



Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

LI, No. 4

Apr 2025



Battle of Barrosa Memorial Park



News and Views

*Message from CMH Secretary
Eric Elder*

Thank you to Jeff Lambert for your article this month. Jeff is sharing an overview of his upcoming April monthly meeting game.



Our West Wars convention is coming up (May 17-18). Deborah Schouten (chnlng@hotmail.com) is our convention organizer. Please contact her regarding your interest in running a game at the convention. She will need this information:

- Game title
- A short description of the game
- Game rules
- Game scale
- Time slot requested (Sat 9-1, Sat 2-6, Sun 1-5)
- Table size needed (5' X 6') (5' X 8') (6' X 7.5') (10' X 6')
- Number of players you can accommodate
- Name of the Game Master

A reminder we that we will have our annual Board Member election on Sunday at the convention. Please consider becoming President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary. If you want details of any of the positions the current Board can pass along the information. If you have not heard, Nate is not seeking another term as President.

March

Unit of the Month

Sponsored by Tom Dye



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	28mm	Homemade	19 th C.	House and Carriage Barn
DAVE MANLEY	28mm	Bolt Action	WWII	Pz IV & Shermans
Greg Cornell	28mm	Avintine	6 th C.	Mounted Cav and Huns
Rodney Postillion	1:144		WWII	1943 KV-6
Bill Daniel	28mm	Model	Pulp	Spinx
Greg Skelly	28mm	Atlantic	WWI	French

Winner in **RED**

The Battle of Barrosa

A Regimental Fire and Fury (adapted) Scenario

*by CMH Member
Jeff Lambert*



Having escaped capture at Seville in January 1810, the Spanish Cortes (or junta) was bottled up in Cadiz by Marshall Soult throughout 1810. Cadiz was protected by an isthmus and strong walls and was thus impregnable when garrisoned, which it was, especially so when a British and Portuguese force was detached from Wellington's command and brought into Cadiz by sea. The British division was commanded by Lieutenant General Sir Thomas Graham, who was nominally second-in-command to the Spanish General Manuel La Pena.

In January of 1811, Soult decided to relieve some of the pressure on Marshall Massena in Portugal by laying siege to Badajoz, so a portion of his troops in Andalusia were moved off to Estramadura, leaving only Marshall Victor's I Corps to invest Cadiz. Victor could not take Cadiz, but neither could he leave it without surrendering Andalusia to the troops besieged within its walls, a classic stalemate.

The Anglo-Spanish saw the situation as an opportunity to lift the siege of Cadiz and seized it. Moving by sea, a large force landed in the rear of Victor's besiegers, but due to La Pena's incompetence it marched into a trap laid by Victor. He used one division to block the road to Cadiz and set two divisions in ambush to waylay the Anglo-Spanish, who thought they were enveloping Victor from the rear while he was attacked by the Cadiz garrison sallying out from the city.

The sally, under Zayas, might have been effective except for La Pena's tardiness in joining the attack. Zayas was instead driven back into Cadiz. La Pena's route of march was now obvious, so Victor hid two of his divisions in the thick woods around the town of Chiclana and used the third to block the coast road to Cadiz. If the trap worked, the Allies would be caught on a narrow peninsula and flanked.

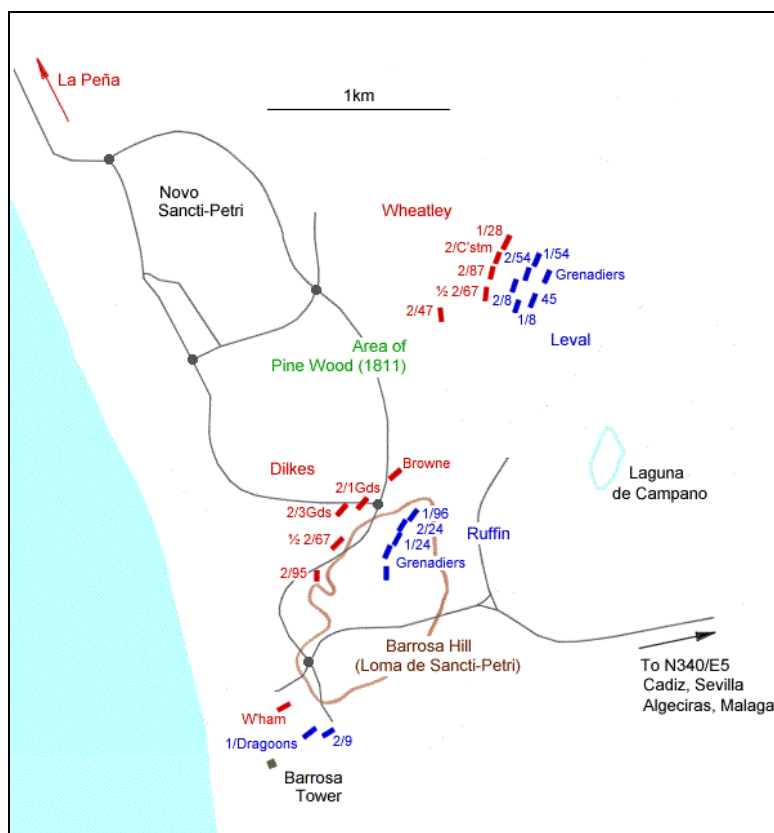
La Pena attacked the blocking force, and forced it across a creek, but rather than attempt to break up the siege works, he decided to march into Cadiz instead. His rear and flank would be exposed to Victor's ambush as he did so.

Graham, commanding the rear guard, saw the danger and insisted that a large hill, the Cerro del Puerco, be occupied to protect the army's rear. Leaving a small force holding the Cerro del Puerco, La Pena moved towards his objective and ordered Graham to follow with the rearguard. As La Pena's troops marched towards Cadiz, Victor sprung his trap and moved to take the hill. Graham disobeyed his orders, turned his rearguard around, and sent them to retake the hill.

One of Graham's brigades faced the French division on the hill, while the other brigade engaged the French division emerging from the woods to the north. Disciplined British fire and several feints from a few Spanish and KGL cavalry squadrons kept the French off balance, as they had difficulty forming in the thick woods. Seeing the fronts of their columns mauled one after another, the French eventually broke and retreated.

Graham's victory was complete. His troops, however, were too exhausted to pursue the retreating French, and La Pena preferred to rest on his laurels from his minor victory over the blocking force. Ultimately, La Pena re-entered Cadiz and Victor re-occupied his siegeworks. Recriminations were made against La Pena, who in turn blamed Graham for the failure of the campaign. La Pena was acquitted by a court-martial, but relieved of command, and Graham was reassigned to Wellington's command for political reasons.

The battle is a reasonable size to be recreated using my World of Fun Miniatures 18mm flats for our April club meeting. I'm adapting the Regimental Fire and Fury rules for this Napoleonic battle, using a scale of 1 inch equals 25 yards and 1 figure equals 10 men. There are commands for 2-3 players on each side.



March

Game of the Month

Sponsored by Tom Dye



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
Dave Manley	28mm	Bolt Action	3 rd Edition demo
Dave Newport	28mm	Legion vs Horde	Rome vs Gaul
Greg Cornell	-	Medieval C&C	Dorylaeum 1097
Jim Rairdon	15mm	ADLG	Medieval
Tom Dye	6mm	Cohesion	ACW

Winner in **RED**

Historic Location of the Month

Prairie Grove, AR

The Battle of Prairie Grove was a battle in the American Civil War fought on December 7, 1862. The original Borden House was one of the central points of the Confederate line and was the scene of heavy casualties. The Borden House was burned the next day. Following the war, the Bordens returned to Prairie Grove and built a new house, almost an exact replica of the old one, on the original foundation. This is the structure that still stands in the park today.



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 groups.io site 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.

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