

COLORADO MILITARY HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

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TOURING THE USS IOWA



Visit to USS IOWA

Article by John Owen

This November I (finally!) got to tour an *Iowa* class battleship. Not only that, but the namesake of the class: the *Iowa* is berthed in San Pedro, CA, not far from the cruise ship terminal. Previously I'd managed to see the *North Carolina*, *Alabama*, and *Texas*. For a senior citizen, the admission was around \$14.50. The interpretive program is excellent – in addition to the regular ship, there are a number of displays and models illustrating the history of battleships generically, culminating with the *Iowas* (although a case can be made for the Japanese *Yamato* class as well, at least size-wise). Several videos run constantly at different locations, many featuring veterans once stationed on the ship. *Iowa* is staffed by volunteers who answer questions visitors might have. Some have naval backgrounds, but other are simply want to promote an appreciation for the ship, and the contributions of America's military generally.

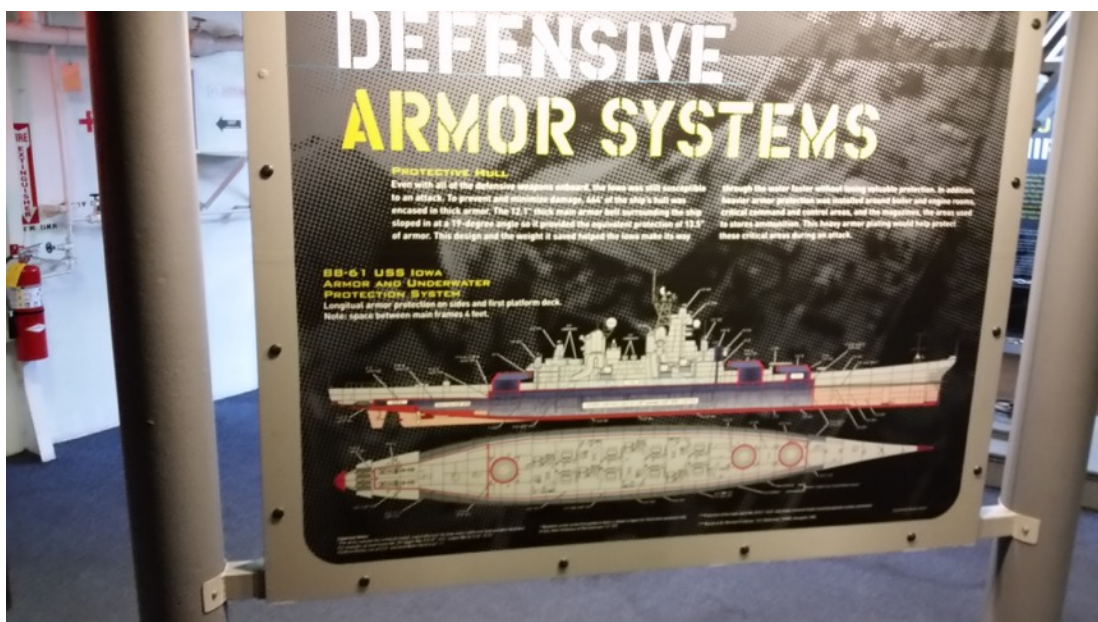
Crew size was largest during the Second World War, and the final manning exceeded the original design. This was because the threat of air attack, not fully appreciated during the design phase in the late 30s, became all too evident. As a result, almost all new construction received greatly expanded anti-aircraft suites. This in turn demanded much larger crews, because the ammunition supply for the 40 and 20mm weapons was all hand carried and loaded. Enlisted bunks tiered in threes were thus often increased to *five* tiers, with correspondingly little headroom. A substantial reduction occurred for Korea service, and the final 1980s iteration was about one third the size of WWII.

The downside: the engineering spaces are not open to the public, nor are the magazines and other spaces located deep inside. Eventually that will change, but the cost of creating safe access for tours is extremely high, and substantial structural modifications are frequently necessary. The ladders - not stairs, for you landlubbers, tend to be steep, and the potential for injury for a largely obese and inactive population is high. The ship was designed for use by fit *young men*, with no frills allowed for; the *Iowa* was all business.

Most of the topside spaces are open. The *Iowa* is in her 1988 configuration, with four 5" mounts removed, and containers for cruise missiles installed, along with point defense gun mounts and chaff dispensers. To the museum's credit, the catastrophic 1989 explosion in No. 2 16" turret is not glossed over. The incident is fully explained in a series of panels. The turret was never repaired and remains closed. This probably led to the premature decommissioning of the ship in the late 1980s, as she did not participate in the Gulf War. Unfortunately, none of the other turrets are open for inspection; it would be a fascinating look at artillery capable of hurling a 2200 lb

projectile 23 nautical miles; at least there are several examples of 16" shells to view, as well as a video detailing the loading procedure.

The ship's store sells an extensive variety of souvenirs, books, clothing, etc. Museums like the *Iowa* are expensive to operate and maintain, and they require large infusions of cash. As far as I can tell, the Federal Government contributes nothing (other than the donation of the ship itself), and admissions and private donation must account for the operating budget. Accessibility to the ship is good, with road signs directing the proper route, starting around the San Pedro border. If you're in the L.A. area for a tour, the *Iowa* is a must see, and I suspect less pricey than the neighboring *Queen Mary*.







Harpoon missile launchers



COLD WAR CONVERSION IOWA-1984

During the Cold War, the USS Iowa was outfitted with more modern weapons and technology:

Four twin 5" gun mounts were removed to allow for the addition of modern missile systems on board the upper decks.

32 Tomahawk cruise missiles were housed in eight Armored Box Launchers (ABL).

16 Harpoon cruise missiles were carried in four quad Kevlar protected canisters.

Four Phalanx anti cruise missile gatling guns were added, two port and starboard on the superstructure.

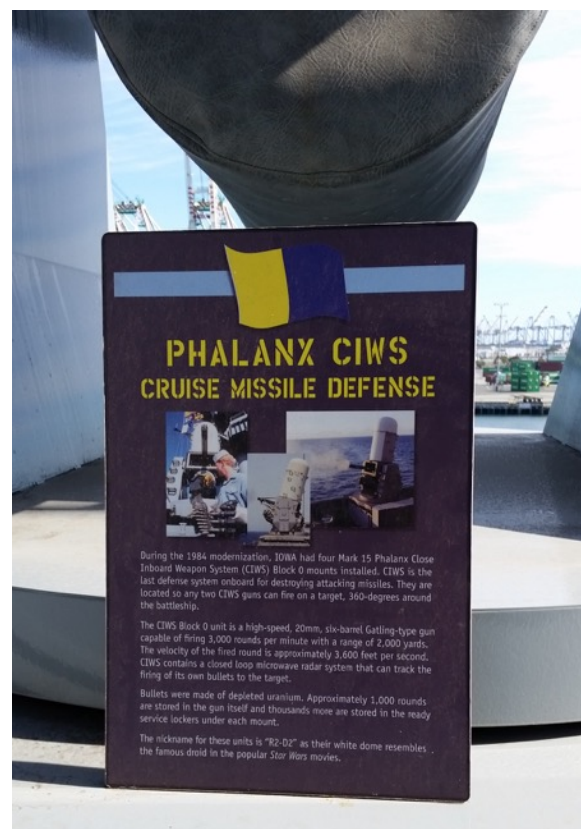
The latest electronic warfare sensors, radars and communications were also added.

The boiler rooms were converted to burn distillate fuel used by the modern navies.

BB-61



Main Battery Director



PHALANX CIWS CRUISE MISSILE DEFENSE



During the 1984 modernization, IOWA had four Mark 15 Phalanx Close Inboard Weapon System (CIWS) Block 0 mounts installed. CIWS is the last defense system onboard for destroying attacking missiles. They are located so any two CIWS guns can fire on a target, 360-degrees around the battleship.

The CIWS Block 0 unit is a high-speed, 20mm, six-barrel Gatling-type gun capable of firing 3,000 rounds per minute with a range of 2,000 yards. The velocity of the fired round is approximately 3,600 feet per second. CIWS contains a closed loop microwave radar system that can track the firing of its own bullets to the target.

Bullets were made of depleted uranium. Approximately 1,000 rounds are stored in the gun itself and thousands more are stored in the ready service lockers under each mount.

The nickname for these units is "R2-D2" as their white dome resembles the famous droid in the popular Star Wars movies.



CANVAS EAGLES CAMPAIGN REPORT DEC. 2016

Reported by Jeff Lambert

Both sides had sent up a 2-seater to map the enemy's trenchlines, escorted by fighters. Lt. Martinez was flying a Roland C.II while Lt. Wharrier was piloting a Sopwith 1-1/2 Strutter. Both pilots had a mission of staying over the enemy's trenchline long enough for the observer in each plane to complete his notes and sketches while photographing the sector. As we shall see, neither side succeeded.

Lt. Skelly, Lt. Irons, and Lt. Hunt all flew Albatros D.I and D.II's to support Martinez. The British escorts for Wharrier were Lt. Forte and Lt. Bugarin in Nieuport 17's, Lt. Manley in a Sopwith "Pup" and Lt. Frakes in a DH2 pusher. The battle began with both sides jockeying for position, staying in close formation while looking for an edge. As always happens, this did not last for long as one or all became keen to engage. The fighter pilots all tore at one another while the recon aircraft tried to stay on mission, occasionally warding off enemies who came too close.

The skies were filled with tracers, many finding their mark in opposing machines as a wild melee developed. Those in the trenches below could hardly feel envious as the aerial display showed clearly that there was no safe place in the heavens, any more than in the mud of the front lines. In quick succession, Lt. Irons and Lt. Forte made a head-on pass, where Forte was seen to enter a death spin from which he did not recover. Irons, too, spun down, only to regain control at the last moment. His fortune was temporary, however, as soon more British bullets found their mark and the motor of his Albatros stopped! With luck, he landed safely behind the German lines. He reported a welcome reception by the footsore witnesses and was glad to return to his aerodrome in time for a happy reunion with Lt. Skelly and the celebration on the occasion of their both being awarded the Iron Cross, 1st Class. Skelly had watched in horror as his friend Lt. Hunt was caught in a stream of bullets from Lt. Frakes in the DH2. Hunt's plane fell in no-man's-land, but as Frakes was preparing to bag another he carelessly collided with Wharrier's Strutter!

Wharrier was killed instantly, the Strutter crashed in the German trenches, and Frakes fought to control his wrecked pusher. But Skelly was there to give him a final burst and send him crashing into the British trenchline, where Frakes' lifeless body was pulled from the debris. In the space of a few minutes, Forte, Hunt, Wharrier, and Frakes were all killed! Smoking and burning wreckage littered the front as both sides, low on fuel, withdrew. Martinez and his observer had been too busy defending themselves to complete their mission, and Wharrier and his observer were both killed in the collision with Frakes. Frakes was credited, posthumously, with an aerial victory over Hunt. Irons was given credit for the victory over Forte, who was awarded the Meritorious Cross (posthumous). Skelly received credit for the victory over Frakes. Germany lost two planes in the battle (Irons and Hunt, who was KIA), although Irons' plane could be returned to service with a new engine. Britain lost 3 planes and their pilots, the Sopwith Strutter (Wharrier), a Nieuport scout (Forte) and a DH2 (Frakes), while only Manley and Bugarin returned safely.

On this basis, the Germans could claim a costly victory. But the war goes on, with both sides looking forward to the delivery of newer and more powerful aircraft.

The Leader Board as of 12/17/16:

SKELLY, Greg-- 3 kills, 254 points
IRONS, Larry-- 2 kills, 205 points
FORTE, Nate-- 0 kills, 164 points
LAMBERT, Jeff-- 1 kill, 120 points
HUNT, Jeff-- 0 kills, 116 points
MARTINEZ, Joe-- 0 kills, 110 points
MANLEY, Dave-- 1 kill, 106 points
FRAKES, Kurt-- 2 kills, 106 points
BUGARIN, Beau-- 1 kill, 90 points
WEBER, Steve-- 0 kills, 36 points
WHARRIER, John-- 0 kills, 32 points
MARSTON, Doug-- 0 kills, 30 points

UNIT OF THE MONTH (Not Sponsored)

Member Name	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Bill Daniel	25mm	Homemade	Various	Village
Eric Elder	28mm	Knuckleduster	War of 1812	British Winter Dress
Jeff Lambert	25mm	Ral Parth	Colonials	Dismounted British Hussars
Terry Shockey	15mm	Musket Miniatures	AWI	Spanish: Guadalajara, Habana (Fijo), Espana, & Rey Regiments



GAME OF THE MONTH

Total Escape Games Sponsor



Member Name	Scale	Era	Rules	Description
Eric Elder*	1/1200	19th Century	Iron and Fire	Battle of Riachuelo
Larry Irons	25mm	Ancients	Ancient Warfare	Battle of Magnesia
Jeff Lambert	1/144	WWI	Canvas Eagles	WWI Air Campaign

***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.



CMH January 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
January 6	FNF	TBD	7PM
January 8	MM@#	Baker Rec Center	12PM
January 13	FNF	TBD	7PM
January 20	FNF	TBD	7PM
January 27	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.

@ Dave Manley will be presenting the Battle of Baker Creek (AWI) using the skirmish rules Sharps Practice at the club meeting. He can take up to 6 players.

Terry Shockey will be presenting the Battle of Spicheren (FPW) using the rules Big Bloody Battles. He can take up to 6 players.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENGHISCON: February 16-19 at Radisson Southeast Aurora CO If you wish information or to submit a game go to coloradogaming.net

HMGS COLD WARS: March 16-19 at the Lancaster Host Resort & Conference Center, Lancaster PA

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

At the December meeting the membership voted to increase the dues for 2017 from \$35 to \$40. In the December newsletter, Larry Irons laid out the need to increase both dues and membership. We are one of the oldest wargaming clubs in the country. We need you and friends or relatives who would enjoy gaming with us to join and then invite others they know. Our future depends on you.

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 \$40.00 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: \$40.00
Half year Adult Membership: \$25.00
(For NEW members who join after June 30)
Family Membership: \$40.00 (one Adult and any number of offspring)
Student Membership: \$20.00 (16 to 22 years old)



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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