



Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XLVII, No. 11

November 2021



Company F, 1st Colorado Volunteers, c. June 1898 before shipping off to the Philippines.
Camp Merritt, San Francisco

News and Views

*Message from CMH Secretary
Eric Elder*

This month we have a book review from John Owen. The book is on a WWI German officer who served as an advisor to the Ottoman Empire. Next month Don Cygan shares with us his impressions of visiting the Royal Household Cavalry museum in London. Thank you and look forward to more articles from members.



At our October monthly meeting, we voted to increase our annual club dues to \$60 for our 2022 dues. This will take effect in January. Before January, we will accept due of \$50 for 2022.

Next month we have our Veterans Wars convention November 13-14. As of the writing of this newsletter we have filled up 60% of the game slots. If you would like to run a game please contact a Board Member. Contact details on the last page of the newsletter.

A former member, Thomas Herman, passed away November 12, 2020. His memorial service will be on 2:00 PM Saturday November 13th at Church of Christ, 11010 Roseanna Dr, Northglenn CO. This is the link to his obituary: [LINK](#).



October

Unit of the Month

Temporarily no sponsor

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

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Eric Elder	6mm	Baccus	Samurai	Ashigaru
LARRY IRONS	15mm	Magister Militum	Medieval	Indian rocket battery



Historic Location of the Month

Camp Merritt, San Francisco

Camp Merritt was established in May 1898 as an embarkation camp for the Philippines theater during the Spanish-American War. The camp was abandoned in August 1898. Approximately 18,000 soldiers passed through the camp.



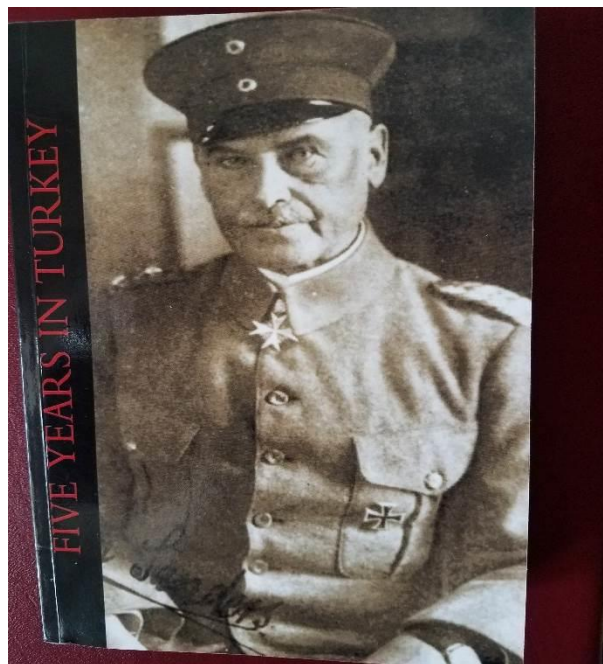
Five Years in Turkey

Book Review by CMH Member

John F. Owen

This volume relates the experiences of the senior German General Officer serving as advisor to the Ottoman Empire, 1913-18. Otto Liman von Sanders was commander of the 22nd Division in 1913 when he was tasked with leading an advisory mission to improve the efficiency of the Ottoman Army. The Ottoman Empire centered around modern day Turkey, had since the late 18th Century known as the “Sick Man of Europe”.

Corruption and incompetence were rife throughout both military and civilian spheres; the Ottomans had lost recent wars with Russia (1878) and the Balkan States (1913). In fact, the Russians, having defeated the Turks in 1878, attempted to take control of the Dardanelles and gain access to the Mediterranean. The intervention of Bismarck and other leading European powers forced a revision of the peace treaty on the Russians, retaining control of these strategic straits (and additional territory) for the Ottomans. As a result of these defeats, the Empire sought outside help to improve their military capability. The Germans, perceived to have the best army in the world, were the natural choice for the land arm. For improving their navy, Great Britain was selected. Unfortunately for the British, they muffed this opportunity badly.



Sanders was a curious choice, having never been to Turkey nor having fluency in the language. Nonetheless, he acceded to the Kaiser's orders, and with a couple hundred picked officers and men proceeded at attempts to reform the Ottoman Army. Sanders quickly discerned the cascade of multiple problems, but the Ottoman bureaucracy all too frequently undermined his efforts. Troops were poorly equipped and trained, seldom paid, and wore tattered uniforms. He cites one instance where Ottoman officials paraded the same unit - with its new uniforms – around and around, to convince the Germans they had upgraded a substantial portion of the army, when in fact most of their force remained ragamuffins (the Germans were not deceived).

As part of the Mission's contract, Sanders was appointed commander of the 1st (Ottoman) Army Corps, intended to serve as a model for that Army. When this became known, the Russians, in particular, went ballistic; the last thing they wanted was German direction of a major Ottoman formation. To diffuse the situation, in early 1914, the Kaiser promoted Sanders to General of Cavalry (roughly equivalent to a U.S. lieutenant general); since per the Mission contract he was entitled to one grade higher in the Ottoman system, Sanders thus became a Field Marshal in that army, and as such too senior to command an army Corps. The Russians had in fact inadvertently increased Sander's influence with his clients!

Colmar Freiherr von der Goltz, as a field marshal, was arguably senior, but died in early 1916. He was Sander's forerunner as military advisor to the Ottomans and was fluent in Turkish. He commanded their 6th Army that forced the British surrender at Kut al – Amara. Sanders did not get along with von der Goltz, though the reasons remain obscure, though his lack of expertise in the local language may have been a factor.

During his term of service, Sanders' salient and lasting contribution was frustrating the Anglo-French attempt to take the Dardanelles, and consequently Constantinople. It can be argued that von Sanders was the primary architect of the Allied disaster on the Gallipoli Peninsula, albeit aided in no small way by British incompetence.

He and his staff prodded Ottoman HQ to forward troops and munitions over the tortuous and inadequate road network leading from Constantinople to the front and directed defense and counterattacks by Turkish commanders. One of these was Mustafa Kemal, CO of the 19th Division, who as Ataturk later became President of the Turkish Republic (Mustafa is reported to have said to his troops "I don't expect you to fight; I expect you to die"). After nearly a year of abortive and bloody fighting, the Allies were forced to evacuate their remaining troops. That the Ottomans likely incurred even more casualties than the Allies was beside the point. The abysmal Allied defeat may well have extended the war by a full year or more, and thereby indirectly enabling the Bolshevik Revolution.

Following Gallipoli, stationed in the capital, Sanders countered pinprick Allied raids on outlying islands near Turkey. For the next two years he was relegated to HQ and advisory duties. He describes in some detail the efforts of other Ottoman forces during this time.

In early 1918, he was asked to take command of Army Group F (Yilderim or Lightning in Turkish) on the Palestine front, where General Edmund Allenby was marshalling British forces to knock the Ottomans out of the war. However, he did so only with the proviso that adequate supplies be made available to his command. Minister of War Enver Pasha had assured him this would be done, though in fact these never materialized. Sanders assumed command of the Army Group on 1 March; it proved to be anything but lightning. Given these handicaps, Sanders stood little chance of stopping the enemy; the fighting power of the Ottoman army had deteriorated so badly that their "armies" were little more than corps strength, desertions were rampant, food, ammunition and assorted supplies sporadic and inadequate. The few German formations, i.e. the Asia Corps, stationed there could not compensate. Sanders' competent effort nonetheless held the enemy off for several months. Commanding a very secondary front, Allenby's supply and manpower situation were not a great deal better; with France and Britain perilously close to collapse in spring 1918, little could be spared elsewhere. But by later in the year, the balance had swung further against the Ottomans, and the reinforced British offensive that fall totally broke and routed Sanders' command, sending the remnants backpedaling through Syria into Turkey proper (Sanders himself was almost captured by British cavalry).

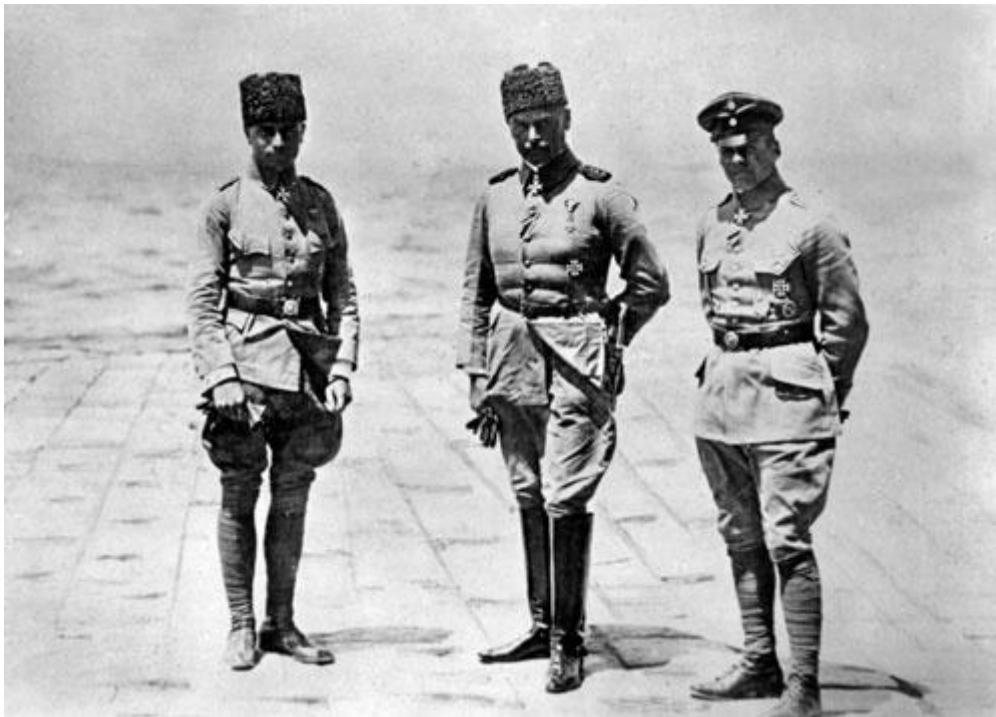
General von Sanders confines his observations to military matters, with only tangential reference to Ottoman and German politics, and virtually none of a personal nature. Most of his criticism of Ottoman officers is muted, but he was far more outspoken regarding Enver Pasha, one of the ruling "Young Turks" cabal, and Ottoman Minister of War. Enver's insistence on winter offensives in the Caucasus mountains demonstrated a criminal disregard for logistics, the consequences paid horrifically by the Ottoman troops committed there. Sanders was occasionally able to dissuade Enver from some of his more harebrained schemes, but too frequently Enver promoted truly disastrous operations for the Ottoman Army. Enver also attempted to interfere with Sanders' directives; at one point Sanders had to appeal direct to higher authority: the Grand Vizier or Sultan (nominally higher, as the Young Turks were really running the Empire). At several times during his service in Turkey, Sanders requested his recall to Germany because of ongoing disputes with Enver, though these were never granted by the German General Staff.

Lest the reader get an incomplete view of the author, a prewar incident is worth recounting. It seems, in pre-war 1914, the American ambassador, Henry Morgenthau, Sr. was hosting a dinner in Constantinople for high-ranking members of the diplomatic corps. As the German ambassador was in Berlin for consultations, von Sanders stood in for him. Strict seating protocol was always observed, and when

Sanders attempted to occupy the missing ambassador's seat, he was reminded that he was not an ambassador, and had to be content with a lesser position. Sanders evidently made quite a scene over this, which may have scotched invites to other social functions.

Also missing from this volume was the fact the following the surrender of the Ottoman Empire on 30 October 1918, and subsequently Germany, Sanders was detained for some considerable time in Malta while the British considered whether to charge him with war crimes for the Armenian Genocide and similar measures against the Greeks living in the Empire. The real instigators of the massacres, Interior Minister Talaat Pasha and Enver Pasha, were at large and Enver eventually fled Turkey (Talaat was later assassinated in Berlin by an Armenian nationalist). Sanders stated he tried to discourage these atrocities, which is probably true, though more in protesting diversion of scarce troops and supplies from the front rather than any humanitarian considerations. In the event, the British released Sanders and he finally returned to Germany in the summer of 1919; he finished this volume that November. Sanders' death preceded the National Socialist takeover of the German state in 1933; one can only speculate what his reaction and allegiance would have been.

Readers interested in the myriad of political and diplomatic events (and chicanery) pertaining to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire are encouraged to consult *A Peace to End All Peace -The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*, by David Fromkin. Avon Books, 1989. Another detailed source is *The Fall of the Ottomans* by Eugene Rogan, Basic Books, 2015.



General Otto Liman von Sanders (middle) pictured in Turkey with German flying aces Captain Hans Joachim Buddecke (left) and Captain Oswald Boelcke (right), 1916.

October

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
Larry Irons	15mm	ADLG	Medieval Theme Games
Hugh Thompson	28mm	Pulp Alley	The Hostage
JOHN OWENS	-	Twilight Struggle	Cold War boardgame

Winner in **RED**



Veterans Wars Convention

Baker Community Center November 13-14

Date	Event	Rules	Scale	Host	Max Players	Other
Nov 13						
9-1	Battle of Chail-Li	BKC/CWC	10mm	Eric Elder	4	Korean War Canadians vs Chinese
9-1	Scratch Force Naps	CLS		Rich K, Greg S, Doug W	8	
9-1	Nap Skirmish	Forager	28mm	Jeff Hunt	4	
9-1	available					
9-1	available					
1-5	Column, Line & Square	CLS		Kurt Strein		
1-5	Rumble in the Jungle	Pulp Alley	28mm	Hugh T, Doug W	4	
1-5	Chickamauga (second day)	Metal Men with Minie Balls	15mm	David Newport	4	
1-5	available					
1-5	available					

Nov 14						
9-11	Club Swap Meet					
1-5	Zulu Dawn	The Men Who Would Be Kings	28mm	Larry A, Doug W	6	
1-5	Late Medieval Tournament 2 tables	ADLG	15mm		4	200 point armies
1-5	Late Medieval Tournament 2 tables	ADLG	15mm		4	200 point armies
1-5	available					
1-5	available					

Game Descriptions

Saturday 9-1

Battle of Chail-Li

Up to 4 players

Rules: Cold War Commander

Table size 5'x6'

Game Master: Eric Elder

During the Korean War, Chinese counter attack against Canadian positions, May 30, 1951.

"Scratch Force Napoleonics" This will be a game where each player has a force of a different combatant's type units and will draw or dice for sides. Then they will face off against their opposite player and test their soldier's metal.

Up to 8 players

Rules: Column, Line and Square

Table size 8'x5'

Rules taught and figures provided

Game Masters: Rich Kasten, Greg Skelly and Doug Wildfong

Players are welcome to bring their own troops. Please contact a Game Master to let us know what you can bring (by 11/06/2021).

"Forager" A fast, fun Napoleonic skirmish game where players command several individual characters. Compete against each other to achieve scenario objectives and complete acts of 'daring do'.

Up to 4 players

Rules: Forager by Stand to Games

Table size 4'x4'

Rules taught and figures provided

Game Masters: Jeff Hunt

This is a game of small unit actions in-between the battles of the Napoleonic wars.

Saturday 1-5

"Rumble in the Jungle". Explorers, Thieves and Nere Do wells invade the Peruvian jungle for treasure and booty, anyway they can get them. Can you survive the threat and make off with the treasure?

Up to 4 players

Rules: Pulp Alley

Table size 8'x5'

Game Masters: Hugh Thompson and Doug Wildfong

Will teach and provide figures for the game. Bring Your Own League if you choose. Leagues limited to a 5 slot roster including your Leader.

Metal Men With Minie Balls--Chickamauga

Up to 4 players

Rules Metal Men with Minie Balls

Table size 8' by 5'

Rules taught and everything provided.

Game Master: David Newport

Action from the second day at Chickamauga, with the Confederates on the attack to cut off the supply lines and retreat path on the flank of the Union army. It was a close run affair that only ended at dusk with no clear results, we'll see if the Confederates can break through or if the Union will soundly repulse the attack in our game.

CLS Saturday morning game

Saturday 9AM

For those interested...

Here are some samples of the "Force" sizes per Nationality that we'll be working with in the game.

French "Brigade" plus Supports

French Line Regiment = 111 Figures including 1 command stand (3 Figures)

A Squadron of Light Cavalry = 10 Figures; Total points = 131 (Line Figures = 72 and figures able to skirmish = 28 including the Light Cavalry.

Other Nationalities on this Model are: Most Confederation of the Rhine, Holland, The Swiss, Spanish of King Joseph, Dutchy of Warsaw. Italian Allies of France.

Total Purchase Points = 131

Prussia "Demi-Brigade" (No Landwher)

2 x Line Battalions = 64 Figures. 1x Jager (Light) Battalion = 24. 1 x Grenadier Battalion = 24. Total = 121 Figures. Skirmishers = 24.

Other Nationalities on Prussian Model are Early Bavarian, Saxon, Spanish Allied to British, Brunswick, Russia prior to 1812 Campaign.

Total Purchase points = 130

British "Brigade" (Peninsula) = 99 Figures. 2 x Squadrons Light Cavalry = 8 Figures. 2 x Companies of Rifles (Baker Rifles) = 6 Figures. Total = 113 Figures. Skirmish = 15.

Other Nationalities on British model are Portuguese, Hanoverian, King's German Legion and Dutch and Belgian after 1813.

Russian forces would model the Prussian at "Table of Equipment" levels as the other models are of TO&E strength.

So, if you have figures you would like to bring to play with, please let us know by email prior to 11/07/21.

Information on CLS Saturday afternoon game

Looking for historic, yet balanced, forces for CLS (Column, Line & Square) aimed at beginners, I have the following recommendations:

Scenario: Meeting engagement between a recon-in-force and a local garrison/supply column escort. One battery of artillery for each side is optional (6-lb purchase).

Units

	# Of Figures	Purchase Points	Line	Skrm.	Mel. 2
British Brigade (Peninsular Army)					
3x Regiments Line Infantry	99	99	72	9	18
2x Squadrons Light Horse	8	16	-	-	8
2 x Companies Rifles	6	12	-	6	-
	113	127	72	15	26

French Regiment Plus Support					
Regiment of Line Infantry	111	111	72	18	21
Squadron of Light Horse	10	20	-	-	10
	121	131	72	18	31

Prussian Demi-Brigade (Brigade w/o Landwehr?)					
2x Line Battalion	64	64	64	-	-
1 – x Jager (Light) Battalion	24	24	-	24	-
1 – Grenadier Battalion	24	24	-	-	24
1 ½ x Squadrons Uhlans (Lancers)	9	18	-	-	9
	121	130	64	24	33

Please Comment

Sunday 1-5

"Zulu Dawn". The pesky British are once again wanting to quell unrest in Zululand, Natal Colony. They have decided to raid a nearby kraal. Can they be successful?

Up to 6 players

Rules: "The Men Who Would Be Kings".

Table size: 8'x5'

Game Masters: Larry Armin and Doug Wildfong

Teaching rules and figures provided.

Event - Medieval Wargaming Tournament

Rules: L'Art De La Guerre (aDLG)

Scale:- 15mm

>=230 points in one army list

Theme - Late Medieval after 1250 AD. Gunpowder allowed.

2021 - 2022 Conventions

<i>Date</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>
November		
10-14	<u>Historicon</u> (HMGS)	King of Prussia, PA
11-14	<u>MillenniumCon</u>	Round Rock, TX
13-14	<u>Veterans Wars</u>	Denver, CO
January		
14-17	<u>Hexacon</u>	Broomfield, CO
February		
24-27	<u>Genghis Con</u>	Aurora, CO



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 (\$30 for those that paid \$50 for 2020)

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/>

Groups.io Group: <https://groups.io/g/cmhweb>

Discord: <https://discord.gg/DAP2Gn>

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

Editor/Layout: Eric Elder

Next Issue: December 2021

2021/2022 CMH Board Members

President:

Nate Forte
natforteg1@gmail.com

Vice-President

Jim Rairdon
rairdon8071@comcast.net

Secretary

Eric Elder
eejist@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Larry Irons

Historian

Doug Wildfong
dwwild84@gmail.com