



COLORADO MILITARY HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

XIX, No. 12

December 2018



VETERANS WARS 2018

Veterans Wars Weekend

Veterans wars weekend is held each year on the 2nd weekend of November. This year's event coincided with the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice ending WWI. As usual the weekend featured a variety of games. Below are pictures from the weekend. Thanks to all who participated as game masters and players.



Attack in Mariquina Valley, March 25,
1899 in the Philippines by Eric Elder



Battle of El Tigre 1942 North Africa
by Bill Daniel



Firefly: Smuggler's Blues
by Doug Marston



BYO SAGA +4 Point Mini Tournament



The Big Push: American Offensive on final day of WWI by Terry Shockey



The Battle of Landshut 1809



Kaiser's Pirates WWI Naval
by Bill Daniel



Second Battle of Narvik WWII



Age of Hannibal
By John Mumby & Terry Shockey



Firefly: Robbing the Pied Piper
By Doug Marston



L'Art de la Guerre Tournament
by Larry Irons



A part of the ADLG Tournament

A Special thank you also needs to go to Larry Irons for running the concessions and Doug Wildfong for overall coordination of the event.

From The President's Desk



By Nate Forte

Hello everyone,

Well the end of an eventful year is here. 2018 the year which marked the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1, The Great War, The war to end all wars is almost gone. The anniversary of the end of WW1 occurred on November 11th which coincidentally was on our Veteran's Wars event day. I wanted to take this moment to thank all the veteran CMH club members for their service and sacrifice.

I would like to discuss how your club dues money is being used for the benefit of our club. As discussed in last month's newsletter and also at our club meeting, we have a new lease for next year for the Baker Community Center. This very favorable lease was negotiated by our own Treasurer Larry Irons and offered our club a good value for our hard earned dues moneys and donation offerings.

We also have just renewed our State License for a Non Profit organization (not a charitable non profit mind you which is different) and that cost was minimal. This month we will also renew our CMH. ORG Website and our Domain name and that cost will be the same as last year so no increase has occurred to our WordPress site. The Meetup site for the club will also come due this December, but your leadership feels very strongly that we have received good value for our money spent on it with the new members that we have recruited attributed directly or indirectly to it. In fact I just received notification from Meetups that we are now considered a super user group, with some additional benefits and exposure to others in the community. Our Yahoo group page, and Facebook Group page are at no cost to our club but they provide (at least the Facebook Group page) a level of additional exposure and communication for our potential members at large. As mentioned in our last newsletter, we also are present in an app called Gamefor and that use is so far free to us as well.

Next year, we will need to buy some new free swag for our members. Suggestions from members have been new dice (who needs more dice LOL) to dice bags (which I personally like). We are now doing some research to see what we can come up with. The dice bag idea put forth by one of our members (Tim Parker) is very useful and will provide our members with some memento to store some of their dice that they have received throughout the years, that is if your leadership votes to go with that -

We have not had a motion for it yet. As soon as a decision is made as to what next year's free swag will be, we will communicate this to the members.

The next item I wanted to bring up to the members is the club venues, like Friday Night Fights or others, like Saturday events at your local Hobby Store. As you probably have seen in our various media schedules, we have been having FNF, mostly up in North Denver, and almost always at Total Escape Games. As much as I like the exposure we've had with FNF at Total Escape Games in Broomfield, I would like to offer the members who live in the south Denver area, or other distant parts of Denver to have a FNF or Saturday events of your own at one of your local game stores down near where you live. There is no reason why we cannot schedule events for FNF both in the North Denver Metro area as well as in the South Metro Denver area even on the same day. The schedules will be able to show both events no problem. We have enough members who live down south Denver as well as up North Denver to be able to host two events at the same time on the same day for say FNF and have good participation for both. I want to make sure to notify the membership that your leadership is more than happy to schedule several events for you in our various media sites for various locations, so don't be shy.

The more events we schedule the more our club is presented to others out there who may wish to join a group like ours.

Finally I want to thank all you game hosts out there, for presenting our membership with various fun and entertaining games to play. The job of hosting is a hard job, and sometimes being left with all the clean up and setting up to do can be difficult. I want to make sure that you are given the proper thanks from the leadership for all your efforts, it is very gratefully appreciated.

Your Colorado Military Historians President

Nate Forte

Military Cemeteries- From Necessities to Honor

By Nate Forte

It seems fitting this year, the year of the 100 anniversary of the end of World War One to talk a little about the Military cemeteries and their history. You see most countries graves commissions began to take shape after World War one. Prior to that, the only country that had a final resting place to honor the individual fallen soldier was the United States. The US in fact established about a dozen National Military Cemeteries in 1862, more than a year after the Civil War began, to honor the Union soldiers fallen in that war. Now you may contradict me, by telling me that there have been other countries that do provide burial parks for their fallen soldiers in various battles and what not. Well yes that may be true to a point, because the individual soldier in the Centuries prior to the late 19th century were after all buried in burial mounds. But they were buried together at battle sites in common mass graves with no thought about honoring the actual individual common soldier. Such honors were often left for the high leaders or the nobility or the HQ. Command men. In fact those leaders are what one finds in monuments or burial sites from those times such as L'Arc du Triomphe in Paris commemorating the Marshals of France and other Corps commanders or the Lion Monument at the Waterloo battle site commemorating both Wellington and The Prince of Orange. The thought of providing honor guards and a national cemetery plot to the lonely soldier for his individual burial was not part of most armies' rules and regulations up to the American Civil War.

It wasn't until World War one that countries like France and England and others realized the need for individual soldiers burial plots (not common mass graves like in the past) and the need to maintain such cemeteries to honor the fallen in those battles, their sacrifice, and also in my humble opinion, to show the future generations at what price modern wars will cost in blood. For us in the United States, this worked for a while, as everyone was plainly aware, upon visiting just one such memorial of a Civil War battle like Gettysburg for instance, how many lives were lost in that particular battle. There is something truly tangible to behold when one is confronted with rows upon rows of graves, each representing a single soldier who died in that battle, when visiting the grave of a loved one at these sites.

It's important to note that in France after WW1, the French government established their graves commission to maintain cemeteries at various battle sites, and the Commonwealth Graves commission did the same. Germany was mandated by the Versailles treaty to do the same in France and Belgium, but this did not begin until the mid 20's and most battle sites in Eastern and Southern Europe were not inaugurated until the end of the Cold War! So while the French population as well as the Commonwealth were constantly reminded of the sacrifice of millions of their men during World War One, the common German population was not as clearly reminded, and probably never felt the antipathy and cost in human lives towards war that the French and Commonwealth countries felt at the start of World War Two. The

sacrifice of so many was clearly forgotten in the previous great world war, and the sacrifice of a new generation began in the new world war.

The reason for my article therefore, is to make sure the reader understands my motivation in never forgetting the sacrifice of so many millions lives in both world wars and to honor their last resting places by taking the time to visit such places and spend time contemplating the battles lost or won and the lives lost and saved during such conflicts. I did just that this past summer while on vacation in Europe. I visited many battle cemeteries' monuments from various countries throughout my journey.

This wasn't the first time I had visited a national cemetery like Arlington, or a battle site memorial cemetery. In years past I have visited Union Soldiers cemeteries at the battle sites of Gettysburg, and others. I have visited WW1 grave sites in Italy, to find my great uncle remains for that war, and have visited the German soldiers and Russian soldiers' cemeteries in Gdansk Poland.

This year my wife and I visited the Normandy coast. We visited all the landing beaches and spent a lot of time in museum after museum taking in all that great historical material there. We also took time to visit the great Normandy American cemetery at Omaha Beach, and contemplate the loss of lives and great sacrifice by the American soldiers that occurred there. As I mentioned previously there is something very tangible that hits you to the core when confronted with rows upon rows of those white crosses each representing a human being that died in that battle. It was an honor to be there and read some of their names out loud, and to think about their lives and their story. I took pictures which I will show in this article.

We also visited the Commonwealth cemeteries at Bayeux as well as one near Gold Beach. Took pictures there and spent some time also reading the names on the graves and their ages as well.

At each site I was impressed with the meticulous landscaping and cleanliness of the places I saw. Clearly the Graves commissions for the countries is hard at work making sure the facilities are kept up, grass is manicured and taken care of, and the graves are filled with flowers on special commemorative occasions.

The next sites I visited in my journey were at Bari, Italy near where my family is from. I visited one of the Polish WW 2 cemeteries which is near where my Dad lives. Not a large location, but one of only four in Italy. Only 430 graves are there, but still the place was very clean and meticulously kept on land donated by the people of Italy to the sacrifice of these Polish soldiers to free my native country from fascism. There was also one of many Commonwealth Cemeteries near Casamassima Italy which is also very near my dad's place. While in Bari, I also visited the Italian National cemetery of the fallen in overseas locations. A very large site with over 75000 remains in large ossuaries with listed names of the fallen. This site also has a very extensive museum that contains the weapons of war used by both Italian troops and their enemies in campaigns from Abyssinia to WW2. A very interesting museum to visit for sure.

The last memorials I visited were at Monte Cassino. There, besides the wonderful rebuilt Monastery, I also visited the very large Polish cemetery, and visited its museum. There are a little over 1000 graves there from the Polish soldiers who fought in the Battle of Monte

Cassino. Their story and the story of the Polish 2nd Corps who fought in Italy and the story of its volunteers is detailed in the museum. I also had time to visit the Commonwealth cemetery there, and quite a large one it is. It's very well kept and visited, as it is near the town below the Monastery. There are so many graves there, that I almost did not notice the 12 granite monoliths standing near a pond and a large monumental cross. On those monoliths the names of those whose remains were never found are engraved. And there are a lot of them! In total this cemetery contains over 4000 remains.

Something struck me while visiting each of these sites, while the US main Cemetery at Omaha was very busy, similar to how busy Arlington gets, the others were not. Though I did notice some of the individual graves having flowers put on them, indicating that a loved one or family member had visited the site recently. Not sure if this is purely European or not, or because the US Cemetery at Omaha is so famous, but I would venture to say that not until this year commemoration did the French or Commonwealth WW1 cemeteries have a large showing of visitors or maybe the only other time was during the anniversary of the start of WW1 and the anniversaries of each of the individual battles that those cemeteries represent. This is purely speculation on my part, but I do worry that the new generations are once again forgetting the sacrifices made by these great men, and the cost in their lives that they paid in order for us not to make the same mistake as their generation did in going to War. How many lives lost could have been saved, if WW2 somehow did not occur. Did we need this Second World War to truly appreciate the cost in human blood that modern war can extoll? It seems we may never know the true answer, as somehow the evil that War is rears its ugly head now and again, as we humans forget its horrors.



Commonwealth Cemetery near Gold Beach Normandy.



Italian Cemetery of Fallen Overseas in Bari, Italy.



Numbers of Italian soldiers fallen soldiers overseas at the Cemetery and the Medals given to them. Notice the unidentified remains are over 40000!



American National Cemetery, Omaha Beach Normandy France.



The individual White Crosses!



The main Atrium describing the European Campaigns.



Polish Monte Cassino Memorial Cemetery. The monastery is facing this gate behind me.



View of the rebuilt monastery facing the memorial.



The Commonwealth Cemetery at Monte Cassino.



The Granite Mausoleums. Monte Cassino and its rebuilt monastery are in the background.



Commonwealth Memorial Cemetery near Bari Italy.



The Polish Memorial Cemetery Casamassima, Italy



Never Forgotten!



GAME OF THE MONTH

Total Escape Games Sponsor

Member Name	Scale	Era	Rules	Description
Larry Irons	15mm	Ancients	L'Art D'le Guerre	ADLG Tournament
Doug Marston*	Various	SciFi	Firefly	Robbing the Pied Piper
John Mumby	10mm	Ancients	Age of Hannibal	Punic War
John Owens	1/2400	WWII	Homegrown	2nd Battle of Narvik

***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.

Game Pictures appear above.

UNIT OF THE MONTH
(Not Sponsored)

No entries in November.

CMH December 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
December 7	FNF Firefly Game	TBD	7PM
December 9	MM	Baker Rec Center	12 - 5PM
December 14	FNF	TEG	7PM
December 21	FNF	TEG	7PM
December 28	FNF	TEG	7PM

TEG - Total Escape Games
6831 W. 120th Ave.
Suite C
Broomfield CO 80020

TECH - Thornton Estates Club House
3600 E. 88th Ave
Thornton CO
www.totalescapesgames.com

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

Also Look for FNF schedule at cmhweb.org or CMH in Yahoo Groups

COMING EVENTS:

December 9: Larry Irons & John Brown present Trojan War using ADLG rules

Dave Manley presents Blood & Plunder 1635

Terry Shockey presents One-hour Skirmish game rules by John Lambshead

January 18-21: Hexacon Ramada North I-25 & 120th Northglenn

March 14-17: Cold Wars Lancaster Host Lancaster PA

April 25-28: Little Wars Lombard IL

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 \$45.00 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: \$45.00
Half year Adult Membership: \$30.00
(For NEW members who join after June 30)
Family Membership: \$45.00 (one Adult and any number of offspring)
Student Membership: \$25.00 (16 to 22 years old)



CMH Newsletter

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