

Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XXXVIII, No. 6

June 2012



F6Fs prepare to take off from USS Ticonderoga during World War II

CMH Board Shuffle

Message from outgoing CMH Secretary

Eric Elder

I would like to thank Binhan this month for submitting two aircraft profiles. It seems fitting that the submitted articles are from the incoming CMH Secretary.

West Wars 2012 sounds like it was another good convention. I could not attend most of it due to family circumstances, but that is okay I was able to unload a bunch of wargaming stuff at the swap meet. It was nice to see a bunch of visitors to the convention. The more the merrier. Thanks go out to Doug and Dan for putting the convention together.



The results of the 2012/2013 CMH Board vote held on May 20:

President:	Doug Wildfong
Vice-President:	Greg Skelly
Secretary:	Binhan Lin
Treasurer:	Larry Irons
Historian:	Dan Gurule

In 2005 I volunteered to take over from Ray Trochim who was looking for someone to take over the position of club secretary. I had some ideas like change up the front page of the newsletter and add more color club photos. We had just begun to stop mailing the newsletter and having it posted to our club website so anyone could see the activities of the club and show off our variety of military history knowledge. I can say it has always been a struggle to get members to submit content for the newsletter, but I came to know that we are painters and gamers more than writers. I do appreciate all the content that was submitted. I look forward to Binhan as Secretary. Please support him was as many articles/pictures for the newsletter as you can.

May 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
DOUG WILDFONG	28mm	Wargames Factory	17-18 th C.	French SYW Conti Cavalry
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Legion Heroica	Medieval	Teutonic DBA Army
Jim Rairdon	15mm	M. Miniatures	Medieval	Trebuchet (Mongol)
Jeff Lambert	1/144	Skytrex	WWI	10 RNAS (Canadian) Sopwith Triplanes
Jeff Lambert	1/144	Skytrex	WWI	Handley Paige O/400 "Bloody Paralyzer"
Dave Newport	28mm	Wargames Factory	Ancient	Ancient German Warband

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

F4F Wildcat

Manufacturer: Grumman Aircraft
Engineering
Crew: 1

Length: 28 ft. 9 in.
Wingspan: 38 ft.
Empty Weight: 5,895 lbs.

Power plant: 1 x PW R-1830-86
Max. Speed: 320 mph
Range: 830 miles

Armament: 6 x 0.50 M2 HMG



Sweet Aviation Models – Plastic Kit

Designed in 1936, as a follow on to the F3F bi-plane, the original XF4F-1 design was also a bi-plane. However, the competing F2A Buffalo from Brewster was a low wing monoplane and Grumman realized that a bi-plane would not be competitive. Grumman withdrew its initial design and resubmitted a monoplane design designated the XF4F-2.

During competition with the F2A, the XF4F-2 had a higher speed, but persistent engine troubles, including one incident, which caused the prototype to crash and suffer extensive damage. The Navy awarded the contract to Brewster, but saw potential in the F4F design. Grumman engineers rebuilt and modified the XF4F-2 prototype with a new, more powerful and heavier experimental Pratt and Whitney engine. This aircraft was designated the XF4F-3. The new prototype exceeded the production Brewster Buffalo in all respects and the Navy awarded a production contract in 1939 as the F4F-3 Wildcat.

Changes such as folding wings, increasing the armament to six 0.50 HMG's and wing mounted fuel drop tanks led to the F4F-4. Over 1,100 F4F-4's were initially ordered as the Navy was equipping carrier and Marine squadrons with the Wildcat.

Grumman, overwhelmed by the orders as well as trying to ramp up production of the new F6F Hellcat allowed General Motors (Eastern Aircraft) to begin production of the F4F-4 wildcat at idled automotive plants. These aircraft were designated FM-1. The FM-1 was identical the F4F-4 except for a return to the 4 HMG armament as pilots had complained the 6 gun load out significantly reduced the ammunition load.

A lightened version of the Wildcat was developed and since Grumman had switched production to the Hellcat, Eastern Aircraft was chosen to build the new design under the designation FM-2.

Production of the Wildcat ended in May 1945, with 7,251 produced by Grumman and Eastern Aircraft. The Wildcat did not see any post-war service and most were scrapped at the end of the war.

May Monthly Meeting

Game of the Month

Temporarily no sponsor



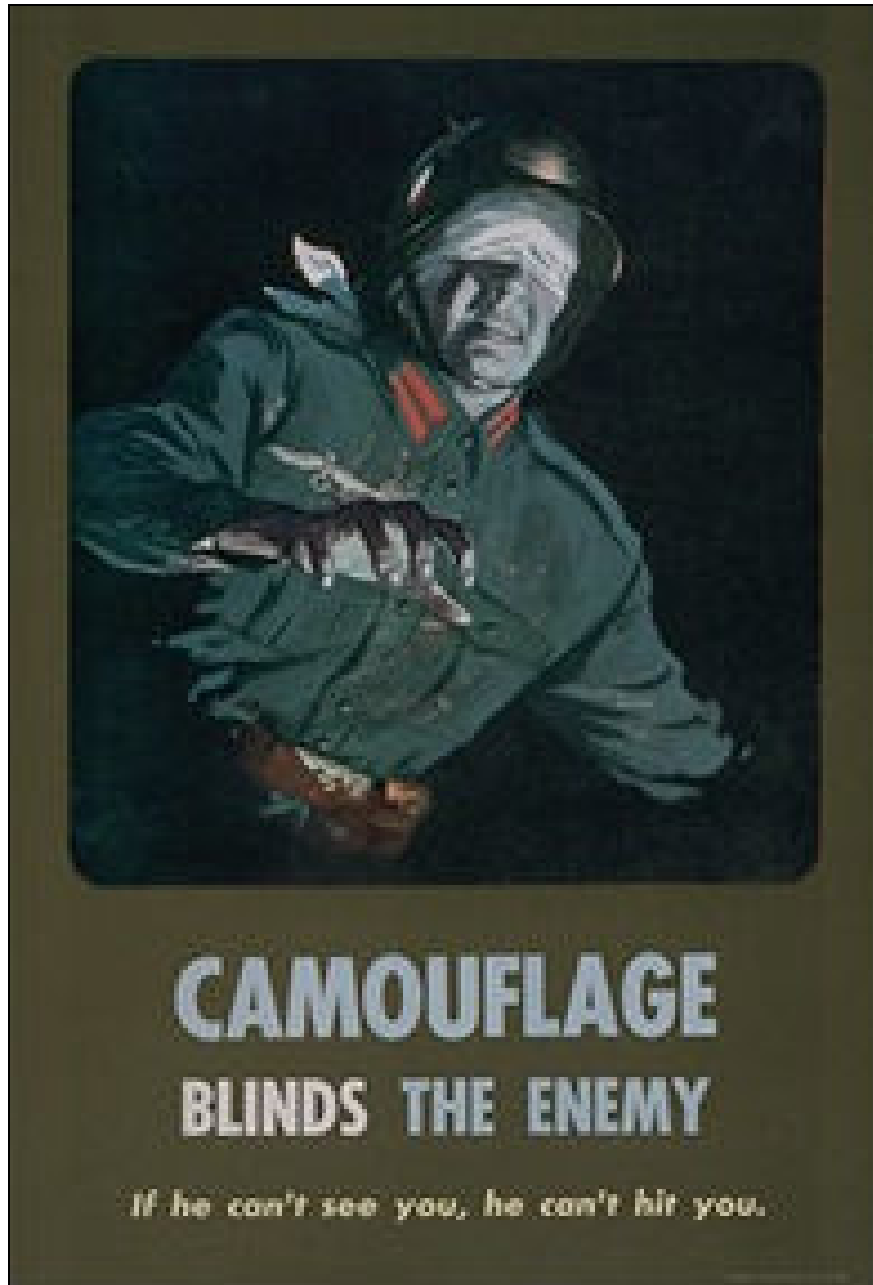
Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host.

CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
John Brown	15mm	DBA	Medieval Campaign
Dave Newport	15mm	Zulu!	Rorke's Drift
DAN GURULE	15mm	Drums/Shakos	Peninsular Battle 1812
Jeff Lambert		Kaiser's Pirates	WWI Raiding

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

Tactical Training Poster of the Month

1943 U.S. Posters from Canadian War Museum Collection



CMH June 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 1	FNF	Greg's House	7:00 pm	11:00 pm
June 8	FNF	Greg's House	7:00 pm	11:00 pm
June 10	MM	Baker	12:00pm	5:00pm
June 15	FNF	Greg's House	7:00 pm	11:00 pm
June 22	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight

Contact Greg Skelly (gjskelly@comcast.net) if you would like to attend and to get directions to his house.

June 1: Bill Daniel will run Dystopian Wars

June 8: D-Day

June 15: WWII Naval

F6F-3 Hellcat

Manufacturer: Grumman Aircraft
Engineering
Crew: 1

Length: 33 ft. 7 in.
Wingspan: 42 ft. 10 in.
Empty Weight: 11,381 lbs.

Power plant: 1 x PW R-2800-10
Max. Speed: 376 mph
Range: 945 miles

Armament: 6 x 0.50 M2 HMG



Revell (Germany) – Plastic Kit

A contract between the US Navy and Grumman aircraft in 1941 was signed for a follow up design to the F4F Wildcat. Although superficially shaped the same, the Hellcat was a totally new aircraft incorporating the powerful P&W R2800 engine, requiring a high strength airframe and components.

The first model to reach production was the F6F-3 armed with 6 0.50 HMG's in the wing. The first units were completed in October 1942 and soon became the Navy's main frontline carrier fighter.

In the spring of 1944, production of the F6F-3 was halted in favor of the upgraded F6F-5 which incorporated hard points for bombs, rockets and external fuel tanks as well as an optional armament of two 20mm cannon and four 0.50 HMG's.

Production ended I November, 1945 with 12,275 aircraft built of the -3, -5 and -3E/N and -5E/N night fighter/radar versions.

As the main frontline aircraft of the US Navy, the Hellcat racked up 75% of all aerial victories scored by the US Navy in the Pacific. Hellcat pilots claimed over 5,100 kills to a loss rate of only 270 aircraft due to enemy action, a 19:1 kill ratio. Over 305 pilots became aces in the Hellcat.

The Hellcat continued post-war in the role of trainer, unmanned target drones and unmanned guided aircraft bombs in Korea. The unmanned drones were designated F6F-5K.

Photos of the Month

Pictures of member Wargames Factory completed miniatures.







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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