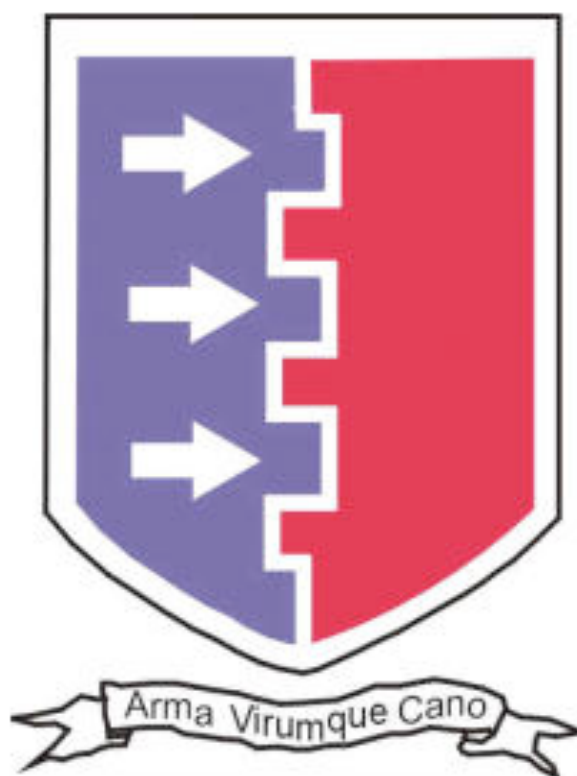


COLORADO MILITARY HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

XVIII, No. 5

May 2017



OF MEN AND ARMS I SPEAK

MOTHERS DAY AND MEMORIAL DAY

The month of May celebrates two holidays in the United States, Mothers Day and Memorial Day. I found myself thinking about the interesting juxtaposition of these two celebrator days as related to war. Throughout the centuries of warfare many a dying soldier, sailor, airman has probably uttered with their final breath "mother." There is a very poignant song from the musical 1776 that comes to mind when I think on this subject. The song is "Momma, Look Sharp."

Momma Look Sharp lyrics

Courier:

Momma, hey momma, come lookin' for me
I'm here in the meadow by the red maple tree
Momma, hey momma, look sharp, here I be
Hey, hey, momma look sharp

Them soldiers, they fired. Oh ma, did we run
But then we turned round and the battle begun
Then I went under, oh ma, am I done?
Hey, hey, momma look sharp

My eyes are wide open, my face to the sky
Is that you I'm hearin' in the tall grass nearby?
Momma come find me before I do die
Hey, hey, momma look sharp

All:

I'll close your eyes, my Billy
Them eyes that cannot see
And I'll bury you, my Billy
Beneath the maple tree

Courier:

And never again will you whisper to me
Hey, hey, momma look sharp.

Mothers Day began with Anna Jarvis wanting to honor her mother, Ann Jarvis. Anna's mother had served as a nurse during the American Civil War, in which she cared for both Union and Confederate soldiers. That celebration was in 1908. It was President Woodrow Wilson signed the proclamation in 1914 making it an official, but not national, holiday.

Memorial Day began in 1868 for the G.A.R to honor the fallen Union Soldiers. The Southern states also had a day to honor its fallen but not last the same time of year. The G.A.R called it Decoration Day. For it was on that day that the graves of those they honored would be decorated. As time healed the wounds of the civil war and the nation came back to gather in the 20th century the two separate days began to melded. The term "Memorial Day" was first used in 1882. But it was not until after WWII that it became solidly a national day. That day became an official national holiday in 1967.

So it is fitting that CMH has traditionally moved its monthly meeting from the normal 2nd Sunday of the month to the third to honor mothers. It is also fitting that we have established our mini-convention West Wars positioned between Mothers Day and Memorial Day. Each year we present a number of battles in which Americans participated and many died. This year we will present battles for both WWI and WWII, as well as battles from other fronts in which men from other countries gave their all and were remembered by their mothers.

Happy Mothers Day and a memorable Memorial Day from CMH

Terry Shockey, CMH Secretary



Report from Jeff Lambert

In the month now known as "Bloody April", the German air forces have reached their high-water mark. In support of the ground "Battle of Arras", RFC and RNAS squadrons made an all-out commitment to the front. Despite the arrival of new aircraft designs, which have proved to be highly efficient, the need for pilots required that newly minted flying men were rushed to the front with just the minimum of training and little or no combat experience. The result has been that the life expectancy of new pilots has dropped to a mere 18 hours at the front. Morale has come close to the breaking point. Nevertheless, as the battle has returned to the usual stalemate, some gains have been made. For the air forces, this has meant that for more experienced pilots, April 1917 has become a turning of the tide against the German Jastas which have wrought so much destruction against British ranks.

The advantages of defending their own lines and, up to now, superior aircraft have allowed the Germans to build up a corps of experienced pilots. New designs for the Allied pilots, and the introduction of new and better tactics and training, have at last negated these advantages. The month of April has seen the arrival of several new designs to go up against the Albatros DIII.

The two-seaters which carried out the bulk of the reconnaissance and bombing duties with outdated and outclassed crates have been replaced with the DeHavilland DH4, a powerful aircraft able to climb and turn with the best two-seaters, and also equipped with twin Lewis guns mounted on the new Scarf ring for the observer's use. The Sopwith Aviation Company has introduced an improvement to the well-loved "Pup"-- a Triplane design adopted by the RNAS which features a wicked climb rate, improved visibility, and a synchronized Vickers firing through the propeller disc. A very stable design with an improved rotary engine, it has speed to match the Albatros to go along with its phenomenal climbing ability. Finally, the Royal Aircraft Factory has built a new scout, dubbed the SE5, around the excellent inline 8-cylinder Hispano-Suiza built under license from the Swiss firm. Its speed and altitude are unmatched and mated with a robust airframe with splendid maneuverability, a synchronized Vickers, and an additional Lewis mounted over the wing on the new Foster mount. Finally, British pilots have a fast and nimble scout carrying two machine-guns to match the German aces!

A typical example was the mission carried out in the Arras sector last Friday. A DH4 under Lt. Lambert was assigned to spot targets at the front for the Royal Artillery. Capt. Skelly from the RNAS, in a new Triplane, was joined by Lt. Hunt from the RFC in a new SE5 to provide escort for the DH4. They soon met three of Germany's finest Albatros DIII's, led by the famous Lt. Irons who had as wingmen Lt. Marston and Lt. Stuart. Despite numerous attacks, the Germans were fended off successfully by the twin guns of the DH4's observer and the relentless counter-attacks of Skelly and Hunt. In the end, the DH4 was able to remain in the target area long enough to adjust the RA barrage properly and return home safely, accompanied by Skelly and Hunt. Skelly claimed both Marston and Stuart shot down, while Hunt gained a 1/2 victory when he chased the wounded Irons back across the lines. Irons returned to his aerodrome where his wounds were tended, but there were empty seats at the German squadron's table that night!

Here, quoted verbatim, is the German leader's combat report:

"Lt. Irons was lightly wounded and his aircraft suffered minor damage to his wing and fuselage. He managed three shots at the British DH4 expending one-third of his ammo. Lt. Irons high-tailed it back to his squadron after being wounded. [He was caught in a crossfire between the twin Lewis of the DH4 and the deadly Lt. Skelly] While escaping, his wing suffered a tear from Lt. Hunt's shooting. Successfully landed at his home airfield."

Lt. Lambert returned safely with a dangerous tear in his DH4's lower wing. Bullet holes around the cockpit of his observer show how intense the fight was. Lt. Skelly remarked that a second gun on the Sopwith Triplane would make it unbeatable, while Lt. Hunt replied that the numerous stoppages he experienced might render Skelly's argument moot. No word was had from the recently deceased Lt's. Marston or Stuart.

Here are the new standings:

Skelly-- 11-1/2 victories, 792 points
Forte-- 3-1/2 victories, 377 points
Irons-- 2-1/2 victories, 364 points
Hunt-- 2-1/2 victories, 333 points
Lambert-- 2-1/2 victories, 297 points
Martinez-- 1/2 victory, 249 points
Caver-Boyd 3-1/2 victories, 214 points
Frakes-- 2-1/2 victories, 178 points
Manley-- 1-1/2 victories, 153 points
Bugarin-- 1 victory, 90 points
Marston-- 0 victories, 73 points
Stuart-- 0 victories, 65 points
Waite-- 1 victory, 56 points
Wiley-- 1/2 victory, 47 points
Weber-- 0 victories, 36 points
Wharrier-- 0 victories, 11 points

The next mission will be tentatively scheduled for May 12. Join us!

UNIT OF THE MONTH (Not Sponsored)

Member Name	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Jeff Lambert	1/144	Shapeways	WWII	Capt. W.C. Lambert's RAF SE5a
Jeff Lambert	15mm	Battlefron	Modern	Jordanian Infantry 1967
Jeff Lambert	15mm	Battlefront	WWII	STUG III-G'S Panzer Lehr
Dave Manley	28mm	Renendra	AWI	American Church
Dave Manley	28mm	Renendra	AWI	Cemetery and Fence
Dave Manley	28mm	Acheson Creations	AWI	Picket/plank fence
Dave Manley	28mm	Cor Sec/ Brigade Games	WWII	Landing Craft
Greg Skelly	28mm	North Star	Various	Animals
Terry Shockey	6mm	Baccus	FPW	Prussian Cuirassier & Infantry





GAME OF THE MONTH

Total Escape Games Sponsor



Member Name	Scale	Era	Rules	Description
John Brown*	15mm	Fantasy	HOTTs	HOTTs Tournament
Nate Forte	1/200th	WWII	Wings of Glory WWII	Battle of Britain
Dave Manley	28mm	AWI	Sharp Practice 2	Lexington/Concord

***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 May 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
May 12	FNF	TBD	7PM
May 19	FNF	TBD	7PM
May 20	West Wars	Baker Rec Center	9AM to 11PM
May 21	West Wars and MM	Baker Rec Center	9AM to 5PM
May 26	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.

WEST WARS PRESENTATIONS (For full information go to Files section at cmhweb.org)

May 20 9AM to 1PM:

Wings of Glory: Battle of Britain

Memoir '44: Normandy Campaign

May 20 2PM to 6PM:

Wings of Glory: Battle of Britain

Square Bashing: Brusilov Forward 1917

Mud & Blood: Cambrai 1917

Memoir '44: Normandy Campaign

Rank & File: Crossing the Lossinov River SYW

May 20 7PM to 11PM:

Wings of Glory: Battle of Britain

MechWarrior Dark Age: Solaris VII Grand Melee

Mud & Blood: Cambrai 1917

Memoir '44: Normandy Campaign (If needed)

May 21 8AM to 12PM:

Garage Sale (9 to 11:30)

HOTTs: HOTTs Tournament (Begins at 10AM)

Wings of Glory: Battle of Britain

May 21 12PM to 12:30PM

Club Meeting (Election of Officers)

May 21 12:30PM to 5PM

HOTTs: HOTTs Tournament continues

Tactical Combat: France 1940

Muskets & Tomahawk: The Resupply Mission F&IW

DBR: 30 Years War

Paper Soldiers: ECW

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS ELSEWHERE:

MAY 26-28:

Warlords Games: Midwest City OK

Williamsburg Muster: Williamsburg VA

Enfilade: Olympia WA

June 2-4:

Nashcon: Nashville TN

Bayou Wars: New Orleans LA

June 14-18:

Origins: Columbus OH

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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