

COLORADO MILITARY HISTORIANS

NEWSLETTER

XX, No. 1

January 2019



Photo BBC.com

WWI Aerial Campaign Ends

FLEDGELINGS NO MORE

By Jeff Lambert

Aircraft development grew by leaps and bounds in the Great War, growing from a mere sidelight at the war's beginning to one of the most important weapon systems in any arsenal. Before the Great War, the aeroplane was a curiosity with little military application; afterward, no nation could be safe without a modern air force.

At the Armistice, the Allied Powers insisted that German military aviation was banned. Only civilian pursuits were allowed. Pioneering aviation companies like Albatros, LFG, Pfalz and Junkers were forced to reorganize or cease to exist. Pfalz came under the jurisdiction of French occupation, but continued existence as a parts manufacturer until it went bankrupt in 1932. Albatros remained in business until it was merged into Focke-Wulf in 1931. Junkers went into civil aviation until 1934 when its president was forced out by the Nazis, and turned again to military aviation. It was merged in 1969 with the remnants of Messerschmitt, and is now a part of Airbus.

Fokker, as a Dutch company, was not subject to the strict rules of Versailles. However, Fokker's most famous product, the Fokker D.VII, was specifically mentioned in the treaty and banned from Germany. The remaining examples were seized by the Allies or destroyed. Some went into service in Poland against Russia, and the last Fokker D.VII in service flew with the Swiss *fliegertruppe* as late as 1929. Fokker still makes aircraft today.

SPAD, the French company, went out of business shortly after the Armistice was signed. The US Army Air Corps continued to use SPAD XIII's until 1920 while the Americans developed their own aviation industry. SPAD's principal competitor, Nieuport, went through some management changes and continued to produce aircraft until the late 1930's. Morane-Saulnier started the war as one of France's main contributors, then passed out of contention for a while, and re-entered late in the Great War with better designs; it continues making aircraft today.

The Sopwith Aviation Company was the clear winner in Britain's aircraft stable. The Sopwith "Snipe" became the standard fighter for the RAF until its retirement in 1926. "Camels" and "Dolphins" continued in service with the British intervention in the Russian Civil War, and then with Poland and Ukraine in their air services, until 1921. The company itself did not fare so well-- after a failed attempt in the motorcycle business, it entered voluntary liquidation in 1920 and was bought out by a new company, H G Hawker Engineering.

The Royal Aircraft Factory converted its success through several name changes, first to Royal Aircraft Establishment to avoid confusion with the Royal Air Force, going through "Royal Aerospace Establishment" and ending up as part of the Defence Research Agency, which is part of the Ministry of Defence. Its best-known WWI aircraft, the SE5a, was withdrawn from service by 1921, although a civilian-owned example won the Morris Cup air race as late as 1927.

From its early beginnings as little more than a box-kite with a motor, to the formidable death machines of 1918, the airplane grew to become the basis of a worldwide industry. In war or peace, the advances in aviation technology have led the way for mankind's own mastery of the air, and then space, and then-- who knows?

OF MEN AND ARMS I SPEAK

In November 2018 the world remembered the Armistice that ended WWI. There were many ceremonies around the world. The sentiment expressed at each of these events included grateful remembrance of those who gave fully of themselves and those who supported them at home. Additionally the message was clear “never again.” Unfortunately it did not last with WWII 20 years later. But was there really any peace between the world wars? The short answer is no.

While the entire world was not involved in many of these conflicts, areas of the world were embroiled in wars of their own. The Middle East was a caldron of bloodshed. It extended from Palestine through the former Muslim areas of the Russian Empire. The Soviet Union was formed through a civil war that lasted from 1918 to 1926, involving many of the major nations of the world at times. The Balkans continued with turmoil into WWII. Central America and the Caribbean were not spared either. Haiti, The Dominican Republic, and Nicaragua were hotbeds of discontent nurturing armed interventions. Mexico saw a brief U.S. expedition to put down Pancho Villa. Africa saw the aggressive Benito Mussolini. Spain suffered through a civil war that gave opportunity for Hitler to experiment with his new military equipment. China began this period with a war between Nationalism and Communism and weakened because of it fell victim to Japanese expansionism. The list could go on.

In all of these conflicts men fought, were injured, and died for causes that were important to them at the time. We need to remember these unfortunate events just as our recently concluded Armistice celebration. It is after all the least we can do for those who gave “their last full devotion.”

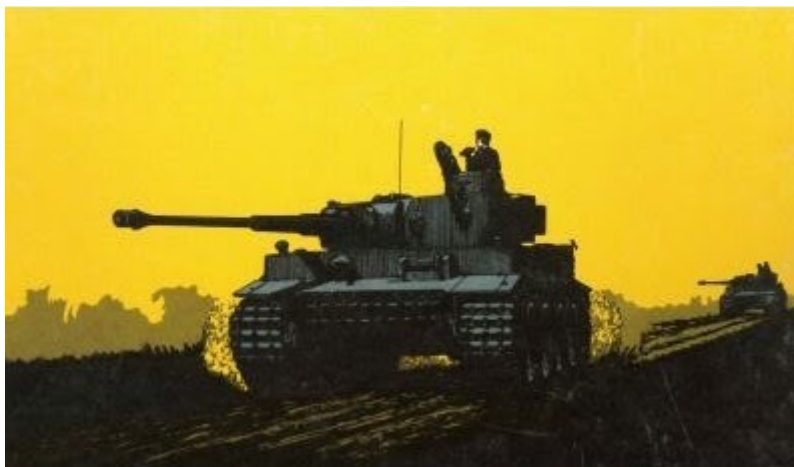
Terry Shockey, Secretary Colorado Military Historians



Ed Meyers reminding us of the sacrifices made by soldiers of each nation in military conflicts.

The Game That Started It for Me

By Natale Forte



When our CMH secretary Terry Shockey asked for articles for our monthly news letter, one of his requests was that we submit an article about our favorite game starting out in our hobby. Well the game that I like to think started me out in the hobby world of wargaming was Avalon Hill Panzer Leader. I had to think back as to how this occurred, and it was a quite interesting all the memories that came flooding back.

Growing up I was always interested in military history. I think this was due to my family military history, my grandfather fought in Africa in WW2 in the Italian army, my great uncle fought and died in WW1 with the Italian Artillery, another uncle died flying a B25 for the New Italian Air Force in WW2, etc...etc... And finally my own father had been in the Italian army for over twelve years by the time I was born, and growing up I was always attending military parades he was in, and hanging out at his military base, I even remember playing on an M60 tank of the Italian army and learning to ride my bike in the parade ground of his the base he was stationed at (living in the metropolitan city of Bari there was not enough open space other than the busy traffic clogged city streets to learn to ride a bike - too dangerous). I think this is what sparked my curiosity in all military things. To top it all off, European schools stress history in the classroom, and devote a significant amount of time to it. The battles that were fought are studied in great detail even at the elementary level. It does help that I lived Apulia Italy, a region were a great many important historical battles were fought in and where there are many museums and historical sites just a stones throw from my house. Its funny to think just how much history there is just laying around everywhere you look in the town that I grew up in Italy, as a young kid I

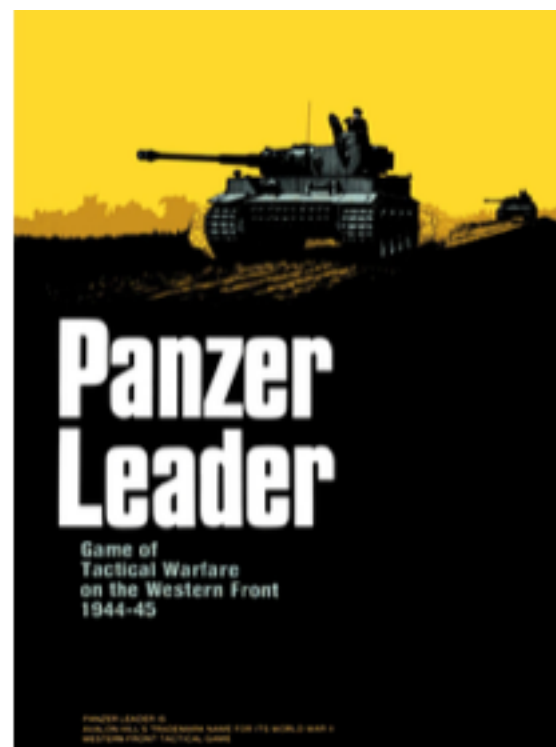
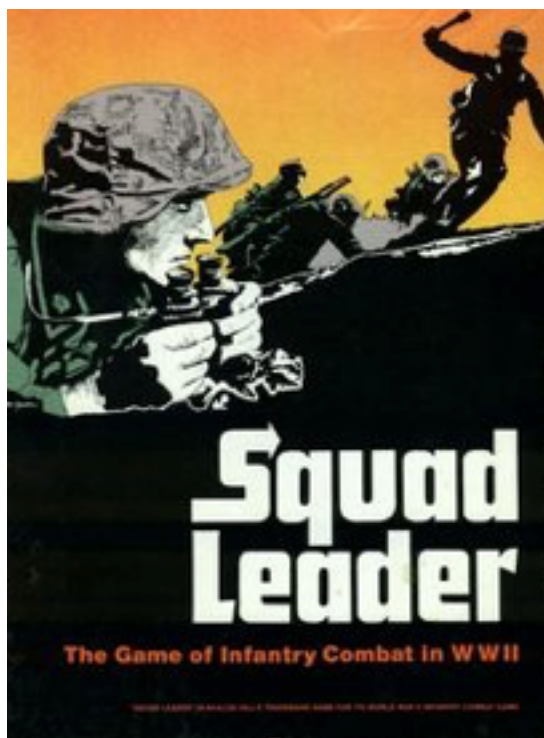
just didn't think too much of it, but now when I go back it just amazes me all the things that I missed.

So back to the wargame that started it all for me. It wasn't surprising given my background that I would look at books in a library that dealt with history and war, and that I would play with toys that had that same theme, like plastic toy soldiers and tanks (the kind you don't paint.) I also played with various Milton Bradley themed war games such as Risk, or Stratego or one that was called Tanks! with plastic Panthers and Shermans. Those games were interesting but not really historical, just simple games to have fun with. What I wanted was more strategy and more realism. It happened that like any kid, Toy's R Us was one of my favorite stores to hang out in, and it just so happened that they stocked some of the games that Avalon Hill sold at the time. I happened to notice this yellow and black box with a Tiger I on it called Panzer Leader. It was a very attractive box to a 14 year old interested in military stuff, and so I picked it up and started to read about it in the store. I was instantly hooked. I had to have it and wanted to play it right there in the store, but it was covered in plastic and unopened so I couldn't see the inside of it. I forgot how much the game was but my dad didn't want to buy it for me 'cause he didn't want me to spend time on such frivolous things. I think it was because he was being a cheap wad and all...So we left the store without it, but I remember thinking that I am going to scrimp and save for the money somehow and buy that game. So I started doing various chores around our neighborhood, we were living in Rockville Maryland at the time, and managed to save enough to buy it. So I rode my bike to the Toy's R Us store nearby, and bought the game, against my father's wishes, yeah! Once home, I proceeded to tear through the plastic to get at the contents inside, and boy was I intrigued. I never seen hexagon map boards before and did not understand all the different colors, and what they were, but it didn't take long to read through the rule book and terrain card to understand it. The cardboard game pieces were similarly strange to me, what with all those numbers on them, but reading the instructions and the cards that game had come with, it explained it all to me quite easily. The actual counter images, well I was very familiar with those, having read multiple books on WW2 vehicles and equipment at the library. I soon proceeded to play my first scenario, solo of course! One sad item in my life was that no one in my family was as interested and devoted to historical gaming, not even my career military father, who was more interested in other things, rather than playing war games with me unfortunately.

The game was all that was hoping for in a strategy board game. It really sparked my interest for more of these types of games. I joined our Jr high strategic games club, to find folks with similar interest of mine, and was shown more of these types of board games from other manufacturers. The Club leader, a science teacher even told

me were to buy more of these, at the local hobby store, The Squadron Shop (yes the very one that has books and other stuff). So, armed with that knowledge I soon purchased my next game, Squad Leader. I learned how to play that awesome game. Then onto SPI and bought my first S & T issue, which came with a game Paratroopers I think. Throughout my later years playing these board games, I never forgot the first strategic game that I ever purchased and learned to play, Panzer Leader. I still have that same copy and my original copy of Squad Leader, though their rule books are quite frayed now from overuse.

I recently bought a big lot of Panzer Leader Games from Matt V. and gave one of the copies away. I also recently started playing Squad Leader again with a new member of our club, hoping this continues. These two games hold a special place in me, as they were instrumental with where I am today in my gaming hobby. I don't know how relevant these types of games are in today's world, but for those that started it all playing with these "artifacts", these types of games will never be forgotten.



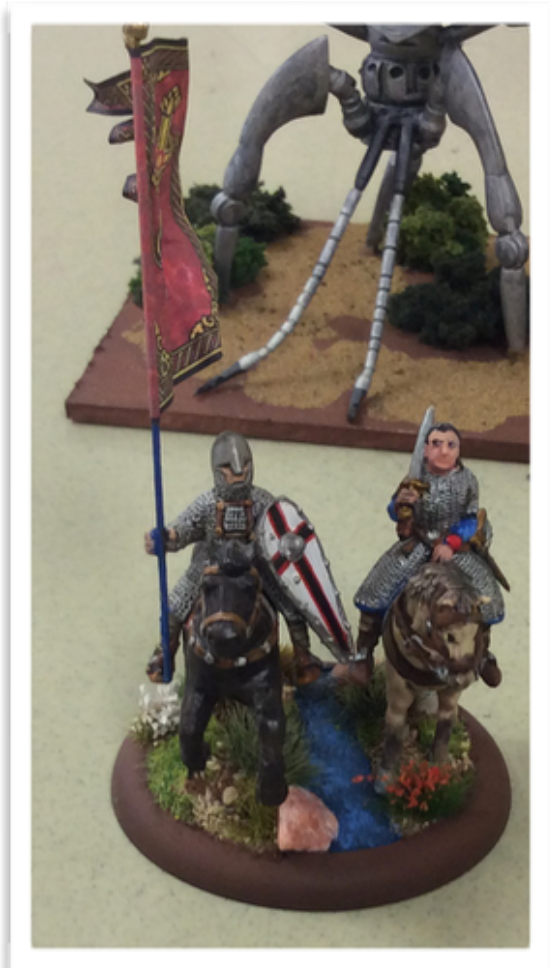
UNIT OF THE MONTH

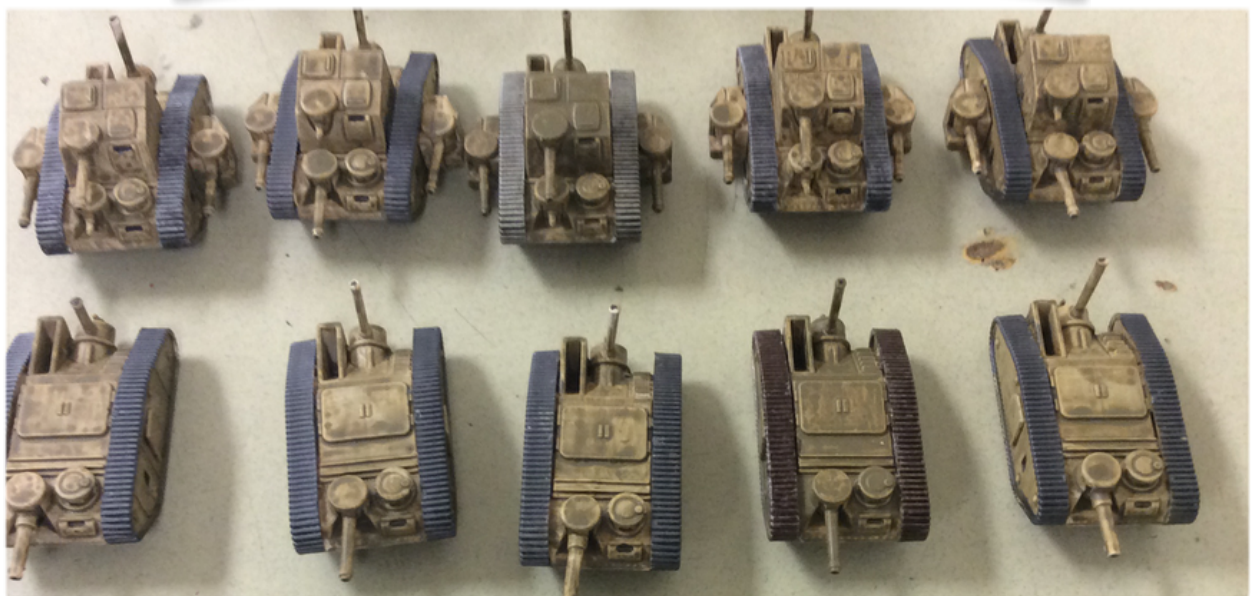
(Not Sponsored)

Member Name	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Greg Cornell	1/600	Dystopian Wars	Fantasy	HOTTs Army
Eric Elder	10mm	Pendraken	WWI	Highlanders in Mesopotamia
Larry Irons	25/28 mm	Hinchliffe & Black Tree	Ancients	Greek Hoplites
Dave Manley	28mm	Firelock Games	17th Century	El Leon de Christo Spanish Galleon
Tim Parker	28mm	Minute Man Miniatures	Crusades	Sir Timothy, Crusader Lord (3D Scan Head)
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Essex	Ancients	New Kingdom Egyptians Nubian Bow, & Sherden WB
Terry Shockey	15mm	Alien Dungeon	20th Century SciFi	U.S. Steam Tanks & Martian Tripods
Greg Skelly	28mm	Firelock Games	17th Century	Bark











GAME OF THE MONTH

Total Escape Games Sponsor

Member Name	Scale	Era	Rules	Description
John Brown & Larry Irons	15mm	Ancients	L'Art D'le Guerre	Trojan War
Brian Kennedy*	15mm	Future	Warhammer 40K	Kill Team
David Manley	28mm	17th Century	Blood & Plunder	Capture the Galleon
Terry Shockey	25mm	Inter-War	One-Hour Skirmish	Nicaragua 1931: Sandino vs Samoza

***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 4	FNF	TBD	7PM
January 11	FNF	TEG	7PM
January 13	MM	Baker Rec Center	12 - 5PM
January 18	FNF	TEG	7PM
January 25	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.totalescapegames.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:

January 11: FNF Wings of Glory presented by Nate Forte

January 13: Terry Shockey & John Mumby present All Quiet On the Martian Front
John Brown and Larry Irons CoHosting ADLG 200 points
Bill Daniels to host Cruel Seas

January 18: FNF Firefly hosted by Doug Marston

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

January 25: FNF Flames of War host Jeff Lambert

February 21-24: Genghis Con Hyatt Regency Aurora

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: \$50.00
Half year Adult Membership: \$30.00
(For NEW members who join after June 30)
Family Membership: \$50.00 (one Adult and any number of offspring)
Student Membership: \$25.00 (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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Next Issue: February 2019

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