

Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XLVIII, No. 4 April 2022



News and Views

Message from CMH Secretary Eric Elder

This month we have two article submissions. Larry Armin has passed along an article on wargaming the Pacific War in WWII. Jim Raridon's Part One article is on the 5th Engineer Special Brigade involvement on D-Day.

May 14/15 is our West Wars convention. About half the game slots have been filled. The current game listing is found in this newsletter and any changes can be found on our web site: West Wars Page.

Some interesting hobby news, two companies 4ground and Acheson Creations are closing this Spring. Also TimeCast is looking to sell it's business. The current Owner is looking to retire.

On March 25, we lost Terry Shockey to non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Terry joined the club in 1976 and was very active at the club. We all enjoyed Terry's company and will miss his contribution to the wargaming community. I am glad to have known Terry.



March 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
Jeff Lambert	1:144	Various	WWII	Axis Airpower
Matt Vigil	15mm	Old Glory	Napoleonic	Prussians
Dave Manley	15mm	FOW	WWII	Tigers, Panthers, M-10, Greyhounds
Dave Manley	28mm	Savage Frontier	FIW	Winter Indians and Rangers
Don Cygan	28mm	Gripping Beast	Falklands	Br Para and Arg Marines
Greg Skelly	28mm	Trent	Napoleonic	Br Royal Marines





Engineers on D-Day

The 5th Engineer Special Brigade on Omaha Beach. Part One: The Engineer Special Brigade and the Engineer Amphibian Command

Article by CMH Member James L. Rairdon, DM, FLMI



These articles will be about the 5th Engineer Special Brigade that landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Heavey (2010) said:

Landing an army on a hostile shore has long been regarded as one of the most difficult of all tactical operations. Even if the expanse of water to be crossed is only a river and not an ocean, history has proved the danger and costliness of such operations (p. 7).

Since World War II was to be an amphibious war, in addition to an air war and a mechanized war, amphibian operations were essential. This type of operation required special training and organization of these amphibious troops. The Engineer Amphibian Command and the Engineer Special Brigades were a part of the response to this need (Heavy, 2010). There are four parts in this series, the first part will describe the background of the Engineer Special Brigades and then the establishment of the Army's Engineer Amphibian Command and; second part will cover the training of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade in the United States, and the pre-invasion training in the United Kingdom; the third will discuss the 5th Engineer Special Brigade on D-Day; and the final piece will discuss the 5th Engineer Special Brigade's operations after D-Day.

The reason I am writing these articles is that on June 6, 1944 Sergeant James R. Rairdon landed in the second wave on Omaha Beach. His military records were lost in the fire in the St. Louis records center, but based upon his stories and the patches on his uniform, I believe that he was in the 5th Engineer Special Brigade not the 6th Engineer Special Brigade. After D-Day the 5th Engineer Special Brigade went into Belgium, and the 6th Engineer Special Brigade went into France and my father was in Belgium.

The Engineer Special Brigades were formed to support amphibious landings. These were special unit composed of soldiers from many different specialties. According to DeAeman (1944) the primary mission of the brigades was "To establish, develop, and operate the beachhead beginning with the very earliest stages of the assault and concluding with the relinquishment of these duties to communications zone troops" (p. i). They worked very hard in supporting the landing and facilitating the movement of personnel and equipment off of the breach.

The History of the Engineer Special Brigades

Engineer Special Brigades were units of the Army Services Force and were assigned to Theatres of Operation. These units are designed to support landing operations, which are highly complex operations requiring the services of many specialized troops. Once the landing beachhead has been established they act in clearing operations for the movement of troops, equipment and supplies onto and off of the beaches to the operational troops (DeAeman, 1944).

The 1st Engineer Special Brigade was activated in July 1942 and participated in the amphibious landings in North Africa at Oran in Algeria on 8 November, 1942. This landing was followed by landings at Gela in Sicily on 9 July, 1943 and at Salerno, Italy on 10 September, 1943. The brigade was returned to the United States to prepare for the invasion of Western Europe. During the time that it was deployed the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th brigades were activated in the United States and were trained by the Engineer Amphibian Command at Camp Edwards, MA and at Camp Gordon Johnson in Carrabelle, FL. They were designated for the Southwest Pacific Theater of Operations. As plans for the opening of the second front in Europe began to be made the need for additional engineer special brigades was identified. The 5th and 6th Engineer Special Brigades were activated in October 1943. They supported the landings on Omaha Beach (DeAeman, 1944).

The Engineer Special Brigade was composed of a Brigade Headquarters for command control, and three Battalion Beach Groups for operations. Each Battalion Beach Group consisted of an Engineer Combat Battalion as the basic unit. To these beach groups other specialized troops were assigned as needed. This included troops some from other branches of the Army such as Quartermaster, Ordinance, Chemical Decontamination, Signal, Medical, Military Police, as well as Port and Naval Beach Battalion personnel. The Beach Battalion followed a common standing operating procedure for the assault and buildup phases of landing operations. Thereafter, in following phases changes were made in assignment or attachment of specialized units depending upon the needs of the operation. Throughout all phases of the operations for which an Engineer Special Brigade is responsible, each branch within the brigade is represented by a special staff officer, in most cases such as officers command appropriate battalion headquarters (DeAeman, 1944).

Organization and Training in the United States.

The original unit of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade was the 336th Engineer General Service Regiment which was activated on 25 July, 1942 at Fort Rucker, AL. On 7 April 1942 it was reorganized and redesignated as the 1119th Engineer Combat Group. The 1st Battalion was designated as the 336th Engineer Combat Battalion, and the 2nd Battalion was designated the 234th Engineer Combat Battalion. The 1119th Engineer Combat Group was moved to Fort Pierce, FL on 15 April, 1943. The 346th Combat Engineer Battalion was replaced by the 37th Combat Engineer Battalion on 22 August, 1943. On 12 November, 1943 the Group Headquarters was re-designated Headquarter and Headquarters Company of the 5th Special Engineer Brigade in South Wales, United Kingdom (DeAeman, 1944).

Engineer Amphibian Command

On 9 May 1942 LGN Somervell was directed to establish a boat training center at Camp Edwards, MA. They were to begin training with an Infantry division by 15 July, 1942. The Headquarters of the Engineer Amphibian Center opened on 10 June, 1942. The waters around Nantucket and Marth's Vineyard were deemed ideal for amphibian training. They drew officers from all branches of the Army as well as from the Navy, Coast Guard and the Geodetic Survey. There were also British Army and Naval officers on the staff. In late May 1942 a conference was held between LGN Somervell, Lord Louis Mountbatten and General Sir John Dill where it was decided that the amphibian training for the cross-channel invasion would begin in the United States and continue in The United Kingdom. It was also decided that the amphibious engineers would wear the combined operations patch, with a gold Thompson submachinegun, anchor, and eagle on a blue field. This signified operation on land sea and air. In addition to this unit patch, the army authorized the wearing of a pocket patch with a small seahorse in scarlet and white, which are the Corps of Engineers' branch colors (Heavey, 2010).



Engineer Amphibian Command Pocket Patch

The area for boats was established on Washburn Islands in Waquoit Bay. The first occupants of the center were the 591st Engineer Boat Regiment and the 1st Engineer Special Brigade. Testing of the DUWK's ability to carry out operations in rough water was conducted at the center, many improvements were made, which allowed them to be used successfully (Heavey, 2010).

One of the first tasks for the Command and the National Command Authority to decide upon was what were the responsibilities of the Army and the Navy responsible for in terms of amphibious operations. The obvious decision was that to accomplish its missions, the Army must be responsible for certain landing craft. The Army's Engineer Amphibian Command was to be responsible for both the 36-foot Landing Craft Vehicle and Personnel ("LCVP") and the 50-foot Landing Craft Mechanized ("LCM"). The LCVPs carried personnel and small vehicles the LCMs carried trucks, artillery, and tanks. The Navy wanted to control all ships, so they wanted to control the 105-foot Landing Craft Transports ("LCT"), which led to many discussions. It was also decided that the Navy would handle the construction of all landing craft including LCVPs and LCMs, but the Engineer Amphibian Command would study the designs and make recommendations. Another problem for the Engineer Amphibian Command was all of the schools that were needed for the specialists. Ultimately, there were many civilian and military schools that were utilized. Approximately 4500 officers and enlisted men were trained in non-Engineer Amphibian Command schools and civilian schools while 33,627 were trained by the Engineer Amphibious Command. In August 1942 the 1st Engineer Special Brigade left for the United Kingdom and then went on to support the invasions in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy (Heavey, 2010).

There was a great deal of thought and planning that went into amphibious operations. The Corps of Engineers contributed greatly to this planning and to the development of amphibious operations. Through

the work of the Engineer Amphibious Center and the experience of the first four Engineer Brigades the craft was improved. Next month the article will cover the training of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade in the United States and in the United Kingdom.

Essayons (Let us try)

Next Month:

The Training of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade

References

DeAeman, C. R. (1944). *History of the 5th Engineer Special Brigade*. US Army (Declassified 1945). Heavey, W. F. (2010. *Down ramp! The story of the army amphibian engineers*. Coachwhip Publications.



Historic Location of the Month

Point Pleasant, Ohio

Ulysses S. Grant was born in Point Pleasant, Ohio on April 27, 1822. The Grant birth home was built in 1817. After Grant's death in 1885, the house became a traveling memorial to the Civil War hero and President. The house was moved by towboat to Cincinnati for public exhibition. In 1888, it was displayed at Goodale Park in Columbus during the celebration of the centennial of the Northwest Territory. It then went on a tour across the nation traveling on a railroad car. The house was set up at the State Fairgrounds in Columbus, and in 1896 the Grant Memorial Building was constructed to surround and preserve the structure. The house was return in 1936.



Grant house in 1868



Grant house today

Gaming WWII Pacific Naval Battles

Article by CMH Member Larry Armin

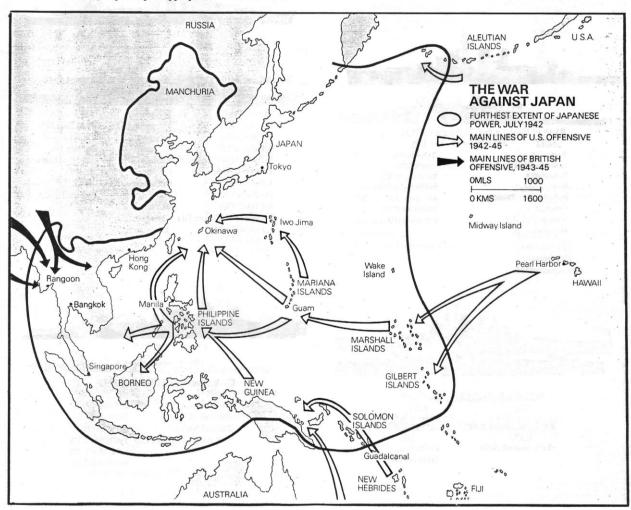
When I first began collecting 1/2400th scale ship models to game with, I eagerly snapped up whatever became available. My collection of Japanese and United States naval miniatures grew by leaps and bounds until I had all the capital ships CL and larger, and vast armadas of DD's and DE's plus CV's, CVL's and CVE's and support ships and merchant hulls and auxiliaries and submarines and PT boats—and now, I've got to paint them!

My solution, when I quit trying to complicate matters, was simple: find out how many of what class of vessel was involved in each battle, compile those numbers and just paint up an appropriate number of hulls. (I suppose some purists will fault this solution as "obviously" you can't use the *Alabama* for the *South Dakota*, nor should you use a Fletcherclass DD in Measure 31a camouflage in 1942. Oh, we-e-ell.)

When I started this project, I was not collecting British or Dutch ships, despite the contributions made by our allies at the beginning of the Pacific War. Another gamer had those ships well in hand, so I could concentrate on just the Japanese and US ships. Consequently, rather than class names for Allied vessels, I have named the specific ship in each battle. For this article, I have used Jentschura's Warships

of the Imperial Japanese Navy 1939-1945, Silverstone's US Warships of World War 2, and Rohwer's Chronology of the War at Sea 1939-1945 to standardize spelling of names, class names and battle references.

I arbitrarily chose to exclude submarines and warships smaller than DE's, as the ultimate goal of this list was to be a handy reference for wargamers. Again arbitrarily, I have included some battles which did not include surface combat, but which make for interesting "what-if" scenarios and micro-campaigns. The campaign for Leyteis detailed separately.





IJN -Yubari class CL

Second Battle for Wake Island 14-23 December, 1941

US	IJN*
3xCV	2xCV
3xNorthampton CA	2xTenryu CL
2xIndianapolis CA	1xYubari CL
3xAstoria CA	2xAoba CA
1xPensacola CA	2xFurutaka CA
3xPorter DD	2xTone CA
6xFarragut DD	3xKamikaze DD
3xMahan DD	6xMutsuki DD
11xCraven DD	2xKagero DD
1xSomersDD	2xAPD
2xAO	3xAK/AP
*(IJN also had 1xminelayer, 1xa	ircxraft tender 4xauxiliaries



RN - Exeter class CA

Battle of the Java Sea 27 February 1942

- I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Tebruary 1742
Allies	<u>IJN</u>
Exeter CA	2xNachi CA
1xNorthampton CA	2xNaka CL
DeRuyter	2xFubuki DD
Java	5xShiratsuyu DD
3x E-class DD (British)	4xKagero DD
Kortenaer	1xKamikaze DD
Witte de With DD	2xAsashio DD
4xFlush-deck DD	



USN - Flush-deck APD

Battle off Lunga Point 6 September 1942

IJN
1xShiratsuyu DI
2xFubuki DD



IJN - Nagara class CL

Balikpapan 19 February 1942

Allies	IJN
DeRuyter	4xAsashio DD
Java	1xNagara CL
Tromp	4xAK/AP
Kortenaer DD	3xHatsuharu DD
Piet Hien DD	
CELLIDE	



USN - Astoria class CA

Sea and Air Battle East of the Solomons 23 - 31 August 1942

Allies	IJN	
3xCV	4xTakao CA	2xMogami CA
1xAustralia CA	2xNachi CA	2xTone CA
1xHobart CL	3xAsashio DD	1xAkizuki DD
3xAstoria CA	2xNagara CL	1xCVL
4xFarragut DD	8xKagero DD	1xNaka CL
3xPorter DD	1xMutsu BB	3xMutsuki DD
1xNorth Carolina BB	1xChitose CVS	3xAPD
1xIndianapolis CA	6xShiratsuyu DD	3xAK/AP
2xAtlanta CLAA	2xCV	1xFurutaka CA
4xCraven DD	4xYugumo DD	2xAoba CA
5xBenson/Livermore DD	2xFubuki DD	
1xPensacola CA	2xKongo BC	



IJN - Furutaka class CA

Cape Esperance 11 October 1942

USN	<u>IJN</u>
1xAstoria CA	2xAoba CA
1xPensacola CA	1xFurutaka CA
2xBrooklyn CL	4xFubuki DD
5xBenson/Livermore DD	1xChitose CVS
	1xNisshin CVS
	3xAsashio DD



USN - South Dakota class BB

Battle of Santa C	ruz 22 October - 27	October 1942
TICN		

	1311
1xNorth Carolina BB	4xKongo BC
1xAstoria CA	3xTakao CA
4xAtlanta CLAA	1xNachi CA
1xBrooklyn CL	3xNagara CL
5xBenson/Livermore DD	6xYugumo DD
2xCraven DD	8xShiratsuyu DD
1xFletcher DD	8xKagero DD
2xCV	2xCVL
1xPorter DD	2xCV
1xSouth Dakota BB	2xMogami CA
1xIndianapolis CA	2xAkizuki DD
5xMahan DD	2xTone CA
1xNorthampton CA	2xAkatsuki DD
1xPensacola CA	5xAK/AP
4xSims DD	



USN - Atlanta class CL

Night Battle 12 - 13 November 1942

THEIR Dattie 12 - 13 IV	Overhoer 1942
<u>USN</u>	IJN
1xMahan DD	2xKongo BC
4xBenson/Livermore DD	1xNagara CL
1xCraven DD	2xKagero DD
2xFletcher DD	3xAkatsuki DD
1xAstoria CA	1xAkizuki DD
1xIndianapolis CA	1xAsashio DD
1xBrooklyn CL	6xShiratsuyu DD
2xAtlanta CLAA	



IJN - Kagero class DD

Battle of T

Tassafaronga 30 Novem	iber - 1 December 1942
USN	IJN
2xAstoria CA	3xYugumo DD
1xNorthampton CA	3xKagero DD
1xPensacola CA	2xShiratsuyu DD
1xBrooklyn CL	W 452.3
3xMahan DD	
1xFletcher DD	
1xCraven DD	
1xBenson/Livermore DI	



USN - North Carolina class BB

<u>USN</u>	IJN
1xPensacola CA	4xKongo BC
1xIndianapolis CA	2xNagara CL
1xFletcher DD	5xKagero DD
8xBenson/Livermore DD	3xAkatsuki DD
3xAtlanta CLAA	4xAsashio DD
1xAstoria CA	9xShiratsuyu DD
1xBrooklyn CL	5xFubuki DD
3xMahan DD	4xTakao CA
2x Craven DD	1xMogami CA
1xCV	1xTenryu CL
1xNorthampton CA	6xYugumo DD
5xSims DD	1xAoba CA
1xPorter DD	2xAkizuki DD
1xEvarts DE	1xTone CA
1xSouth Dakota BB	1xNaka CL
1xNorth Carolina BB	2xCV
6xAK/AP	11xAK/AP



IJN - Kongo class BB

Night Battle 14 -15 November 1942

USN	IJN
1xSouth Dakota BB	1xNaka CL
1xNorth Carolina BB	2xFubuki DD
1xSims DD	2xTakao CA
1xCraven DD	1xKongo BC
1xMahan DD	1xNagara CL
1xBenson/Livermore DD	1xAkizuki DD
	1xAsashio DD
	1xShiratsuvu DI



USN - Cleveland class CL

Battle of Kula Gulf - 6 March 1943

USN	IJN
3xCleveland CL	1xShiratsuyu DD
3xFletcher DD	1xAsashio DD



USN - Omaha class CL

Battle of the Komandorski Islands 26 March 1943

USN	<u>IJN</u>
1xPensacola CA	1xNachi CA
1xOmaha CL	1xTakao CA
2xBenson/Livermore DD	1xAbukuma CL
2xFarragut DD	1xKuma CL
	2xHatsuharu DD
	2xAkatsuki DD
	2xAK/AP



USN - Brooklyn class CL

Battle of Kula Gulf 5 - 6 July 1943

USN	<u>IJN</u>	
3xBrooklyn CL	2xFubuki DD	
4xFletcher DD	2xMutsuki DD	
	1xAkizuki DD	
	1xShiratsuyu DD	
	1xKagero DD	
	4	



RN - Leasnder class CL

Battle of Kolambangara 12 -13 July 1943

Allies	<u>IJN</u>
2xBrooklyn CL	2xMutsuki DD
1xLeander CL	2xKamikaze DD
5xFletcher DD	1xNaka CL
2xCraven DD	2xKagero DD
2xBenson/Livermore DD	1xYugumo DD
	1xHatsuharu DD



IJN - Fubuki class DD

Vella Lavella 17 August 1943

USN	<u>IJN</u>	
4x Fletcher DD	1xFubuki DD	
	2xKagero DD	
	1xShiratsuyu DD	



IJN - Mutsuki class DD

Battle of Rendova Island 4 -5 July 1943

USN	<u>IJN</u>
2xBrooklyn CL	1xAkizuki DD
2xBenson/Livermore DD	1xMutsuki DD
3xFletcher DD	1xKagero DD



IJN - Akizuki class DD

Japanese Evacuation of Kiska 6 July - 28 July 1943

USN	<u>IJN</u>
1xWichita CA	2xKuma CL
1xIndianapolis CA	1xNagara CL
1xAstoria CA	3xAkizuki DD
1xCleveland CL	2xHatsuharu DD
3xFarragut DD	1xAsashio DD
1xNorthampton CA	4xYugumo DD
2xFletcher DD	1xShimakaze DD
3xSims DD	1xShiratsuyu DD
3xNew Mexico BB	1xAO
1xDMS	1xPF*

* (included because I scratchbuilt one)



USN - Craven class DD

Battle in Vela Gulf	6 - 7 August 1943
USN	IJN
1xMahan DD	2xKagero DD
5xCraven DD	2xShiratsuyu DD



USN - Porter class DD

Japanese Evacuation of Vella Lavella 6-7 October 1943

USN	<u>IJN</u>
1xPorter DD	1xMutsuki DD
4xFletcher DD	2xKamikaze DD
1xCraven DD	3xYugumo DD
	1xKagero DD
	2xShiratsuyu DD



IJN - Agano class CL

Empress Augusta Bay 1 -2 November 1943

4xCleveland CL 7xFletcher DD

IJN 2xNachi CA

1xNaka CL 3xShiratsuyu DD 1xAgano CL 1xYugumo DD

1xKagero DD 1xAkizuki DD



IJN - Katori class CL

Near Truk 17 February 1944

USN 2xIowa BB 2xAstoria CA 1xCVL

<u>IJN</u> 1xKatori CL 2xKagero DD 1xMinekaze DD

4xFletcher DD



USN - Farragut class DD

Second Relief of Biak 6 June 1944

Allies 1xAustralia CA

2xBrooklyn CL 2xTribal DD (British) 10xFletcher DD

IJN 2xFubuki DD 3xShiratsuyu DD 1xAoba CA 1xNagara CL

1xFarragut DD



USN PT 103 class

Convoy defense off Luzon 11 December 1944

USN 1xFletcher DD

<u>IJN</u> 2xMutsuki DD

8xPT boats 5xAP/AK



USN - Fletcher class DD

Cape St. George 25 November 1943

USN 5xFletcher DD

IJN 3xFubuki DD 1xMutsuki DD 2xYugumo DD



RAN - County Class CA

First Relief of Biak 2 -3 June 1944

Allies 1xAustralia CA 1xShropshire CA 2xTribal DD (British) 8xFletcher DD

3xBrooklyn CL

1xAoba CA 1xNagara CL 2xFubuki DD 1xShiratsuyu DD

IJN

1xFuso BB 2xNachi CA

5xDD (probably Kagero)



USN - Wichita class CA

Bait-Div 1- 15 October 1944*

USN <u>IJN</u> 3xCleveland CL 2xNachi CA 1xWichita CA 1xNagara CL 2xBaltimore CA 2xFubuki DD 2xCVL 1xAsashio DD 13xFletcher DD 1xKagero DD 2xHatsuharu DD 1xAkizuki DD

^{*{}This one may need a little explanation: The Houston (a Cleveland class CL) and the Canberra (a Baltimore class CA) were under tow away from the Philippines after suffering major damage from kamikazes. Halsey tried to use them as bait. The Japanese actually sortied after the cripples, but turned back when their air recon spotted TF 38 coming up to stomp them.}



IJN - Matsu class DD

Escape from Manila 4 January 1945 Allies IJN

2xMatsu DD

1xFletcher DD 1xWarrego (?)

1xGascogne (?)



USN - Sims class DD



IJN - Myoko class CA

Second Attempt to escape from Manila 7 - 8 January 1945

USN 2xFletcher DD 1xMahan DD IJN 1xMatsu

1xMahan DD 1xSims DD

Last surface action of the war 16 May 1945 Allies LJN

Allies
4xV-class DD (British)
1xS-class DD (British)

1xMyoko CA 1xKamikaze DD

Summary:

Although many ship classes saw combat during this period, the battles described above actually use relatively few vessels in any one class. For example, some 190+ Fletcher-class DDs were commissioned during the war. You only need a maximum of 13 to be able to recreate any of these battles. I present three tables with total number of ships described here, sorted by class.

Name	<u>IJN</u> <u>Type</u>	0	AND SHOW	<u>USN</u>	
<u>rvanic</u>	Type	Quantity	<u>Name</u>	Type	Quantity
	AK/AP	7,137 11 1		AK/AP	6
	AO	1		AO	2
	APD	3	Flush Deck	APD	2
Fuso	BB	1	Iowa	BB	2
Mutsu	BB	1.	New Mexico	BB	_
Kongo	BC	4	North Carolina	BB	3
Aoba	CA	2	South Dakota		1
Furutake	CA	2		BB	1
Mogami	CA	2	Astoria	CA	3
Nachi	CA	2	Baltimore	CA	2
Takao	CA	4	Indianapolis	CA	2
Tone	CA	2	Northampton	CA	3
Abukuma	CL	1	Pensacola	CA	1
Agano	CL	3 E 1	Wichita	CA	1
Katori	CL	1	Brooklyn	CL	3
Kuma	CL		Cleveland	CL	4
		2	Omaha	CL	1
Nagara	CL	3	Atlanta	CLAA	4
Naka	CL	2		CV	3
Tenryu	CL	2		CVL	3 2
Yubari	CL	1	Benson/Livermor		8
	CV	2	Craven	DD	11
	CVL	2	Farragut	DD	6
Chitose	CVS	1	Fletcher	DD	13
Nisshin	CVS	1	Flush deck	DD	6
Akatsuki	DD	3	Mahan	DD	
Akizuki	DD	1	Porter	DD	5
Asashio	DD	4	Sims		5
Fubuki	DD	5	Somers	DD	
Hatsuharu	DD	3		DD	1
Kagero	DD	8	Evarts	DE	1 A
Kamikaze	DD	3		DMS	1
Matsu	DD	2		Allies	
Minekaze	DD	1	Name/Class	Type	Quantity
Mutsuki	DD	6	71 OF		Quantity
Shimakaze	DD	1	Australia	CA	1
Shiratsuyu	DD	9	Exeter	CA	1
Yugumo	DD		Shropshire	CA	1
i ugumo	PF	6	DeRuyter	CL	i
	PF	1	Java	CL	1
			Leander-class	CL	2
			Tromp		
			E-class	CL	1
				DD	3
			Eversten-class	DD	3
			S-class	DD	1
			Tribal	DD	2
			V-Class	DD	4

Battle for Levte 17 October - 26 October 1944

L. Armin

General Situation

On 16-17 October, the Battle for Leyte begins with air bombardment by land-based air forces which attack Mindanao

and aircraft from Task Group 77.4, under RAdm T. L. Sprague which attack Japanese airfields on Leyte, Cebu and North

Task Group 77.4 (T. Sprague) Task Unit 1 (T. Sprague)

Sangamon***, Suwanee***, Chenango, Santee***(4xSangamon CVE), Saginaw Bay, Petrof Bay (2xCasablanca CVE) McCord, Trathen, Hazelwood (3xFletcher DD)

Edmonds, RS Bull, RM Rowell, Eversole (4xButler DE), Coolbaugh(1xBuckley DE)

Task Unit 2 (Stump)

Natrona Bay, Manila Bay, Marcus Island, Kadashaw Bay, Savo Island, Ommaney Bay (6xCasablanca CVE) Haggard, Frankes, Hailey (3xFletcher DD)

RW Suesens, Abercrombie, Oberrender, LeRay Wilson, WC Wann (5xButler DE)

Task Unit 3 (C. Sprague)
Fanshaw Bay, St.Lo**, White Plains***, Kalinin Bay***, Kitkun Bay***, Gambier Bay** (6xCasablanca CVE) Hoel**, Heerman, Johnston** (3xFletcher DD) Dennis, JC Butler, Raymond, SB Roberts**(4xButler DE)

Task Group 77.3 (Berkey)

Covering force enters Leyte Gulf early 17 October with minesweeping force Phoenix, Boise (2xBrooklyn CL)

HMAS Australia* (Kent class CA), HMAS Shropshire (London class CA) Hutchins, Bache, Beale, Daly, Killew (5xFletcher DD), HMAS Arunta, HMAS Warramunga (Tribal class DDs)

Task Group 77.5

Minesweeping and survey force (25 vessels)

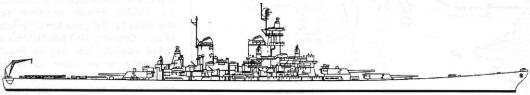
*Badly damaged 21 October and towed away accompanied by Warramunga **Sunk 25 October

***Damaged 25 October

Also on 17 October Task Force 38, under VAdm Mitscher, attack airfields on Luzon.

Task Force 38 Task Force 38.1 (McCain)

Wasp, Hornet (2xEssex CV), Monterey, Cowpens (2xIndependence CVL) Chester (1xNorthampton CA), Pensacola, Salt Lake City (2xPensacola CA), Boston (1xBaltimore CA), San Diego, Oakland (2xAtlanta CLAA) Izard, Charrette, Conner, Bell, Burns, Cogswell, Caperton, Ingersoll, Knapp, Boyd, Cowell, Brown, (12xFletcher DD), McCalla, Grayson, Woodworth (3xBenson-Livermore DD), Dunlap, Fanning, Case, Cummings, Downes (5xMahan DD)



USN - Iowa class BB

Task Force 38.2 (Bogan)

Intrepid, Hancock, Bunker Hill (3xEssex CV), Independence (1xIndependence CVL)

Iowa, New Jersey (2xIowa BB)

Biloxi, Vincennes, Miami (3xCleveland CL)

Owen, Miller, The Sullivans, Hickox, Uhlmann, Lewis Hancock, Marshall, Halsey Powell, Cushing, Calahan, Stockham, Hunt, Wedderburn, Twining, Yarnall Tingey, (16xFletcher DD)

Task Force 38.3 (Sherman)

Lexington, Essex (2xEssex CV), Princeton, Langley (2xIndependence CVL)

Massachusetts, Indiana (2xSouth Dakota BB)

Santa Fe, Birmingham, Mobile(3xCleveland CL), Reno(1xAtlanta CLAA)
CK Bronson, Cotten, Dortch, Gatling, Healey, Porterfield, Callaghan, C Young, Irwin,
Preston, Morrison, Cogswell, Caperton, Ingersoll, Knapp (15xFletcher DD)

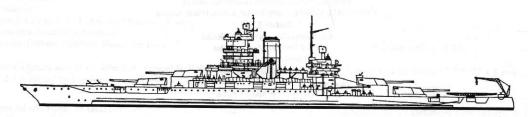
Task Force 38.4

Franklin (1xEssex CV), Enterprise (1xYorktown CV), San Jacinto, Belleau Wood (2xIndependence CVL)
Washington(1xNorth Carolina BB), Alabama (1xSouth Dakota BB)
Wichita (1xWichita CA), New Orleans (1xAstoria CA)

Maurey, Gridley, Helm, McCall, Mugford, Bagley, Patterson, Ralph Talbot (8xCraven DD)
Wilkes, Nicholson, Swanson (3xBenson-Livermore DD), Laws, Longshaw,
plus two other DDs (2x Fletcher DD, and probably 2x more Fletcher DD) NOTE: Morison
does not include these last four DDs in Vol XII, Leyte.

Carrier-based air attacks on airfields continue, along with supporting attacks/efforts from the 5th USAAF. On the 20th, the US 7th Fleet, under VAdm Kincaid enters Leyte Gulf to land the 6th US Army, under LtGen Krueger. In the North, Task Group 78.1 lands the 24th Infantry Division;

Task Group 78.2 lands the 1st Cavalry Division. Fire support is provided by Task Force 78, plus the ships of Task Force 77.3. In the South, Task Group 79.1 lands the 7th Infantry Division; Task Group 79.2 lands the 96th Infantry Division. Fire support is provided by Task Force 79.



USN - New Mexico class BB

Task Force 78

Mississippi (1xNew Mexico BB), Maryland, West Virginia (2xMaryland BB)

Task Group 78.1 8xAPA, 4xAKA, 3xLSD, 12xLST Task Group 78.2 8xAPA, 2xAKA, 2xLSD, 14xLST, 9xLSM

Task Force 79

Tennessee, California(2xCalifornia BB), Pennsylvania (1xPennsylvania BB)

Louisville (1xNorthampton CA), Portland(1xIndianapolis CA), Minneapolis (1x Astoria CA),

Honolulu* (1xBrooklyn CL), Denver, Columbia (2xCleveland CL)

Remey, McGowan, Melvin, Monssen, McDermott, Hutchins, Daly, Bache, Killen, Beale, Robinson,

Halford, Bryant, Leutze, Bennion, Newcomb, AW Grant, RP Leary (18xFletcher DD),

Edwards (Benson-Livermore DD), HMAS Arunta

*Damaged by aerial torpedo and limped away under her own power on 20 October.

Task Group 79.1 13xAPA, 4xAKA, 1xLSD, 31xLST Task Group 79.2 14xAPA, 4xAKA, 4xLSD, 24xLST

Battle in the Sibuyan Sea, 24 October

Waves of aircraft from Task Groups 38.2, 38.3 and 38.4 attack the Japanese Center Force, damaging the *Myoko* (which turns back), sinking the *Musashi* and doing negligible damage to other battleships at a cost of 30 US aircraft. Kurita's Center Force has been badly hurt already from attacks by two US submarines, *Darter* and *Dace*. Kurita's Center Force turns away to the west, but under cover of night, turns back eastwards towards the San Bernardino Strait.

General Situation: On 24 October, Ozawa flies off 76 of only 101 operational aircraft from the carriers of the Northern Force. These aircraft do not find their targets and land on Luzon. Halsey recalls Task Group 38.1 from Ulithi after locating Ozawa's Northern Force. Kamikaze aircraft attack Task Group 38.1, sinking *Princeton*. *Birmingham* is badly damaged while attempting to fight *Princeton's* fires from alongside, and retires towards Ulithi, escorted by *Gatling*, *Irwin* and *Morrison* (3xFletcher DD).

Battle of Surigao Strait, night 23-24 October

The two forces of Nishimura and Shima are located by US air recon, and the *Wakaba* is sunk. RAdm Oldendorf deploys 39 PT boats, Task Force 78, Task Force 79 and Task Group 77.3 within Surigao Strait. **US disposition of forces:**39 PT boats in 13 squadrons of 3 each, deployed from the mouth of the strait back towards the battleline.

DD Squadron 54 (CPT Jesse Coward)
Remey, McGowan, Melvin, Mertz, McDermut, Monssen, McNair
DD Division X-Ray (Cmdr Miles Hubbard)
Claxton, Cony, Thorn, Aulick, Sigourney, Welles

East Flank

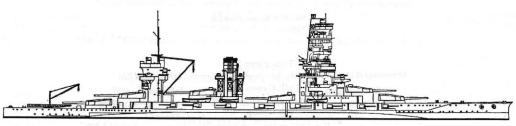
Louisville (Oldendorf), Portland, Minneapolis, Denver, Columbia Newcomb (CPT R. Smoot), RP Leary, AW Grant, Robinson, Halford, Bryant, HL Edwards, Bennion, Leutze

Right Flank

Phoenix (Berkley), Boise, HMAS Shropshire Hutchins (McManes), Daley, Bache, Killen, Beale, Arunta

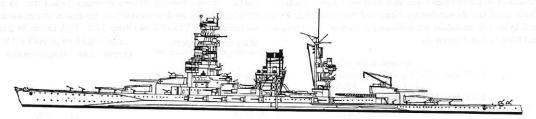
Battle Line

Mississippi (Weyler) Mark 3 Radar West Virginia Mark 8 Radar California Mark 8 Radar Tennessee Mark 8 Radar Maryland Mark 3 Radar Pennsylvania Mark 3 Radar



IJN - Fuso class BB

Japanese Disposition of Forces		
Southern Force (Nishimura)	Class	Disposition
Fuso, Yamashiro	Fuso BB	Sunk, Sunk
Mogami	Mogami CA	Badly Damaged
Michishio, Asagumo, Yamagumo	Asashio DD	Sunk, Sunk, Sunk
Shigure	Shiratsuyu DD	
Second Striking Force (Shima), to join Sout	hern Force in Sulu Sea:	
Nachi, Ashigara	Nachi CA	Nachi collides with Mogami
Abukuma	Nagara CL	Damaged
Akebono, Ushio	Fubuki DD	
Kasumi	Asashio DD	
Shiranuhi	Kagero DD	
Wakaba, Hatsushimo, Hatsuharu	Hatsuharu DD	Wakaba sunk



IJN - Nagato class BB

Battle of Samar, 25 October

Kurita's Center Force exits San Bernardino Strait and falls first Despite heroic efforts by US sailors and naval aviators against upon Task Unit 77.4.3 (see above), then later Task Unit 77.4.2, mistaking the CVEs for fleet carriers. Except for Task Unit 77.4.1 farther to the south, there are no other Allied forces between Kurita and the US transports anchored off the invasion beaches.

overwhelming odds, Kurita's ships pound the light vessels into scrap but then turn away in confusion before entering Leyte Gulf and retires back up San Bernardino Strait.

Center Force (Kurita) Yamato	Class	Disposition
A STATE OF	Yamato BB	AND THE COURSE OF THE COURSE O
Nagato	Mutsu BB	
Kongo, Haruna	Kongo BB	
Chokai	Takao CA	Sunk
Haguro	Nachi CA	
Kumano, Suzuya	Mogami CA	Damaged, sunk
Tone, Chikuma	Tone CA	Chikuma sunk
Noshiro, Yahagi	Agano CL	Chikuma sunk
Shimakaze	ShimakazeDD	
Hayashimo, Akishimo, Kishinami, Okinami, , Asashio,	Yugumo DD	
Hamanami, Fujinami, Kiyoshimo	Tugumo DD	
Nowake, Urakaze, Yakikaze, Hamakaze, Isokaze*	Kagero DD	Nowake sunk by TF 34

Kurita's forces sink Hoel, Johnston, Samuel B. Roberts and Gambier Bay. All other damage to Task Units 77.4.1, 77.4.2 and 77.4.3 is caused by kamikaze aircraft, except Santee which is further damaged by I-56.

General situation, 25 October: Mogami is attacked by aircraft on 25 October and sunk. Task Group 38.1 arrives from Ulithi and manages to further damage Kurita's retiring Center Force in two long-range strikes.

Battle off Cape Engano, 24-26 October: Task Groups 38.2, 38.3 and 38.4 charge north after Ozawa's Northern Force, not realizing Ozawa's carriers are almost empty of aircraft and are bait to lure Halsey away from Leyte Gulf. Halsey forms Task Force 34 at dawn on the 25th from the three elements of Task Force 38 in case he catches Ozawa later that night.

Task Force 38.2 (Bogan)

Intrepid, Hancock, Bunker Hill, Independence Iowa, New Jersey

Biloxi, Vincennes, Miami

Owen, Miller, The Sullivans, Tingey, Hickox, Hunt, Lewis Hancock, Marshall, Halsey Powell, Cushing, Calahan, Uhlmann, Stockham, Weiderburn, Twining, Yarnall

Task Force 38.3 (Sherman)

Lexington, Essex, Langley Massachusetts, Indiana Santa Fe, Mobile, Reno

CK Bronson, Cotten, Dortch, , Healey, Porterfield, Callaghan, C Young, Preston, Cogswell, Caperton, Ingersoll, Knapp

Task Force 38.4

Franklin, Enterprise, San Jacinto, Belleau Wood

Washington, Alabama Wichita, New Orleans

Maurey, Gridley, Helm, McCall, Mugford, Bagley, Patterson, Ralph Talbot, Wilkes, Nicholson, Swanson, Laws, Longshaw, plus two other DDs

Task Force 34 (dawn, 25 October)

Iowa, New Jersey, Washington, Alabama, Massachusetts, Indiana Santa Fe, Mobile, New Orleans, Wichita

Air attacks on the Northen Force sink Akitsuki, Chitose, Zuikaku, Zuiho and Chiyoda and damage Tama and Hatsutsuki. Tama is sunk by the US sub Jallao, while Santa Fe, Mobile, New Orleans and Wichita sink Hatsutsuki.

Earlier, around mid-day, Halsey reformes Task Force 34 and speeds off to the south in a cavalry-to-the-rescue charge towards the beleagured CVEs of Task Group 77.4. Task Group 38.2 tags along for air support.



Malay 1914 Malay 1914

Task Force 34 (mid-day, 25 October)

Iowa, New Jersey, Washington, Alabama, Massachusetts, Indiana Biloxi, Vincennes, Miami 8 DDs

In a desperate attempt to block Kurita from San Bernardino Strait, Halsey detaches Iowa and New Jersey and the 8 DDs (his fastest ships) from Task Force 34. They arrive too late, as Kurita has already passed in to the strait. Nowake, left behind to pick up survivors, is sunk.

Task Groups 38.1 and 38.2 launch long-range strikes against Kurita on the 26^{th} and, with the cooperation of B-24s from $^{\text{th}}$ 5 USAAF, sink Kinu, Noshiro, Uranami, Abukuma and Hayashimo. Also on the 26^{th} , Santee is again hit by kamikaze aircraft.

Original Japanese force compositions, 22 October		Northern Force (Ozawa):	
Center Force (Kurita), departs from Borneo Ship name Yamato, Musashi Nagato Kongo, Haruna Atago, Takao, Chokai, Maya Myoko, Haguro Kumano, Suzuya Tone, Chikuma Noshiro, Yahagi Shimakaze Hayashimo, Akishimo, Kishinami, Okinami, Naganami, Asashio, Hamanami, Fujinami, Kiyoshimo Nowake, Urakaze, Yakikaze, Hamakaze, Isokaze Southern Force (Nishimura)	Class Yamato BB Mutsu BB Kongo BB Takao CA Nachi CA Mogami CA Tone CA Agano CL Shimakaze DD Yugumo DD	Zuikaku Zuiho Chiyoda, Chitose Isc, Hyuga Isuzu Tama Oyodo Hatsutsuki, Akizuki, Wakatsuki, Shimotsuki Suzutsuki, Fuyutsuki (sent north 10/25) Maki, Kiri, Kuwa, Sugi Supply Force for Northern Force: two AO's Akikaze Kaibokans #22, 29,31, 33, 43, 132	Zuikaku Zuiho CV Chitose CVL Ise BB/CVS Nagara CL Kuma CL Oyodo CL Akizuki DD Akizuki DD Matsu DE
Fuso, Yamashiro	Fuso BB	Second Striking Force (Shima), to join Southern Force in	
Mogami Michishio, Asagumo, Yamagumo Shigure	Mogami CA Asashio DD Shiratsuyu DD	Nachi, Ashigara Abukuma Akebono, Ushio Kasumi Shiranuhi Wakaba, Hatsushimo, Hatsuharu Transport unit (Sakonju), in Manila:	Nachi CA Nagara CL Fubuki DD Asashio DD Kagero DD Hatsuharu DD
		Aoba Kinu Uranami four fast transports	Aoba CA Nagara CL Fubuki DD

ARE YOU READY FOR THIS?

Summary of US Forces, by Ship Class, excluding minesweepers and survey vessels:

v Coocio.			
Name	Туре	No.	
	AKA	14	
	APA	43	
California	BB	2	
Iowa	BB	2	
Maryland	BB	2	
New Mexico	BB	1	
North Carolina	BB	1	
Pennsylvania	BB	1	
South Dakota	BB	3	
Astoria	CA	2	
Baltimore	CA	1	
Indianapolis	CA	1	
Northampton	CA	2	
Pensacola	CA	2	
Wichita	CA	1	
Brooklyn	CL	3	
Cleveland	CL	8	
Atlanta	CLAA	3	
Essex	CV	8	
Yorktown	CV	1	
Casablanca	CVE	14	
Sangamon	CVE	4	
Independence	CVL	7	
Benson-Livermo	reDD	7	
Craven	DD	8	
Fletcher	DD	79	
Mahan	DD	5	
Buckley	DE	1	
Butler	DE	13	
	LSD	10	
	LSM	9	
	LST	81	
	PT	39	

Summary of Allied ships

Name	Type	No.
London	CA	1
Kent	CA	1
Tribal	DD	2

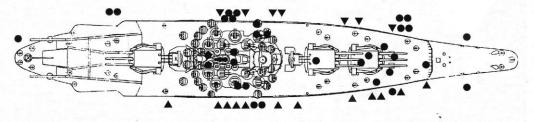
Summary Of Japanese Ships

Name	Type	No.	Abukuma damaged10/24, sunk 10/25
	-		Aoba sunk 10/23
	AO	2	Asagumo damaged 10/24, sunk 10/2.
	APD	4	Atago sunk 10/24
Fuso	BB	2	Chikuma damaged 10/25
Kongo	BB	2	Chitose sunk 10/25 Chivoda sunk 10/25
Mutsu	BB	1	Chiyoda sunk 10/25 Chokai sunk 10/25
Yamato	BB	2	Fuso sunk 10/24
Ise	BB/CV		Hatsutsuki sunk 10/25
Aoba	CA	1	Hayashimo sunk 10/26
Mogami	CA	2	Kinu sunk 10/26
Nachi	CA	4	Kumano damaged 10/25
Takao	CA	4	Maya sunk 10/24
			Michisio damaged 10/24
Tone	CA	2	Mogami damaged 10/24, collides
Mogami	CA/CV		w/ Nachi, abandoned 10/2
Agano	CL	2	Musashi sunk 10/24
Kuma	CL	1	Myoko damaged 10/24*
Nagara	CL	3	Nachi damaged 10/24
Oyodo	CL	1	Noshiro sunk 10/26
Zuiho	CV	1	Nowake sunk 10/25
Zuikaku	CV	1	Suzuya sunk 10/25 Takao damaged 10/24*
Chitose	CVL	2	Takao damaged 10/24* Uranami sunk 10/26
Akizuki	DD	6	Wakaba sunk 10/24
Asashio	DD	4	Yamagumo sunk 10/24
Fubuki	DD	3	Yamashiro sunk 10/24
Hatsuharu	DD	3	Zuiho sunk 10/25
Kagero	DD	6	Zuikaku sunk 10/25
Minekaze	DD	1	
Shimakaze	DD	1	
Shiratsuyu	DD	i	
Yugumo	DD	9	
Matsu	DE	4	
iviatsu	DE	4	

Bludgeoning A Behemoth

The center piece of Vice-Admiral Kurita's battle group, the first striking force, were the 70,000 ton super battleships *Yamato* and *Musashi*. This force was attacked by carrier aircraft as it advanced through the Sibuyan Sea on 24 October.

The *Musashi* received particular attention, being sunk only after absorbing an amazing amount of punishment. Seven separate waves of aircraft attacked, inflicting 17 bomb hits and 19 torpedo hits! The diagram below illustrates this damage as well as near misses with bombs. Dots represent bombs and triangles torpedoes.



March 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
David Newport	15mm	Homegrown	WWI Cambrai
Larry Irons	15mm	ADLG	
STEVE VAN DYKE	1:285	Panzer	Kiev

Winner in **RED**



2022 Conventions

Date	Name	Location	
April			
21-24	<u>Little Wars</u>	Chicago, IL	
21-24	RECON	Orlando, FL	
May			
14-15	West Wars	Denver, CO	
20-22	Borderwars	Kansas City, MO	



Genghis Con 2015

West Wars 2022 Current Agenda

May 14 9am – 1pm

Defense of Algiers

The French Foreign Legion must hold the fort against a determined Native attack.

rules: The Men Who Would Be Kings

scale: 28mm players: 6

GM: Doug Wildfong

Zeppelin Raider

Command Zeppelins 1915 to 1917, scouting the North Sea and bombing Great Britain.

rules: Zeppelin Raider

scale: 1:1800 players: 4 GM: Eric Elder

2pm - 6pm

Wild West Shoot Out

Wild West action. Five characters to a group.

rules: Fist Full of Lead

scale: 28mm players: 6

GM: Larry Armin

Battle of Nancy

US 35th Infantry Division supported by the 4th Armor Division are attempting to dislodge two German divisions Southeast of Nancy.

rules: Panzer Korps

scale: 15mm players: 8

GM: Alex Johnson

Battle of Midway

Classic Avalon hill game in a double blind format.

rules: Avalon Hill boardgame

players: 4 GM: Bill Daniel

May 15

9am - 11:30am

Swap and Sell Meet

12pm - 1:00pm

Club meeting

1:00pm - 5:00pm

ADLG Ancients Tournament

Armies from the classical ancient period will fight. 200 points. Bring your own Army or contact Larry Irons for assistance.

rules: L'Art De La Guerre (ADLG)

scale: 15mm players: 8

GM: Larry Irons

French and Indian War

French and Indian War winter battle

rules: Sharp's Practice or Fist full of lead, Horse and Musket rules

scale: 28mm players: 6

GM: Dave Manley

Napoleonic Battle

rules: Etat Sans Resultant

scale: 15mm players: 6

GM: Hugh Thompson

Battle of Malacca Strait

In1945 a naval action pitting British DD flotilla vs. IJN Haguro & escorts.

rules: Homegrown scale: 1:2400 players: 4

GM: John Owen

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 \$60.00 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: \$60.00 Half year Adult Membership: \$30.00

(For NEW members who join after June 30)

Family Membership: \$60.00 (one Adult and any number of offspring)

Student Membership: \$30.00 (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: eegist@hotmail.com

Editor/Layout: Eric Elder

Next Issue: May 2022

2021/2022 CMH Board Members

President: Nate Forte natforteg1@gmail.com

Vice-President Jim Rairdon rairdon8071@comcast.net

Eric Elder
eegist@hotmail.com

Treasurer Larry Irons

Historian Doug Wildfong dwwild84@gmail.com