII

I would say the best groups to join are the rulesets you enjoy, specific periods that you game in, and the terrain groups. Of these, I highly recommend the terrain groups. They provide all sorts of inspiration and tutorials on how to make terrain. I think where I might be missing out is on the painting side. I'm sure there are excellent groups dedicated to painting techniques.

The groups open you up to gamers around the world and you can even interact with well-known rules writers. Groups even provide links to live group chat sessions via webcams.

We are lucky we have a great club where we can meet together and play in some fun games, but I think there are many hobbyists around the world that are remote and want to connect with fellow gamers. Facebook is great for them and I've found it a great resource and fun as well.

June Monthly Meeting

Unit of the Month

Temporarily no sponsor

Each month CMH members bring their latest painted figures and models to the meeting to display their latest efforts.

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Terry Shockey	28mm	Knuckleduster	Western	Viqueros
Doug Wildfong	28mm		Fantasy	Priests and Wizards
Brian Kennedy	28mm	Gripping Beast	Viking	Viking Command
Dave Manley	15mm	Battlefront	WWII	DAK, Pz II, Marder, Scouts
Larry Irons	15mm	Battlefront	WWII	British Lancers, 25pdr



Faid South

Battle Report from CMH Member

Tim Parker

The American Combat Command 'C' attacks the Axis rearguard defending the passes leading to the Tunisian coast.

Larry Irons brought his British army over to face my Italian Bersaglieri. Larry won the die roll for the battle and picked Faid South, which gave him an Armored Firestorm, and me no firestorm support. We rolled up Hasty Attack with me defending. Here is a brief battle report.

Generalissimo Timothy 'Pizzeria' Parkerius arrived in North Africa after his leave of absence during the past month and quickly set to task re-organizing the his Italian Corps to defend against the Allies. Disappointed in his sub commanders performance during his absence, he quickly replaced them with men he could count on. Ultra intercepts told them the change of command was occurring and recommendation to attack were given to thwart the reorganization of the Italians.

The British armor division under General Irons was ordered to take the Faid southern passes. Thus at dawn they launched a surprise attack on the weak Italian line.



(General Irons contemplating the attack)

General Irons deployed his infantry in the center and one of many tank platoons on his right. He removed the objective in Italian territory on his left, leaving my best platoon guarding dirt. The Italians had two weapons platoons and an AT platoons with some armored cars to hold the line. It didn't look promising.

Turns 1-2 saw Irons advance his forces onto the table. No reserves or air on turn 1, but on turn two he got both reserves and air. The air attacked the center objective area of AT guns and armored cars. Doing minimal damage, but pinning the Italian commander and bailing an armored car. An artillery strike on the Italians on his right, guarding the objective was ineffective also. He did get more reserves, two more tank platoons.



The bottom of turn 2 saw the Italian ambush of four Lancia 90s. This was doom for the three Valentines advancing unsupported towards the objective on his right, who soon saw two tanks destroyed and the other take a double bail, who had enough and high tailed it out of the battle. The British infantry advanced into the middle, but took considerable fire and one of two platoons were pinned and would remain that way the rest of the game.



What tanks?

Turn 3 saw Larry continue to get reserves and more tanks. Another air strike arrived to give the Italians hell. The Italian 90s turned their attention to the skies and shot down one of the aircraft but the second one got through and destroyed an AT gun in the center. His second Infantry advanced so support the pinned one in the center, but fire was ineffective.

The bottom of turn 3 and the Italian reserves have yet to arrive. The Lancias reposition to await the next assault by the British tanks. In the center, the armored cars, with support from the AT guns and the Italian weapons company pin the 2nd British platoon in the rubble. Neither British Infantry would ever leave their pinned positions the rest of the game.

Top of the 4th and Irons gets another reserve tank platoon and advances into position to attack the object on his right. He lays down smoke to cover his nine tanks that are advancing. His air comes in again, but with smoke keeping the Lancias from shooting at tanks, three of them open up on the air and take out the last aircraft.

Bottom of the 4th and the British infantry see themselves hunkered down in the village and ruins. PzIIIs from the Afrika Corps arrive to help the Italians (I was lucky they came in the middle on the scattered reserve roll and close enough to support). With only minimal British armor visible, they knock out one Valentine. The Lancias move to support any defense against an assault.

Turn 5. General Irons commits his tanks and assaults the front of the Italian line with his 2 Valentines and two Lees. With only one Lancia and a 47mm AT gun that can defensive fire, the Italians only take out one Lee. The assaulting tanks take out the MG team and consolidate to contest the objective.

The bottom of the turn went bad quickly for the British. The Italians received their reserve Semoventis who just happened to show up on the threatened flank (a 2 on scattered reserves) and the rest of the British tanks were in a tough position. the Semoventis took out two Crusaders and bailed the third. The Lancias and the PzIIs took out a Lee and a Valentine and doubled bailed the third one, who hung around. In the center, the Infantry commander was shot down and the two platoons continued to stay put. The second Crusader platoon was advancing, but without the Infantry, it would be futile to assault the numbers of AT guns holding the objective.



Turn 6, General Irons knows he is defeated and calls off the attack. He uses his last stand magic (a command card giving him a 2+ last stand) to keep from losing his entire force, but even that won't help him. His forces are heavily outnumbered and outgunned now.

Recap: Larry had the right plan. His push on my left was certainly the right move and with the infantry threatening the middle. Unfortunately, once the infantry got pinned, it stayed that way and that threat was neutralized. The artillery was not very effective for him. Dug in troops can be hard to dig out. The killer

though was the Semoventi arrival which thwarted any flank move by the Crusaders and allowed me to have a lot of firepower. This is a fun scenario and this was a fun game. Closer than the score. Larry lost 8 out of 15 tanks and a score of infantry. I lost two AT guns and a Heavy MG team. I was very fortunate to not have lost more.

Score 8-1(3)

Larry is commended for Bravery knowing his was facing Generalissimo Pizzeria. Which treated him to Pizza and beer for making the trip over.

June Monthly Meeting

Game of the Month

Sponsored by Total Escape Games

Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host.

CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
Jeff Lambert	15mm	Flames of War	Tunisia Turn 5
Doug Wildfong	15mm	By Fire and Sword	Pike and Shot
Terry Shockey John Brown	15mm	DBA 3.0	DBA Tuneup
DAVE NEWPORT	28mm	Legion vs Horde	Rome vs Gaul
Nate Forte	Cards	Up Front	City Fight

Winner in **RED**



Historic Location of the Month



The Inter-Allied Games was a one-off multi-sport event held from June 22 to July 6, 1919 at the newly constructed Pershing Stadium just outside Paris, France following the end of World War I. The host stadium had been built near the Bois de Vincennes by the U.S. Military in cooperation with the YMCA. The event was only open to participation by military personnel who were currently serving or had formerly served in the armed forces during the War. Around 1500 athletes from a total of eighteen nations participated in the proceedings which featured nineteen sports. Following the conclusion of the games, Pershing Stadium was presented as a gift to the people of France from the United States of America. The area, still known as Le Stade Pershing, continues to be used as an open air recreation park to this day.



July

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Friday Night Fight 7:00 pm	6
7	8	9	10 Historicon	11 Historicon	12 Friday Night Fight 7:00 pm Historicon	13 Historicon
14 Meeting 12:00 pm Historicon	15	16	17	18	19 Friday Night Fight 7:00 pm	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Friday Night Fight 7:00 pm	27 CMH – CSGA Smackdown Colorado Springs
28	29	30	31			

Last Month Club Photos



Colorado Military Historians, Inc.

Colorado Military Historians (CMH) is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote historical wargaming and the study of military history. Founded in 1965, CMH meets monthly on the second Sunday of the month, except in May when the meeting is deferred to the third Sunday. The meeting starts at noon at the Baker Recreation Center, 6751 Irving Street (just a few blocks west of Federal Blvd), Denver, Colorado. The club also hosts gaming at least one Friday night a month, called "Friday Night Fights" (FNF) at 7:00 p.m. Friday meetings will be held at a future determined location. See website for latest information.



CMH maintains ties with numerous local, regional and national groups to help promote the hobby. CMH is governed by member-elected officers serving on the Board of Directors (executive board). Terms of office are one year, with elections held at the May meeting. New members are accepted after attending three CMH functions and a vote of the membership. Dues are \$50.00 per year, payable in January. Members wishing to receive a snail-mailed newsletter subscription must pay an additional fee of \$15.00 per year. Authors retain ownership of articles and graphics published. CMH reserves the right to edit or reject submissions to the newsletter.

One year Adult Membership: \$50.00

Half year Adult Membership: \$25.00

(For NEW members who join after June 30)

Family Membership: \$50.00 (one Adult and any number of offspring)

Student Membership: \$25.00 (16 to 22 years old)

Children: free (younger than 16 accompanied by member)

Club Links:

Web Site: <https://cmhweb.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cmhgamers/>

Yahoo Group: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/cmhweb/info>

Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/Colorado-Military-Historians-Meetup/>

CMH Newsletter

The CMH Newsletter is a monthly newsletter published by the Colorado Military Historians. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of all CMH members.

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