

Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XXXVI, No. 6

June 2010



West Wars 2010

Inside This Issue

The U.S. Army and the Great Depression	4
U.S.S. Colorado	8
Me-110 "Zerstörer"	11

West Wars and Election Results

Message from CMH President

Binhan Lin

West Wars was a moderate success with moderate attendance of about 40 participants over the weekend. Black Powder rule set games were quite popular with three games from various regions being hosted and well attended. I would like to thank those members who took the time and effort to host games for their contribution to making the convention work.



The May meeting was also the club elections and I wish to congratulate the newly elected Board on their positions. Returning members are myself as President, Dave Manley as Treasurer and Eric Elder as Secretary. Larry Irons will be stepping up as Vice-President and Doug Wilfong will be joining the Board as Historian. I would like to thank outgoing board members Kevin Dykman and Greg Cornell for their time and effort on behalf of the club. Dan Gurule is Chairman for the Veterans Wars Convention Committee and I encourage the club to support him and the convention.

Historicon is July 8-11 and has moved to a new site in Valley Forge, PA. Several members will be making the pilgrimage this year.

Tacticon is scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Rob Graham is the new Miniatures Coordinator. If you are interested in running an event at Tacticon, please contact him at rebel222@netzero.net.

Veterans Wars will be November 12-14 and will again be held at Baker Community Center. Contact Dan Gurule (dagurule@gmail.com) if you are interested in running games or assisting with the planning or running of the convention. Keep an eye on the newsletter and website for updates on games and events for the weekend. The weekend is free to paid CMH members.

The Zombie campaign continues to chug on with the Survivors surviving 4 scenarios and the Zombies partially eating 3 Survivors. The saga continues at various FNF's so check the CMH calendar for brain eating fun.

Hobby Statistics

*Message from CMH Secretary
Eric Elder*

I have tapped John Brown for another one of his published articles. In the current economy I thought the depression article would be interesting. Thanks again John for the article. I also thought the USS Colorado band postcard that I recently acquired would be a good addition in the newsletter. It has been awhile since I have included a postcard from my collection in the newsletter. Binhhan has passed along another aircraft profile. All the photos in the newsletter are from West Wars.



How did everyone like West Wars? Looks like the Black Powder rules was a big hit this year. It was fun to try out the ruleset for the first time. Attendance seemed lower this year, but Saturday morning was hopping, which to me was a surprise. There was a good group of games and gamers this year, as usual.

I was browsing The Miniatures Page the other day and took a look at the statistics. Here are some statistics I found:

- 9 out of 10 of the top hobby news read in the past year were about Perry Miniatures.
- 74% of members list “WWII – land” as an interest.
- United States membership: 7,177 members.
- United Kingdom membership: 3,580 members.
- Canada membership: 753 members.
- The most active historic specific forum is “WWII Discussion.”

May Monthly Meeting

Unit of the Month

Sponsored by Attactix



Each month CMH members bring their latest painted figures and models to the meeting to display their latest efforts and compete for Unit of the Month. The owner of the winning unit receives a gift certificate from Attactix in Aurora, Colorado. We thank Attactix for its continued support.

CMH Member	Scale	Era	Unit
ERIC ELDER	N	Vietnam	US Marines & LVTP5
Terry Shockey	15mm	Ancients	Sub Roman British Spear & Cav
Dave Manley	28mm	WWII	Japanese Platoon
Dave Manley	28mm	18 th -19 th C.	Frontier Barns (2)
Jeff Caruso	28mm	Modern	Swat Officer
David Newport	15mm	Colonial	Rorke's Drift Buildings

Table: Unit of the Month (**WINNER**)

The U.S. Army and the Great Depression

Originally published in December 2008 issue of Army Magazine

Article by CMH Member

John Brown

The news of late has been eerily reminiscent of our slide into the Great Depression. Once again a perfect storm combining declining demand, indebtedness, income inequities, speculative business practices, corporate malfeasance and hemorrhaging confidence is shaking our economic foundations. Fail-safes such as the FDIC and Social Security, and the Federal Government's enhanced capabilities to react will undoubtedly mitigate the worst that could happen, but most analysts predict we are in for prolonged hard times and a difficult recovery. Without over-reacting to contemporary circumstances, it might be worthwhile to reflect upon the implications of our nation's greatest economic disaster for our Army.

Desperate people do desperate things. Waves of lay-offs, foreclosures, estate auctions, and other bad news precipitated public unrest and often public violence. Initial government reaction was dismissive of what it interpreted as yet another business cycle. When the government belatedly responded, it was with federal loans to organizations at the top of the economic ladder in the expectation beneficial results would trickle down through the economy as a whole. They did not, certainly not immediately. The most ambitious initiative, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, was widely derided as a "millionaire's dole". A rising tide of public violence pitted local governments against fractions of their own people. When violence exceeded the capabilities of local police and corporate security guards (the private armies of the day), the Army was called upon to fulfill Constitutional responsibilities to "suppress insurrections" and "insure domestic tranquility". By and large the respondents were National Guardsmen in the service of their states, but not always. In the summer of 1932 Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur personally commanded federal troops evicting the so-called "Bonus Army" of World War I veterans and their families from the District of Columbia. Men, women and children were tear-gassed and chased down by infantry and cavalry and their shantytowns burned to the ground. Much of the public was shocked, but an unrepentant President J. Edgar Hoover exclaimed "Thank God we still have a government that knows how to deal with a mob."

In March 1933 newly elected President Franklin Delano Roosevelt took a far less confrontational approach. Waving aside concerns with deficit spending, he quickly enacted a virtual "alphabet soup" of new federal agencies. Most of these were designed to have a direct and immediate impact on working families, and some were simply federal job creation programs. The Civil Works Administration provided jobs to four million Americans and the Public Works Administration pumped \$3.3 billion (a huge sum at the time) into construction and infrastructure. Both initiatives drew heavily upon the expertise of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Civilian Conservation Corps, which ultimately put two and half million young men to work on arduous outdoor projects, involved the Army even more heavily. Only the Army had the cadre and expertise necessary to mobilize, organize, transport, billet, feed and employ so much theretofore unskilled labor on short notice. The experience ultimately proved a worthwhile rehearsal for World War II. It also softened the Army's image from that of public enforcer to that of collaborative partner in community relief efforts. Throughout the Great Depression the Army served as a federal reservoir of tools, skills, talents, and organizational capability. Most, but not all, of the results were happy. An initiative to have the Army Air Corps take over air mail delivery from allegedly monopolistic commercial carriers resulted in eight planes wrecked and a dozen pilots killed or injured during the first week.

The Army did not downsize with respect to manpower during the Great Depression. It was too valuable both to backstop police powers and to facilitate relief efforts. It did, however, experience considerable degradation in its immediate preparedness for war fighting. A 1936 review, for example, was not particularly reassuring when it concluded that the troops earmarked for mobilization during the first thirty days of an emergency would be adequately supplied “except for airplanes, tanks, combat cars, scout cars, antiaircraft guns, searchlights, antiaircraft fire control equipment, .50 caliber machine guns, pontoon equipment ... organizational motor equipment ... gas masks, radio and telephone equipment and equipment for medical regiments.” One wonders whom they might have considered themselves ready to fight. The idea of employing defense spending to stimulate the economy was not alien to Roosevelt’s New Dealers, but tended to focus on geographically (and thus politically) specific job creation and the technical sector more so than on overall military shortcomings. Expenditures on naval rearmament dwarfed those spent on the Army from 1934 on. In 1938 Roosevelt proposed a breath-taking expenditure of \$500 million dollars to build 10,000 modern aircraft when he had opined \$17 million in procurement would be sufficient for the rest of the Army. In fairness, most of these planes were envisioned for sale to the British and French overseas, but the imbalances underscore distortions introduced when military effectiveness per se is not the object of procurement.

The Great Depression was a worldwide phenomenon, and some populations overseas became even more desperate than our own. In countries wherein democracy and liberal capitalism had but shallow roots, both were swept away. Hitler came to power in Germany, militarists rose to the top in Japan, and authoritarian regimes seized or tightened grips on power in a number of other countries. Capitalist democracies enacted prohibitive tariffs to protect their own economies, inhibiting cooperation and further damaging their economic prospects in the long run. Preoccupied with domestic concerns, Americans turned a blind eye as authoritarian regimes set out on paths of intimidation, aggression and conquest. Sister democracies similarly ignored the coming storm. During this period the Army, to its credit, sustained effective educational programs, contemplated mobilization and war plans, and laid down an intellectual framework that would serve it well in World War II. It fell further and further behind in its practical and physical preparedness, however. This mismatch between the ever-growing military capabilities of authoritarian regimes and its own ever-diminishing war fighting capability would be the most significant consequence of the Great Depression with which the United States Army would have to contend.

Looking backwards, we can be reasonably confident that our current economic slump will be nowhere near as severe as that of the Great Depression. There nevertheless may be useful lessons in the experiences of that era. The Army remains the only organization capable of coping with domestic disturbances should local police forces fail. Along with its semi-autonomous Corps of Engineers, the Army also remains the nation’s largest reservoir of organizational capability and immediately deployable skills and talents. Depending upon future circumstances, its capabilities as a public enforcer or its capabilities as a collaborative relief partner may well come into play – perhaps both. Whatever our aspirations for transformation or modernization, they will undoubtedly be degraded by economic hard times. If defense spending is employed as an economic stimulus, it seems likely to play for the Navy and Air Force far more so than for the Army. Most consequentially, the American people and their government will be understandably distracted from events overseas. If democracy and liberal capitalism are discredited abroad by economic dysfunction, it will only benefit our present and prospective adversaries. We will live in a more dangerous world. As has happened before, the Army and its sister services will be called upon to do more with less overseas until the American people once again return their attention to the external dangers of the world they live in.

Recommended Reading

Garraty, John A., *The Great Depression* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1986)

Millett, Alan R. and Murray, Williamson, editors, *Military Effectiveness, Volume II: The Interwar Period* (Boston: Allen & Unwin, 1988)

Weigley, Russell F., *History of the United States Army* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1967)



"Sgt. Burke, of the U.S. Army, talking to a group of boys just arrived from New York as replacements for CCC Camp, TVA #22, near Esco, Tennessee, telling them the rules of the camp before they go to their lunch. Behind the boys are some of the tents in which they are living, pending the completion of the barracks which will be their winter quarters. The iron cones behind the two boys at the left of the picture are heating stoves for the tents.", 11/17/1933 (The National Archives)

May Monthly Meeting

Game of the Month

Sponsored by Valhalla's Gaming Center



Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host. The winning host receives a gift certificate from Valhalla's Gaming Center in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. We thank Valhalla's Gaming Center for its support.

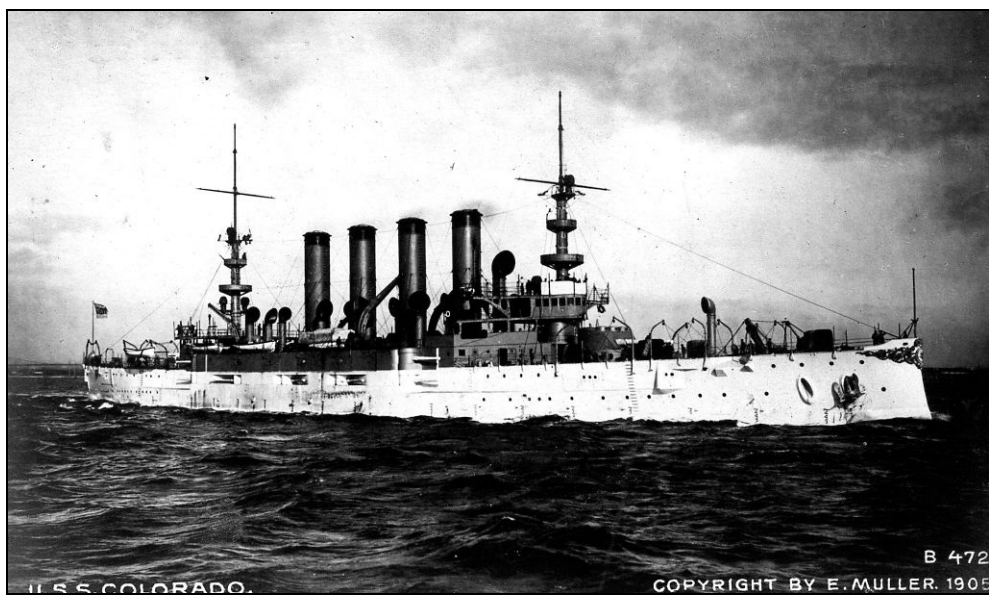
CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
DAN GURULE	15mm	Black Powder	Small Battle in Spain
Dave Newport	28mm	Firefight	Stalingrad Skirmish
Eric Elder	15mm	Principles of War	Battle of Magenta

Table 1 Game of the Month (**WINNER**)

U.S.S. Colorado
Postcard Feature of the Month
From the Eric Elder collection



U.S.S. Colorado band (postal cancel U.S.S. Colorado, November 10, 1910)



U.S.S. Colorado in 1905

CMH May Scheduled Events



This table shows what scheduled CMH events are coming up. Next months Friday Night Fights (FNF) and the monthly meeting (MM) are listed. It is recommended to schedule your game for future meetings and will appear on this page.

Date	Meeting	Location	Start Time	End Time
June 4	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
June 11	FNF	Valhallas	7:00 pm	midnight
June 13	MM	Baker	12:00 pm	5:00 pm
June 18	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
June 25	FNF	Valhallas	7:00 pm	midnight

Web Links

*Found by CMH Member
Dan Gurule*

- A Timeline of the Historical Miniatures Wargaming Hobby:
<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~beattie/timeline2.html>
- WWII map timeline (PowerPoint file link in forum page):
<http://www.moongamers.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=40466>

Me-110 “Zerstörer”

Aircraft Profile by CMH President

Binhan Lin

Manufacturer: Messerschmitt

Crew: 2

Length: 39 ft. 7 in.

Wingspan: 53 ft. 4 in.

Empty Weight: 14,597 lbs.

Power plant: 2 x DB 601A V12

Max. Speed: 336 mph

Range: 680 miles

Armament: 2 x MG FF 20mm cannon

4 x MG 17 7.92mm MG

1 x MG 15 7.92mm MG



Minicraft – Plastic Model Kit

Derived from the 1930's concept of a strategic or long-range fighter capable of escorting bombers or engaging enemy bombers at a distance, kampferstörer (battle destroyer) projects were submitted to the RLM by Henschel, Focke-Wulf, and Bayerische Flugzeugwerke (BFW, later Messerschmitt). Prototypes were ordered from each company with the BFW design being designated Bf-110.

The Bf-110 prototypes took flight in 1936 reaching speeds of up to 314 mph, faster than most contemporary fighters, but engine and stability issues plagued the early airframes. Approval was given to begin production and in 1937, the first pre-production (A -0) models were built armed with 4 MG 17 in the nose and an MG 15 in a rear gunner position.

By March 1938, the B series with armament increased with the addition of two MG-FF cannon in the nose were being produced. In late 1938 production shifted to the C model with the DB 601 engines being installed instead of the original Jumo engines. Sequential improvements and variants lead to Models D-F, including an extended long-range version, improved DB 601F engines, ground attack equipment, and minor airframe improvements through 1941.

Originally slated to be discontinued as the follow-on Me-210 began production, Me-110 production was resumed in 1942, as the Me-210 design was a failure. Further refinement of the design and factory standardization of the various weapon configurations lead to the Me-110G model. As a workhorse, many variations carrying multiple types of cannon, rockets, bombs, radar, and extra fuel tanks were designed.

Increasingly, newer Allied fighter models were outclassing the 1930's design and by June 1944, the last operational Me-110's were pulled from service. The Me-110's career ended with 6,170 of all models being produced.

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 every Friday night, called "Friday Night Fights" (FNF) at 7:00 p.m. The first and third Friday of the month, these meetings will be held at the Baker Community Center. The second and fourth Friday of the month, the meetings will be at Valhalla's Gaming Center, 6161 W. 44th Ave., Wheatridge, Colorado.



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: \$20.00 (16 to 22 years old)

Children: free (younger than 16 accompanied by member)

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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Next Issue: July 2010

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