

Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XXXVIII, No. 5

May 2012



Arlington National Cemetery

Onwards to West Wars 2012

*Message from CMH President
Dan Gurule*



Well it's May already. Feels like my year as President went pretty quick. As I mentioned a couple of months ago I will not be running again this year. I have had way too much to do outside the Club these last few months and its not going to get easier this year. So thanks for the opportunity to lead CMH over the last year, I really enjoyed the experience.

It looks like we are ready for West Wars thanks to Doug W. and his efforts. So for West Wars make sure you start getting your things ready for the big Swap Meet. I always seem to wait till the last minute, but not this year! Remember, what is one mans junk is another mans treasure.

We also have the CSGA/CMH throw down coming up in July at Collectors Mania in Parker. A big thank you goes out to John Brown for leading this effort. We have some payback for what CSGA did to us last year. Good Luck!

So I look forward to seeing you all at West Wars and to supporting our new President after elections on Sunday.

Take care and I'll see you on the tabletop.

Club Donation

Message from CMH Secretary

Eric Elder

I would like to thank David Newport who came through last minute with an article. Without David there would be no articles this month. I look forward to more articles in the coming months. We really need them.

Jim Rairdon has invited Megan Quitter, the Education Manager from Wings Over the Rockies Museum to come to the May 20th meeting at 11:30 a.m. to talk about the opportunities for a partnership between Wings and CMH. I know that there is a lot of expertise in our group and much of it would overlap with Wing's mission.

Our West Wars 2012 club convention is this month. I suspect it will be another great one. I wish I had a game ready to go, but I'm currently in the midst of painting up Renaissance English Longbowmen. Maybe next West Wars.

In April we got to see the first completed Wargames Factory assembly, Zulus by Terry Shockey. It sounds like the three different sets have been coming along well. Reviews are mixed regarding the plastic figures. Most of the complaints are how time consuming and challenging it is to glue all the various parts of the figures together and that the horses should come mounted on bases. The positive comments are the variety of poses possible and the figures are great for skirmish games.

Last month we were approached by Ed Seely, of Fort Collins, who was looking to donate his wargaming hobby material to our club. Ed used to wargame in Oklahoma City back in the 70s and early 80s. Rather than throw away his miniatures and books, Ed has graciously donated them to us. Since Ed wargamed mostly in the 1970s his miniatures and books are from that period. Here is brief listing of what we now have:

- Approximately four boxes of books, which are mostly napoleonic books.
- Box of various rules (~1970s).
- First generation of Minifigs Napoleonic 25mm French, British, and Russian. Most are painted.
- Navwar 1:1200 Age of Sail ships.

I would say the miniatures are entry level. Good starter miniatures.

I will be setting up this all up at the Swap Meet at West Wars (the Sunday morning) for anyone who wants some of these items. All will be given to paid club members for free who can find a good home for the miniatures, books, or rules. I do not want to take any of this home, so please take what you can. First come first serve at the Swap Meet.

April 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
ERIC ELDER	28mm	Knuckleduster	War of 1812	Glengarry Light Infantry
Steve Shultz	6mm	Kitbashed Irregular	ACW	Bull Run – Union / CSA
Greg Skelly	28mm/1:56	Various	WWII	Aussie 6 th Div., U.S. Half tracks and more

Table: Unit of the Month (WINNER)

Wargames Factory German Warband Figures

Review submitted by CMH Member

David Newport

I received a sample box of 30 German Warband figures from Wargames Factory via Eric Elder to paint up. I will give you some impressions of the figures and my plans for them, and hopefully this will get them painted quicker.

The box has five each of two different sprues, for a total of ten sprues. One sprue has five body/leg combos, two with shirts, three bare-chested, and fortunately all with pants. The bodies are fixed to the legs, so if you wanted to twist the torso you need to cut and reglue. This sprue also has about nine left arms with closed hands and ten right arms with open hands. Left arms for shields, right arms to hold the weapons. The second sprue has one shirtless body, two left arms with open hands, one left arm with a horn, about 15 random heads, and assorted weapons. Roughly four spears, four swords, two bows and quivers, two standards, and a knife, cudgel and knobkerrie per sprue. These weapons you glue into the open hands.



German Warband figures under construction

As far as quality of the figures goes, it is passable on the sprue with the bodies and good on the weapons sprue. The bodies/arms are not very crisp and they do not have a lot of detail. The details are passable, but they are not very pronounced so there are not a lot of raised surfaces to pick out with a brush. A couple of the arms are clunky looking with muscles that look off. The weapons sprue is much better, with the pieces looking nice and crisp and with a decent level of detail. The figures are overall kind of plain but they are not misshapen blobs of plastic. Compared to some Games Workshop figures (Lizardmen from 10 years ago, so not even recent castings) which I just assembled, the Wargames Factory figures have little going for them and they are plain vanilla. Note: I have some Sci-Fi Shock Troops from Wargames Factory, and the shock troop figures look better to me. It could be that once the Germans get painted up I will not notice the lack of details, or it could be the Sci-Fi dudes were better figures.

Assembly took about two hours. It takes time to trim out thirty figures, with separate arms, heads, and weapons. I noted that the heads do not go onto the bodies as well as I might like. There is a depression in the body to take the neck, but it is not very deep and I thought the head/neck combo did not look very smooth on the body. A couple of figures' heads shifted a bit as the glue dried, and they look like they have a watermelon stuck in their throats. The weapons seemed to fit in the open hands fine, although the

hands are kind of open and to get a realistic looking fit you have to make sure the weapons are at the right angle. The fit is not very tight, but the plastic glue fixes all. Overall, assembly went smoothly. I opted for four guys with bows, two standards, one horn blower and the rest split out at about 60/40 spears /swords with shields. Normally I paint shields separately and glue them on later, but since these are plastic figures I put the shield on at this stage to get a good glue bond.

I already have a lot of ranked up figures for ancients (see my many Legion vs. Horde games.) Therefore I decided to base these Germans as individual figures for skirmish games. They thus got glued to 1" fender washers to give them a nice wide base with some heft to it to balance the light weight plastic figures. This also means I do not have to make sure the figures rank up, which can limit the shield and arm poses a bit to ensure they are not bonking the guys in the next rank with their weapons. I may order some Romans to go against them if these turn out okay, but that is later down the line. I added spackle to the edges of the bases to smooth over the transition up onto the figure's base.

The next question is how to paint them. My normal style is to prime white, block them in, hit them with a wash, and then high light or dry brush. I have done the rest of the painting spectra, such as black primer, 2 or 3 color methods, strange stuff with spray paint, successive highlights, blending, building up washes, etc., but it is not my main style. However, I figured I would do something different for these just to try it out.

I recently read the two Ken Dallimore books from Foundry on his 3-color scheme for figure painting, and it looks like something worth checking out in more depth. Some of the figures in the book look fantastic. Some look like a butcher's chart with overdone highlights and bizarre random folds in the clothing. My goal is to make the paint job more natural without the huge contrasts. As a corollary, with the light amount of surface detail on the figures, I pretty much have to paint it onto the figures to make them more interesting and the 3-color method is good for this. Anyhow, I have done some of this style of painting before, but practicing on thirty fresh figures should help me develop this technique. I will reference a few Ospreys and online guides, as the pictures on the Wargames Factory box are very blurry and not very much help as a painting reference.

Another idea I had was to paint the figures mostly with craft paints from Michaels. I use the craft paints for terrain and bases, but rarely for figures as they range from excellent to poor and it is hard to guarantee consistency. However, since I am experimenting, I figured I would go all the way and see what I could do with craft paints. I did cheat a bit use some Polly-S paints I had around, but the plan is to stick to the craft paints.

So with this in mind, I sprayed black primer on the figures. The first step for these guys was to paint the flesh tones. Since two thirds of them have no shirts, this actually does a large amount of the painting for me. I found that I tend to dry brush the third layer on more than just paint it on, but I will try to develop the style some more as I work on the rest of the figures. It is a test for the method on a large scale, after all. And with that, I am finishing up the article. I should have some if not all of the figures done in time for West Wars, and at that point you can see how my experiments with 3-color painting and craft paints have worked out. These Wargames Factory minis are not the most excellent of figures, but they are not bad and we will see what I can do with them over the next month. After all, a decent paint job can make any figure look good, and you can be the judge of whether or not you might want some of this line after you see the results.

April 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
LARRY IRONS	15mm	Ancient Warfare	
Ed Meyers	20mm	Battle Cry	Shiloh
Jeff Caruso	25mm	Song of Drums & Shakos	

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

Tactical Training Poster of the Month

1943 U.S. Posters from Canadian War Museum Collection



Arma Virumque Cano

WEST WARS

May 18 - 20

www.cmhweb.org

ENTRY
\$5 DOLLARS
CMH MEMBERSHIP
SPECIAL!
\$35 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
(INC. WEST WARS ENTRY)

The Colorado Military Historians
invite you to join us in battle.



GAMING SCHEDULE

EVENTS

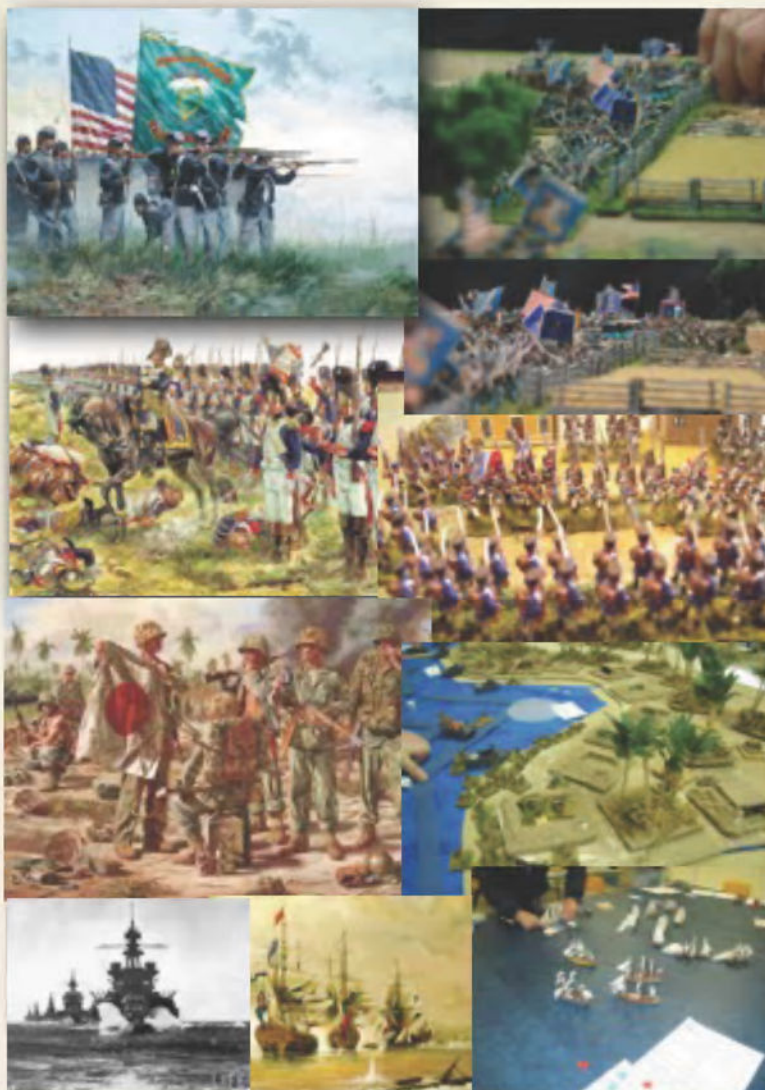
1429 AD Ancient Campaign (DBA 2.2)
ACW (Field of Battle)
WWII (Blitzkrieg Commander)
Modern Skirmish (Force on Force)
Napoleonic (DSLb)
ACW (Regimental Fire and Fury)
More events to be announced

DETAILED EVENT SCHEDULE WILL BE
RELEASED AT LEAST ONE WEEK IN
ADVANCE OF WEST WARS

Food and Drinks will be available at the snack
table

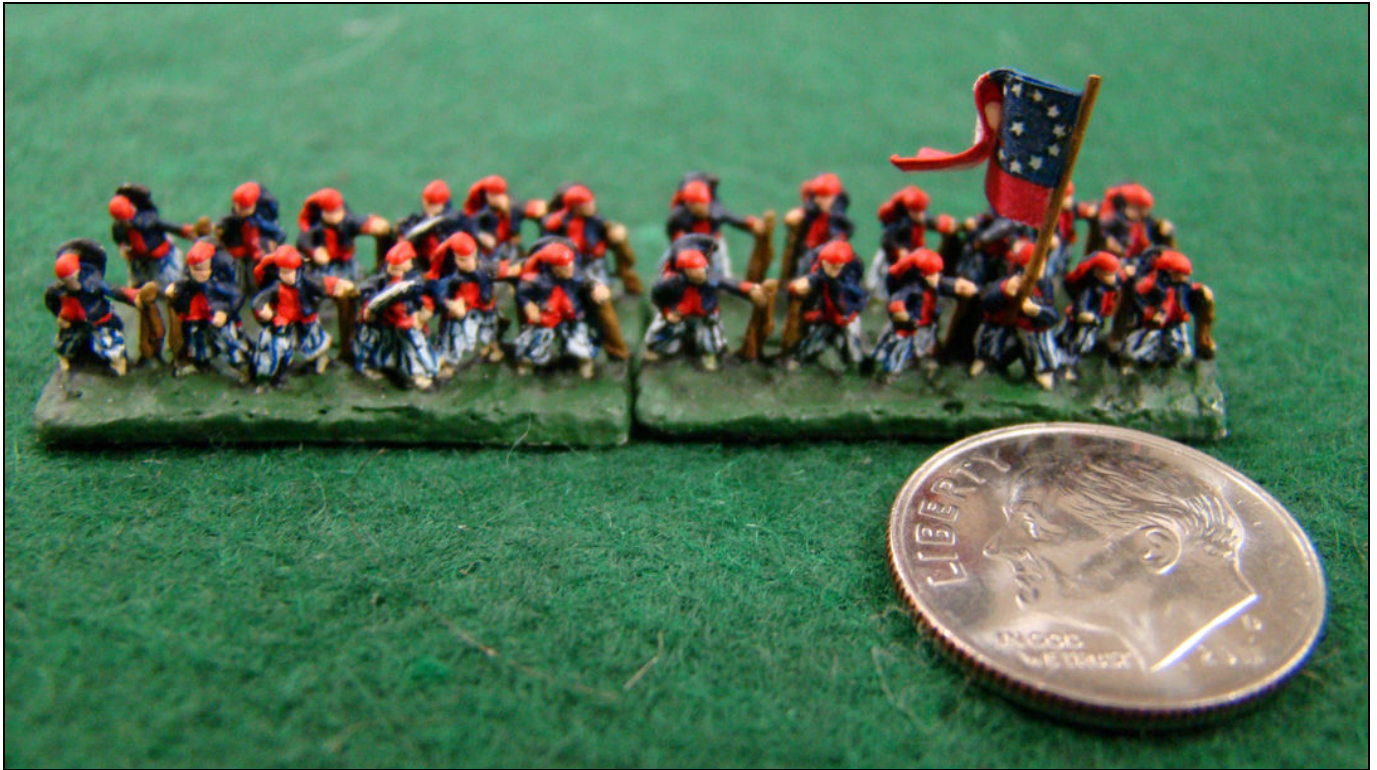
Location: Baker Center, 6751 Irving Street,
Denver, Colorado

For Game Entries, Comments or Questions
Please Contact Doug Wildfong at or Email at
dwwildfong@comcast.net



Hope to see you there!

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. West Wars (WW) 2012 is this month. It is recommended to schedule your game for future meetings and will appear on this page.

Date	Meeting	Location	Start Time	End Time
May 4	FNF	Greg's House	7:00 pm	11:00 pm
May 18	WW/FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
May 19	WW	Baker	9:00 am	midnight
May 20	WW (swap meet)	Baker	10:00 am	11:30am
May 20	WW/MM	Baker	12:00 pm	5:00 pm

May 4: Hugh and Larry are back with "Roman Seas" trireme combat. Contact Greg Skelly (gjskelly@comcast.net) if you would like to attend and to get directions to his house.

May 18-20: West Wars 2012.

Wargames Factory: Zulus

Zulus painted by CMH Member Terry Shockey



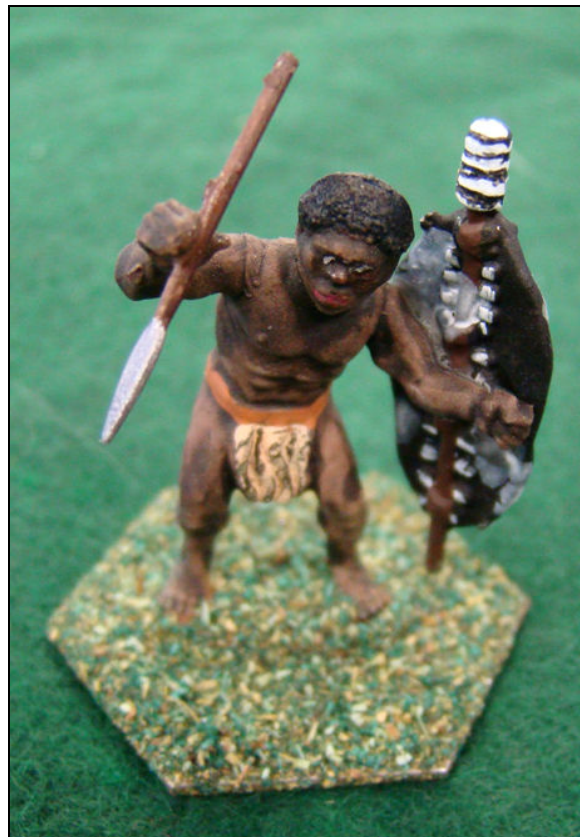


Photo of the Month



WWI postcard from Eric Elder's collection.



Saint-Chamond French WWI tank.

The Saint-Chamond French tank was built by Forges et Aciéries de la Marine et d'Homécourt. The tracks are from American-made Holt caterpillar tractors. The tank had a fixed forward 75mm main gun and four M1914 machine guns. Approximately 400 were built. Some were converted to supply and recovery vehicles. Sixteen tanks were engaged in the battle at Laffaux Mill on May 5, 1917. Only three were destroyed in combat in the battle. Twelve tank groups in the war had Saint-Chamond tanks. The tanks were last used in combat in was on in October 1918 (15 tanks), in support of the U.S. First Division near Montfaucon.

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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