

# Colorado Military Historians

**Newsletter**

**XXXVIII, No. 4**

**April 2012**



Canadian Leopard 2A6M tank rolling down a road in Afghanistan.

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# Game Store Tours

*Message from CMH Secretary  
Eric Elder*



Part of the defenses of the Gate House on Alcatraz.

I would like to thank Jeff Caruso and Binhhan for their articles this month. Jeff discusses his experience during the first battle of the Song of Drums and Shakos Campaign. This month Binhhan describes the B-25 G-J bomber.

We currently have 28 paid members. We really need our outstanding members to pay their 2012 dues. You can pay any Board Member and I will make sure you get your membership card and this year's free dice.

I met up with Doug, Dan, and John Brown to check out two gaming stores. These were Collector Mania in Parker and Bonnie Brae in Englewood. John and Dan are working on a DBA tournament location and I just joined in to check out the locations. Surprisingly I have never been to Bonnie Brae. The store has a lot of stock from plastic kits to gaming related books. I figured I would find something to buy, but did not. If I'm desperate for an Osprey right away, I'll have to check them out first. Collector Mania on the other hand has limited stock, especially for historical miniature wargamers. It does have a good open area for gaming though.

Two photos in this newsletter feature Alcatraz which means I recently visited San Francisco. I was there with my wife for five days at the beginning of March. I have never been to San Francisco before and we enjoyed the visit. Military history wise I visited the USS Pampanito submarine and Alcatraz. Yes, Alcatraz Island was once a fortress.

West Wars is coming in May. Send your game information to Doug ([dwwildfong@comcast.net](mailto:dwwildfong@comcast.net)) or Dan ([dagurule@gmail.com](mailto:dagurule@gmail.com)).



# March 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 and compete for Unit of the Month.

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Binhan Lin	1/144	Sweet Models	WWII	F4F-3 (GM-2) Wildcat
Binhan Lin	1/144	True North	WWII	F4F Wildcat
Eric Elder	28mm	Knuckleduster	War of 1812	Canadian Voltigeurs
<b>DOUG WILDFONG</b>	28mm	Hinchcliff	Ancient	Sarmatian Roxilani
Doug Wildfong	28mm	Zvada	Ancient	Artillery

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

# Song of the Drums and Shakos Campaign Snapshot

*After Action Report submitted by CMH Member*

*Jeff Caruso*



Vimeiro is the first battle kicking off the SDS Campaign. For Armstrong's Rifles of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 95<sup>th</sup> Rifles that meant facing the Irish Legion fighting for the Crapauds in Spain. Armstrong's Rifles were tasked with defending an area in the town centered on a small church. The Irish were aggressive in attacking and the Rifles were making for a tower in the nearest building when Armstrong ordered the squad to defend behind a rock wall. Here is the fight with the Irish (on the right, below) getting the worst of the exchange with two men knocked down.



Soon, two Irishmen were wounded or killed and the Irish captain pulled his squad back behind the church only to be pursued by the Rifles. Private Thomas Taylor was first around the corner and saw the Irish standard bearer in front of him. Taking aim, Taylor fired and wounded the standard bearer, who let the flag slip from his grasp as he fell to the ground.



Taylor is seen here after the battle recreating his steady aimed shot. The shock of losing the standard bearer caused the Irishmen to abandon the field and so precipitously that they left the eagle standard on the field of battle. Private Taylor snatched it up yelling, "I've got their cuckoo!" The Irish quit the field and the theater of operations in Spain and are now reported to be guarding a supply depot in Toulouse.

In recognition of this great feat of martial arms, Taylor is now Sergeant Thomas Taylor. He also was awarded a sizable purse of gold which he opened up to buy some refreshment for his squad members, with Armstrong's blessing of course.



In a generous show of inter regimental comradeship, the captured eagle was given over to the 87<sup>th</sup> Prince of Wales' Irish Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, for coming to the aid of the Rifles in a brutal ambush in 1804 in Galicia. Sergeant Patrick Masterson is pictured waving the captured eagle while shouting out the battle cry of the 87<sup>th</sup>, "Faugh a ballagh." Clear the way.



# March Monthly Meeting

## Game of the Month

Temporarily no sponsor



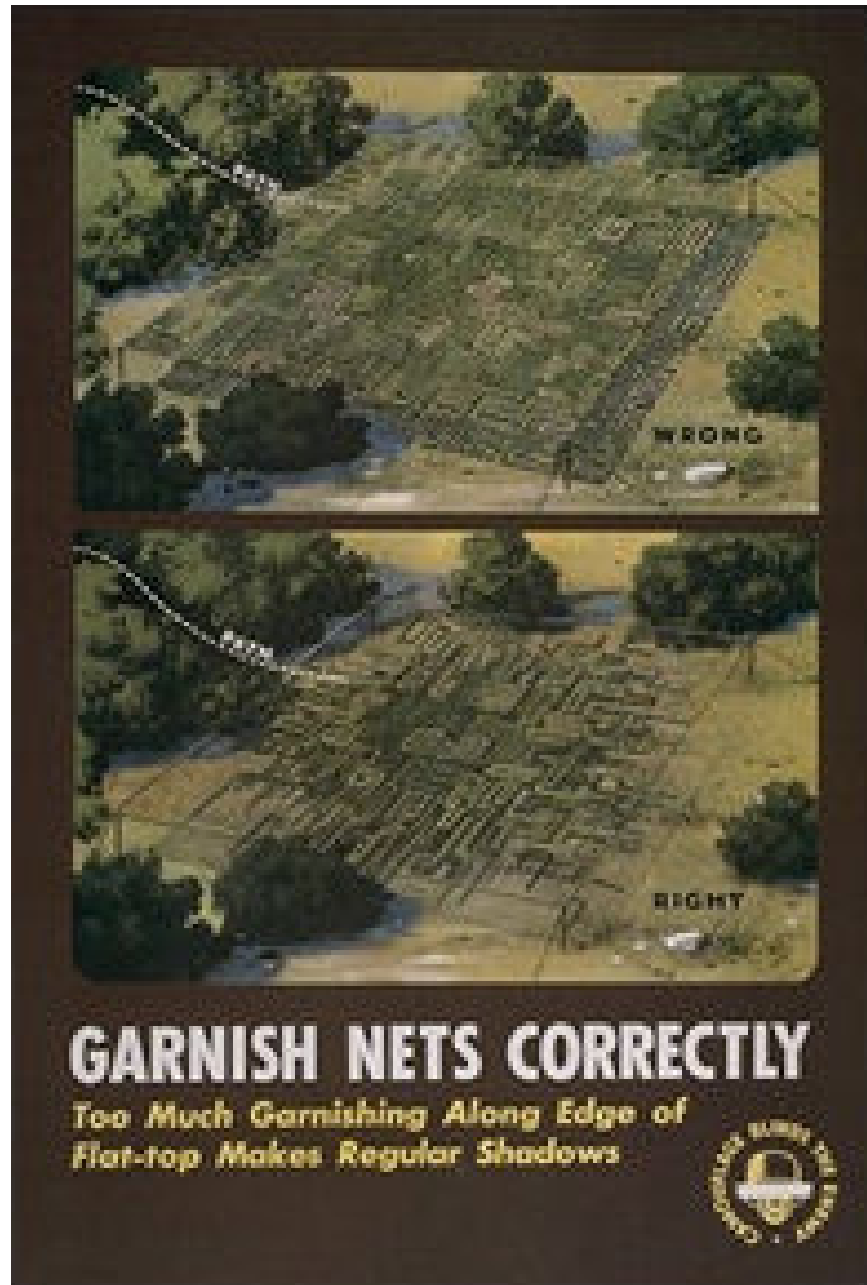
Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host.

CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
Binhan Lin	15mm	AK's & Napalm	We Were Soldiers
Dave Newport	28mm	Legion vs Horde	Republican Rome vs. Macedonian Phalanx
<b>DAN GURULE</b>	15mm	Large Battle Drums & Shakos	Napoleonics in Spain

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

# Tactical Training Poster of the Month

*1943 U.S. Posters from Canadian War Museum Collection*



## CMH April 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
April 15	MM	Baker	Noon	5:00 pm
April 20	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight

April monthly meeting games:

- Steve Preston will be putting on a 15mm *Volley and Bayonet* SYW battle at the next club meeting. He can take up to 8 players.
- 15mm *Ancient Warfare* Galatians vs. Macedonians hosted by Larry Irons. Please contact Larry if you want to use your own troops or play another battle with your own troops.

April Friday Night Fight

- Games to be determined.

Upcoming games:

- 15mm *DBA* Campaign Games (218 BC and 1479 AD) at West Wars (20 May)
- *Blitzkrieg-Commander* at West Wars.



# B-25 G-J Mitchell

*Aircraft Profile by CMH Historian  
Binhan Lin*

Manufacturer: North American Aviation  
Crew: 5-6

Length: 52 ft. 11 in.  
Wingspan: 67 ft. 6 in.  
Empty Weight: 21,120 lbs.

Power plant: 2 x P&W R-2800  
Max. Speed: 275 mph  
Range: 1,350 miles

Armament: Up to 18 x 0.50 Browning M2,  
1 x 75mm cannon, Up to 6,000 lbs of  
bombs, rockets or torpedoes.



Minicraft – Plastic model kit

The need for a ground attack plane in the South West Pacific Area, led to many field improvisations of adding additional heavy machine guns to the B-25C/D. Most common were additional gun packs strapped to the nose, just below the cockpit. This led to the production designation B-25G. Some G variants replaced the clear bombardier position with a solid nose that housed a 75mm cannon and two additional HMG's.

The B-25H added additional defensive armament with the addition of waist blisters housing a .50 HMG each. The top turret was moved forward to just behind the cockpit and a tail gunner position added. The lower turret was removed due to its ineffectiveness. The 75mm cannon variant was continued, but with the lighter T13E1 model and many planes had twin, double gun pods below the cockpit as standard installation, providing a total of 14 HMG's.

The final production model was the J. This model was built with either the clear bombardier nose or the solid ground attack nose. As fewer large targets were available, the 75mm cannon was discontinued and the solid nose became home to up to 8 .50 HMG's, providing these gunship models with 16 HMG's.

The B-25 was an outstanding medium bomber in the Pacific theatre, attacking a variety of targets such as ports, ships, airfields, landing beaches and many others in a variety of attack techniques: high-altitude bombing, skip-bombing, cannon attack, HMG strafing, as well as torpedo and rocket attacks. The B-25 proved to be a hardy, multi-purpose attack platform.

Over 9800 planes were built of the various types. The B-25 did not last long past World War 2 with most being scrapped and the remainder being used in the Air National Guard as trainers or sold for civilian use as fire bombers, crop dusters or luxury transports.

## Photo of the Month



In 1859 Alcatraz Island was occupied by troops becoming the first permanent harbor fortification on the West Coast. By 1866 Alcatraz had 111 pieces of heavy artillery mounted (as seen in the above picture) with 18 spare cannons in the ordnance yard. The army left the island in 1934 but returned during WWII. The island was a Federal penitentiary from 1934 to 1963.

# 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. One Friday of the month will be held at the Baker Community Center. The other 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 \$35.00 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: \$35.00

Half year Adult Membership: \$25.00

(For NEW members who join after June 30)

Family Membership: \$35.00 (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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