



# Colorado Military Historians

**Newsletter**

**XLV, No. 10**

**October 2019**

## Huns vs Romans



# News and Views

*Message from CMH Secretary  
Eric Elder*

Jeff Lambert is back in town. This month Jeff writes about one of the sites he visited while on his motorcycle trip back East. Larry Irons passed along a Roman-Hun battle report. Thank you Jeff and Larry for your articles.



Jeff crossing Lake Champlain on the Ticonderoga Ferry

I popped into to Tacticon and had a look around at all the gaming action. I did not play in any games, but had good conversations with a few vendors, such as Corby Friel who was showing his 3D printed ships and other models. Each of the game genre rooms were about three quarters full. The main historic miniature games being run were WWII Bolt Action rules. I did not get into discussions with the organizers what it cost to run games.

The Hexacon Convention (January 18-21) is a go at the Radisson in Aurora. Contact me if you want to run a game at the convention. I will get a convention badge for you. There is a deadline of January 3<sup>rd</sup> to submit events.





# August Monthly Meeting

## Unit of the Month

### Temporarily no sponsor

Each month CMH members bring their latest painted figures and models to the meeting to display their latest efforts.

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Tim Parker	28mm	Wrath of Kings	Saga Fantasy	Sharknado
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Legio Heroica	Medieval	Swiss Pike & Halbard
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Legio Heroica	Ancient	Late Imp. Roman Cav. & Teutonic Shooters
Jim Rairdon	15mm	Essex	Ancient-Medieval	ALDG Command Stands
<b>TERRY SHOCKEY</b>	15mm	?	Syfy	Tesla Electric Gun
Eric Elder	28mm	Studio Miniatures	1830s	British Infantry
Greg Skelly	28mm	Various	WWII	Soviet Femmes
Scott Holder	28mm	Bombshell Mini	Sci-fi	Rocket Bike Airborne
Dave Newport	15mm	Old Glory	Arab-Israeli	Syrian Anmon



# Fort Ticonderoga

*Fort history from CMH Member  
Jeff Lambert*



On my recent trip back East, I took advantage of the opportunity to visit Fort Ticonderoga in Upstate New York, on the border with Vermont.

Fort Ticonderoga was originally called Fort Carillon, having been built by the French during the French & Indian War in 1755-1757. It was sited on the shore of Lake Champlain, which is on the main migration/invasion route between the Hudson River valley in New York and the Saint Lawrence River valley in Canada. Begun in October 1755, it was designed as a star fort along the lines of Vauban's forts in Europe. It had four main bastions surrounded by a dry moat. Ravelins covered the north and west sides, and a wooden palisade extended from the fort to the water's edge. There were three barracks buildings and a powder magazine inside the fort.



South wall



The French commander in North America, Louis-Joseph de Montcalm, found the fort unimpressive when he inspected it in 1758. The interior buildings were too tall, the masonry was poor quality, and the powder magazine leaked. He failed to notice that it was also vulnerable to fire from the taller hills overlooking it. It was also small, able to hold a garrison of only 400 soldiers.

Montcalm was threatened by the presence of the British under General James Abercromby, only four miles away at Fort William Henry on Lake George. Montcalm set his men to work improving Fort Carillon with entrenchments and an abatis while Abercromby, having lost his right-hand man General George Howe in a skirmish earlier, failed to interfere. Abercromby finally got up his nerve and ordered a frontal attack against the hasty French works, but his 16,000 troops were soundly defeated by the 4,000 French defenders. Although the actual battle took place too far from the fort's walls for its cannon to participate, the result gave the fort a reputation for invincibility. The British did not attack again in 1758, and needing the men elsewhere the French withdrew all but the fort's token garrison of 400 men.



Parade Ground with barracks in background

The British finally succeeded in capturing the fort in 1759, under General Jeffery Amherst with 11,000 men. Using emplaced artillery on the overlooking heights, they drove off the garrison's 400 Frenchmen, but not before they spiked most of the cannon and threw the rest in the lake, using explosives to damage what they could before evacuating. Re-named Fort Ticonderoga after an Iroquois word meaning "at the junction of two waterways", the fort took no further part in the war and was allowed afterwards to fall into disrepair.

The most famous events surrounding the fort were in the early days of the American Revolution. Although in disrepair, it still served as an important supply and communications link between Canada and New York. In May of 1775, only a month after Lexington and Concord, the fort's pitiful garrison of 48 men was surprised and overwhelmed by a small force of Green Mountain Boys and other militiamen from Massachusetts and Connecticut under the command of Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold. A considerable store of munitions and cannon were captured, and then transported by Henry Knox to Boston, where they were instrumental in ending the siege of Boston by being used to fortify Dorchester Heights. With the

Dorchester Heights in the hands of the Patriots, the British had no choice but to evacuate in March of 1776.

American morale was greatly improved by the capture of Fort Ticonderoga and the subsequent capture of Boston. The fort also made British communications with New York from Canada more difficult. It was the base of operations for Arnold's unsuccessful invasion of Canada in 1775-1776.

Leaning on Fort Ticonderoga's reputation for impregnability, General Washington expected that no attack on Albany would come from the north. So it was a surprise when General John Burgoyne led 7,800 British and Hessians south from Quebec City and took Crown Heights, another fort nearby. They occupied Mount Defiance and other hills overlooking Fort Ticonderoga. On July 5, 1777, the Patriot general Arthur St. Clair abandoned the fort without a fight. Washington was shocked, and there was the "greatest surprise and alarm" throughout the colonies, which led to St. Clair's court-martial in 1778, although he was cleared of all charges.

Burgoyne was defeated at Saratoga, and Fort Ticonderoga was left to languish and fall into further disrepair. Washington made his only visit to the fort in 1783, after his victory at Yorktown and while waiting word of the final peace treaty.



Moat and the North Ravelin

The fort became the property of New York state in 1785, who donated it to Columbia and Union Colleges in 1803. It was sold to William Ferris Pell in 1820, whose family worked to restore it and make it a tourist attraction. It was formally opened to the public as a tourist site in 1909, after much restoration work by the Pell Foundation, which still owns it today. It is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is used as a tourist attraction and educational resource, and includes re-enactors as well as a landing site for tour boats on Lake Champlain. A ferry across the lake is situated only a mile from the entrance.



# August Monthly Meeting

## Game of the Month

Sponsored by Total Escape Games

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

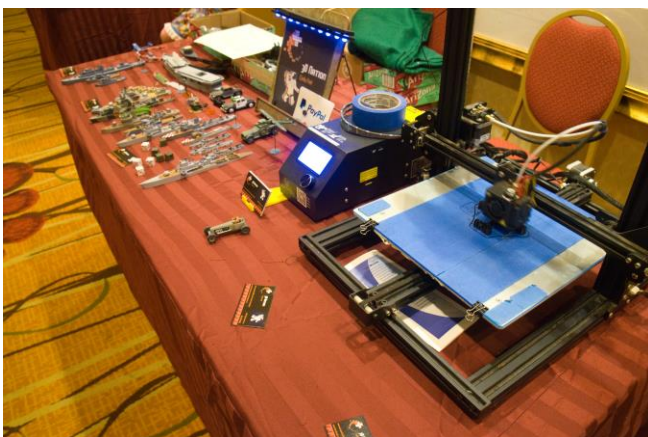
CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
Matt Vigil	15mm	DBR	Ren. Poles vs Swedish 1629
Terry Shockey	15mm	All Quiet on the Martian Front	Welcome to Holbrook AZ
Jeff Lambert	15mm	Flames of War	Invasion of Syracuse Operation Husky
<b>DAVE NEWPORT</b>	15mm	Tactical Combat	Cambrai 1917

Winner in **RED**





## Tacticon 2019 Photos





# Historic Location of the Month

## *Roman Villa Borg*



I have recently been addicted to watching the British *Time Team* tv series on YouTube. Some have featured Roman Villa archeological remains. It is interesting, but hard to visualize.

There is an actual Roman Villa recreated in Germany called Villa Borg. The buildings were constructed to how they would have looked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Century on the foundations of the original buildings.

I think this would be cool to see since I've only seen the archeological ruins of Antonine Wall, Hadrians Wall, and Vindolanda Fort.

A view of the site in 360°:

<https://www.360cities.net/image/villa-borg-perl>

Official site:

<https://www.villa-borg.de/>

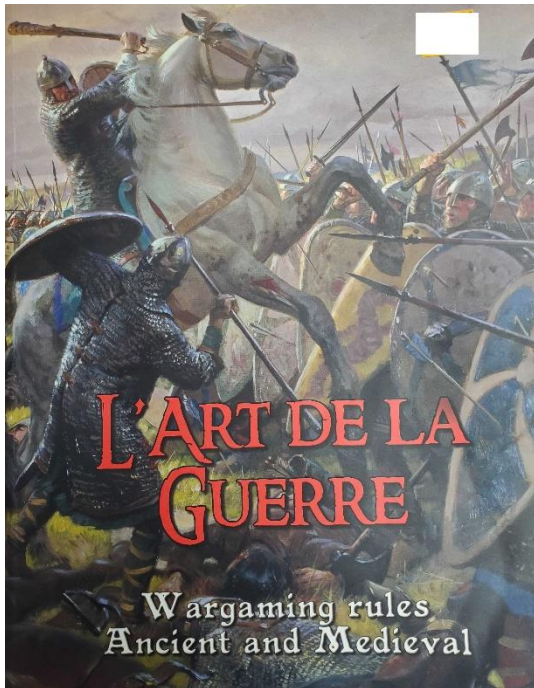
Good blog page about the site:

<https://followinghadrian.com/2014/02/03/the-villa-borg-images-of-a-reconstructed-roman-villa-in-saarland-germany/>

# Aetius Invades Hungary in 451 AD

*L'Arte de La Guerre battle from CMH Member*

*Larry Irons*



Roman spies in the Hunnic camp near modern Budapest, reported to the Roman General, Aetius (Larry Irons) that the Huns were preparing to invade the Western Roman Empire. Aetius decided to gather his forces and invade the steppes of Hungary to interdict the Huns in 451 AD. King of the Huns, Attila (David Manley), gathered his forces of Huns and Goths and met the Romans in an open area of gentle hills and some brushy areas.

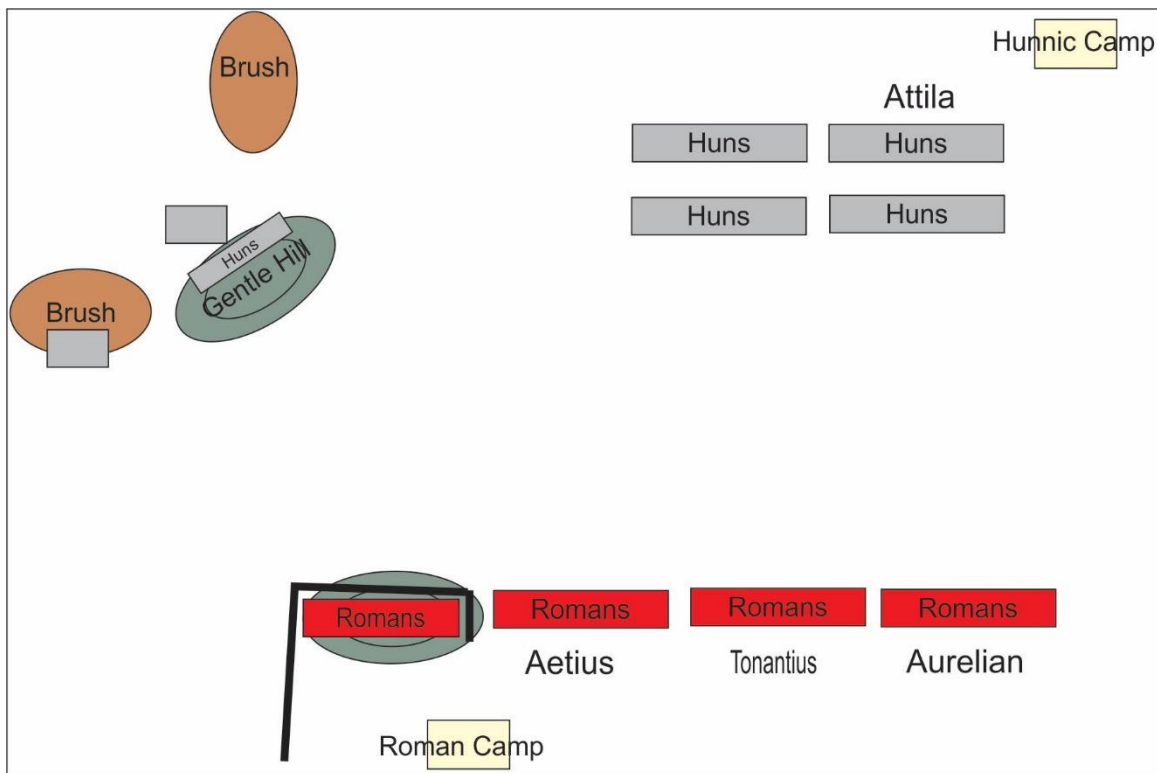
Both sides did not fortify their camps, but the Romans setup a line of barricades and ditches on their left flank to defend their camp and heavy artillery. The Romans deployed their infantry on the left flank and their cavalry on their right flank. Aetius commanded the Roman left. He had two legions of Roman infantry, two cohorts of Auxilia Palatina, two cohorts of Auxilia Sagitarii, and two cohorts of Exculcatores (light infantry javelinmen). He also had two units of barbarian foederati warbands and a heavy artillery battery deployed on the hill behind cover. The barbarian foederati were deployed

behind the main Roman infantry. One Auxilia Sagitarii was deployed with an Auxilia Palatina on the hill behind the fortifications.

Tonantius Fereolus Juniores (a direct ancestor of Larry Irons) commanded the Roman center including two cohorts of Equites Clibanarii (cataphracts), two cohorts of Roman heavy cavalry, and two cohorts of Equites Illyricani (light cavalry). Aurelian commanded the Roman right flank including the two units of mounted barbarian foederati, two units of Alan horse archers, and a unit of Romanised Visigothic lancers.

Attila brought lots of horse archers, many on small steppes ponies, and many on larger horses fighting in closer formation. There were some of his elite heavy veterans present as well. The Huns deployed ambushes behind a hill and in some brushy areas on their right flank. The ambushers consisted of some light horse, some barbarian warbands (Goths) and light infantry. Their main mounted forces were deployed in the center and left flank. The Hunnic light horse was deployed in front of the main line, followed by more heavily armored and experienced troops behind.

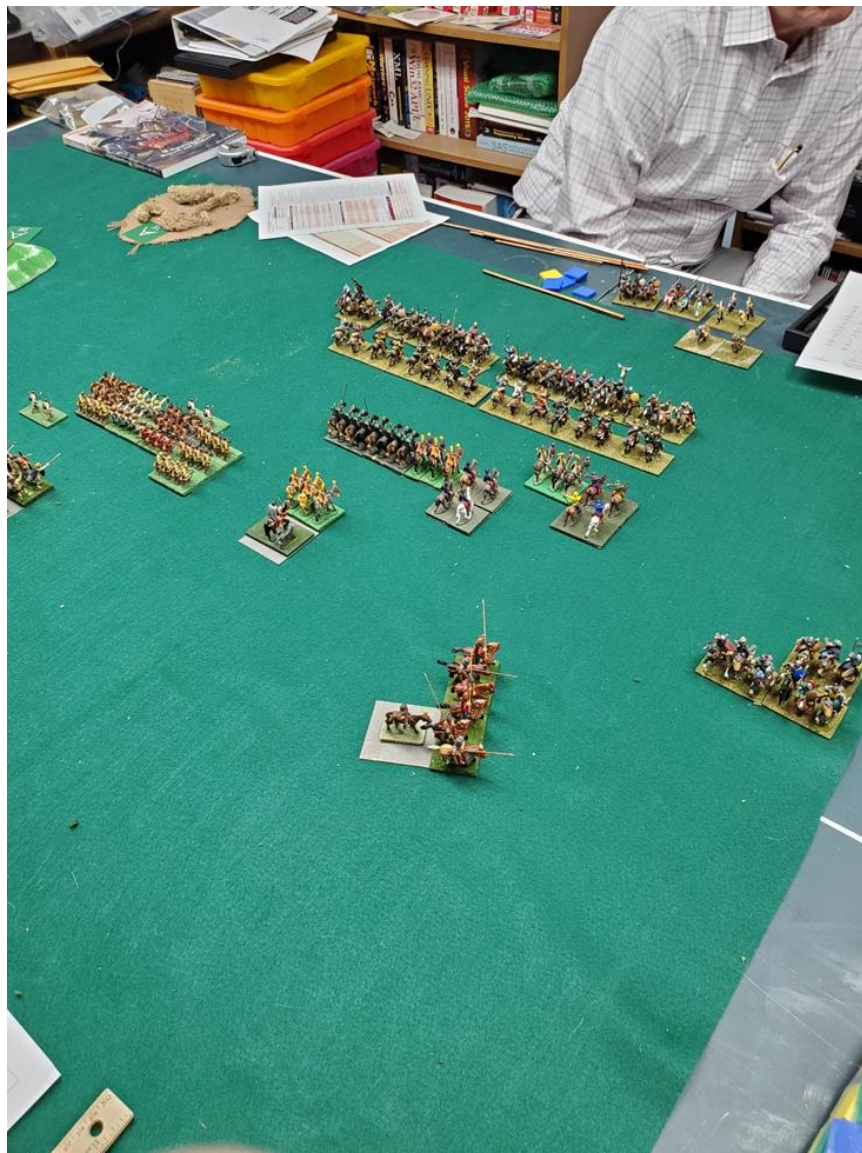




Initial Deployment

The Romans took the initiative and advanced their line forward to engage the Hunnic center and left flank. The Hunnic light horse engaged the Roman main line with arrows, but to no avail. At the same time the Huns attempted an outflanking maneuver on the Roman right, but Aurelian successfully countered it with his Foederati, driving the Huns back.

The Roman cataphracts smashed into the Hunnic horse and slowly ground the Huns away like a meat grinder. The Roman infantry advanced to support the cataphracts. Aetius moved the warbands to protect his left flank and moved the Auxilia off the hill to support the warbands. The Huns stayed out of range of the heavy artillery on the hill.



Aurelian countering the Hun flanking maneuver

Meanwhile heavy fighting between the Roman and Hunnic heavy cavalry resulted in Attila being mortally wounded. This caused confusion on the Hunnic left flank and the Roman horse pushed the advantage. Hunnic losses were mounting and finally the Huns decided to retreat, resulting in a great Roman victory. The Romans did not suffer one rout though two cavalry units were close to being routed.



## Last Month Club Photos



# 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 the meeting is deferred to the third Sunday. The meeting starts at noon at the Baker Recreation Center, 6751 Irving Street (just a few blocks west of Federal Blvd), Denver, Colorado. The club also hosts gaming at least one Friday night a month, called "Friday Night Fights" (FNF) at 7:00 p.m. Friday meetings will be held at a future determined location. See website for latest information.



CMH maintains ties with numerous local, regional and national groups to help promote the hobby. CMH is governed by member-elected officers serving on the Board of Directors (executive board). Terms of office 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 \$50.00 per year, payable in January. Members wishing to receive a snail-mailed 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: \$25.00

(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)

Children: free (younger than 16 accompanied by member)

## Club Links:

Web Site: <https://cmhweb.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cmhgamers/>

Yahoo Group: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/cmhweb/info>

Meetup: <https://www.meetup.com/Colorado-Military-Historians-Meetup/>

## 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.

### Mailing Address:

Eric Elder  
9529 Castle Ridge Cir.  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Phone: 303-933-4723

Email: [eejist@hotmail.com](mailto:eejist@hotmail.com)

Editor/Layout: Eric Elder

Next Issue: November 2019

## 2019/2020 CMH Board Members

### President:

Nate Forte  
[natforteg1@gmail.com](mailto:natforteg1@gmail.com)

### Vice-President

Jim Rairdon  
[airdon8071@comcast.net](mailto:airdon8071@comcast.net)

### Secretary

Eric Elder  
[eejist@hotmail.com](mailto:eejist@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Larry Irons

### Historian

Doug Wildfong  
[dwild84@gmail.com](mailto:dwild84@gmail.com)