



COLORADO MILITARY HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

XVII, No. 2

February 2016



WWI Raid on Scarborough

JANUARY MEETING: AFTER ACTION REPORT

THE SCARBOROUGH RAID

By John Owen

This action featured the High Seas Fleet battle cruiser squadron and escorts bombarding the English coast. Unbeknownst to the Germans, capture of one of their naval codebooks enabled the Royal Navy to read their message traffic, and send their own battle cruisers to intercept. The Germans were jointly commanded by Admiral John Setterlind and his son Bill (shades of Admiral Maximilian von Spee and *his* son – both lost at the earlier Battle of the Falklands). The Royal Navy forces were commanded by Admirals Terry Shockey and Jeff Lambert. The combatants had to contend not only with each other, but the fickle North Sea weather, which impeded visibility, sometimes severely.

Having already bombarded Scarborough, early morning of 16 December 1914 found battle cruisers *Derfflinger* and *Seydlitz* engaging British coastal batteries at Hartlepool. The 6" batteries were too light to do much damage, while the batteries themselves were small targets and very difficult to hit. The Germans did manage to destroy one of them however. Patrolling in the area, Royal Navy coastal submarine C-9 managed to launch two 18" torpedoes at the marauders, and obtained one hit.

Meanwhile, four British battle cruisers steaming from the north entered the area and proceeded to engage ersatz battle cruiser *Blucher* and her escorts, off to the east, screening *Derfflinger* and *Seydlitz*. Despite the disparity in size, the Germans hung in, flinging torpedoes at the enemy. Their practice, even at long range, was excellent, scoring four hits on the *Lion* and two on the *New Zealand*. Superior firepower, however, began to tell, as *Blucher* was pounded, eventually suffering a magazine hit, which reduced her to a floating wreck. British destroyers closed in to prevent escape of the screening force.

While these ships fought, Admiral Setterlind aboard the *Derfflinger* and *Seydlitz* elected to leave Commodore Setterlind and the screening force to its fate, and under the cover of heavy fog, made good their escape. *Blucher* finally went down, followed shortly by the light cruiser *Strassburg*.

On balance, the Germans suffered the greater loss, one faux battle cruiser, one light cruiser, and three torpedo boats sunk. However, it was not all one sided, as they sank two British destroyers, put two battle cruisers out of action for an extended period, and successfully demonstrated the Royal Navy could not protect its own coastline.

Our thanks to all the participants. We plan to work up a Jutland scenario on the 100th anniversary of that battle (31 May 1916) for West Wars.

OF MEN AND ARMS I SPEAK

By Terry Shockey

A recent publication by Osprey entitled *The Flintlock Musket* by Stuart Reid is an excellent read despite its brevity (80 pages). I had heard and at one point understood the term Universal Soldier. But Reid's book reacquainted me with that term.

With the advent of the flintlock musket and later the bayonet that attached to it, the ponderous units of mixed musket and pike gave way to a more flexible and "universal" use of military units. This development through the years allowed the average soldier to become an "army of one," so to speak. It helped break down the ridged theory of massed units only. Light infantry became a major part of many armies, especially the Napoleonic French. The mass production that ensued gave even minor European nations a chance to be counted in the military operations occurring in Europe and elsewhere at the time. But that began to cause problems for the European empire builders as those subjected to that empire began to collect flintlocks and form military units of their own. The proliferation of the flintlock musket was truly a world changing occurrence.

Today our universal soldier is equipped with much more sophisticated arms and materials. The invention of the AK47 and other easily manufactured and easily maintained firearms further extended the concept of the universal soldier, unfortunately even to child soldiers in Africa and Asia.



CMH March Scheduled Events

This table shows what events are scheduled for CMH. 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
March 4	FNF	TBD	7PM
March 11	FNF	TBD	7PM
March 13	MM	Baker Rec Center	12PM
March 18	FNF	TBD	7PM
March 25	FNF	TBD	7PM

TEG - Total Escape Games

6831 W. 120th Ave.

Suite C

Broomfield CO 80020

www.totalescapegames.com

FNF (TBD) may or may not occur due to a lack of a scheduled host/location.

At Press time the only events announced for the monthly meeting are:

John Owen: WWI naval small action scenarios to gain experience for those involved in the June celebration of CMH's 51st anniversary and the 100th anniversary of the battle of Jutland.

Jeff Lambert: WWI arial action using Blue Max/ Canvas Eagles rules. It corresponds to Jeff's article in the CMH December 2015 issue, *Ending the Fokker Scourage*. If you have Eindeckers, Nieuports, and/or DHs bring them. The scale will be 1/144.

Upcoming outside events:

April 21-24 Conclave of Gamers Crown Plaza Denver I-70 and Chambers

July 13-17 Historicon Fredericksburg VA Convention Center

GAME OF THE MONTH

Total Escape Games Sponsor



Member Name	Scale	Era	Rules	Description
John Brown	15mm	Ancients	BBDBA	
Bill Daniel				Forbidden Island
Dan Gurule*	28mm	Colonial	TSATF	Sudan
Larry Irons	Board	Dark Ages	Fire & Axe	
John Owen	Board	20th Century	Twilight Struggle	Soviets vs Western Powers
Matt Vigil	15mm	Ancients	BBDBA	

*Denotes this month's winner

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





UNIT OF THE MONTH (Not Sponsored)

Member Name	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Bill Daniel	25mm		Colonial	NWF Tower
Nate Forte	1:144	Wings of Glory	WWI	Zeppelin Staakens & Handley Pages
David Manley	28mm	Front Rank	Napoleonics	Portuguese 10th & 20th Regiments
Jim Raidon	15mm	Museum Miniatures	Ancients	Defensive Ditches
Terry Shockey	15mm	Musket miniatures	AWI	Spanish infantry, artillery & officers



Game of the Month February 2016			
Game	Manufacturer	Scale	Unit
Game of the Month	Wings of Glory	1:144	WWI
Game of the Month	Front Rank	28mm	Napoleonics

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Defensive Ditches	Museum Miniatures	15mm	Ancients
Spanish infantry, artillery & officers	Musket miniatures	15mm	AWI

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 it is deferred to the third Sunday. The meeting starts at noon at the Baker Recreational Center, 6751 Irving Street (just a few blocks west of Federal Blvd), Denver CO. The club also hosts gaming at least one Friday night a month, called “Friday Night Fights” (FNF) at 7 PM. FNF will be held at several various locations. See previous schedule or view the website for latest information.

CMH maintains ties with numbers local, regional and national groups to help promote the hobby. CMH is governed by member-elected officers who serve on the Board of Directors (executive board). Terms 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-mail 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)



CMH Newsletter

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Mailing Address:
Terry Shockey
13160 Garfield Dr.
Thornton CO 80241-2106

email: tshockey8981@msn.com
Web Site: www.cmhweb.org

Editor/Layout: Terry Shockey

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2015/2016 CMH Board Members

President:
Doug Wildfong
303-374-9776

Vice-President:
Nate Forte
nateforteg1@gmail.com

Secretary:
Terry Shockey
(See above)

Treasurer:
Larry Irons
303-883-2146

Historian:
Binhan Lin
lazdb@yahoo.com