

Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

LII, No. 1

Jan 2026



News and Views

*Message from CMH Secretary
Eric Elder*

Happy New Year! Another great club year has passed, and we can look forward to another solid year. We had our two club conventions where attendance averaged in the 20s for all four days. Our new President, Greg Skelly, was sworn in at our May meeting. We finally got our 2025 Baker contract signed in November. Maybe in 2026 Hyland Hills will have a 2026 contract ready sooner.

We are looking at the option of moving the date for West Wars out of May to either April or June. May is a busy month for many reasons for our membership, so we are considering changing the date to help with attendance.

This month we have articles from John Carter, John Brown and Jim Rairdon. Thank you for sharing.

The Board is asking members to pay for their 2026 club dues. The dues continue to be \$60 for the year. Please pay cash or check to Dave or Greg at an upcoming meeting.



I have posted the scanned newsletters from the 1960s-1990s, and 2010s-2020s. They are available here: <https://cmhweb.org/newsletter/>. I have yet to get the 2000s newsletters posted. We have gaps in our newsletter archive. If you have some we are missing, I would like to borrow your copy to scan and post to our group.

Museum Miniatures

“Z” Sculpture Republican Romans

Article by CMH Member

Jim Rairdon

I previously wrote about the Museum of Miniatures’ “Z” sculpture figures. I like to refer to them as 25mm detail in 15mm figures. These new figures are added to their other “Z” lines of Mycenaeans, Sumerians, Trojans, Classical Greek, Macedonian Successors, Achaemenid Persians, Scythians/Saker, Classical India, and Crusader lines.

I have recently received a shipment of Republican Roman figures, and they are everything that I have come to expect. I thought that I would show you some of the figures.

The first figures are Roman Counsels:



These will be combined with the Legionary Standards and Roman C-n-C to make up various command stands.



The cavalry comes in Chainmail and Cuirass for medium and heavy cavalry, respectively.



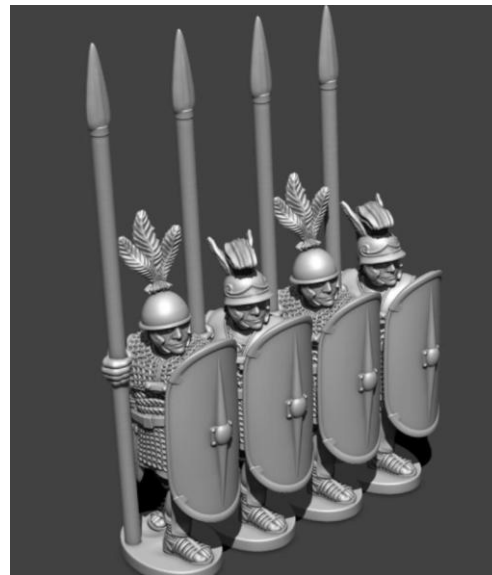
There is also Cavalry Command. The command for the Hasti and Principes.



I will be using Principes as the front rank and Hasti as the rear rank.



The Triarii also have a command packet and infantry figures.



I am also fond of the details of the Velite light infantry:



I am looking forward to painting these figures and sharing them at a future meeting. I am trying to determine which shield transfers from Little Big Man Studios will fit these figures. I have ordered some designed to fit Essex Miniatures. I will let you know how they turn out.

December

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
DAVID MANLEY	28mm	Perry	AWI	Rall's & Hessian Grenadiers
David Newport	28mm	Sash and Sabre	AWI	Hessian Grenadiers
David Newport	28mm	Perry	AWI	Hessian Jaegers

Winner in **RED**



Can Rold be Stopped?

CMH “Rome Unravels” ADLG Tournament Continues

Article by CMH Member

John Brown

We played the second round of our customary Veterans Wars *L'Art de la Guerre* (ADLG) tournament at the CMH monthly meeting in December. The theme is “Rome Unravels (395-476 A.D.)” and the armies eligible are the Romans of the period and those who took advantage of their civil strife. Still in play we had John Brown’s Sassanid Persians (List 109), Pat Harvey’s, Richard Kasten’s, and Les Stuart’s Late Imperial Romans (List 87), and Greg Rold’s Patrician Romans (List 88). Dave Newport joined us to round things out with a Gepid Army (List 96). Pat Harvey and Greg Rold were tied for first place coming out of the first round, so their match understandably riveted our attention.

Pat’s Harvey’s Late Imperial Roman army featured a command of legionaries reinforced by integrated artillery, a heavy cavalry command including cataphracts, and a balanced command dominated by medium *auxilia*. Most of his line infantry had missile support. Greg Rold’s Patrician Roman Army fielded two commands with six heavy swordsmen each and a few mounted or foot *foederati* mixed in. The third Patrician command was all light cavalry, ideal for a flank march. The battlefield was largely open, with a little rough terrain on the periphery.

The Patricians advanced quickly, taking advantage of the broader frontage their somewhat cheaper infantry without artillery or missile support allowed them. Meanwhile the Patrician light cavalry command successfully came in on the Late Imperial Roman left flank and rolled along it. Terrain had little effect on the fighting, and the Late Romans soon found each of their commands coping with overlaps. After fierce fighting and losses on both sides, the Late Imperial Romans broke and the Patricians secured a victory.



Behind the Patrician Right



Behind the Patrician Left

John Brown’s Sassanids deployed a command with five cataphracts and four horse archers, one with four armored horse archers, and one with heavy spearmen and medium bowmen. Richard Kasten’s Late Imperial Romans featured a command of legionaries with integrated artillery, a heavy cavalry command that included cataphracts, and a command of medium *auxilia* benefiting from field fortifications. The terrain was open in the center with fields and woods on both flanks and in the rear of the Roman deployment zone.

The Sassanids force marched their bowmen to the outer flank of their cataphract command and then used both horse archers and bowmen to shoot in an attack on the heavy cavalry command on the Roman left. Both sides took losses but the Roman cavalry, assailed by cataphracts to their front and archers to their flank, was overwhelmed. Meanwhile, on the other flank, the Sassanid armored horse archers flanked and then fired volleys into the Roman *auxilia*, goading them to leave their fortifications and go over to the attack. This went badly for the *auxilia*. In the center the Sassanid spearmen managed to avoid contact with the legionaries long enough for the decision to be reached elsewhere. The Romans broke on the flanks before their center engaged.



Sassanid Archers Force March to the Flank



The Battle from Above

Dave Newport's Gepids fielded two mounted commands, one with four cavalry units and the other with twelve, and an infantry command with four impetuous heavy swordsmen, four medium bowmen, and two light infantry. Les Stuart's Late Imperial Romans fielded one heavy cavalry command that included two cataphracts, a command of six legionaries with three light infantry, and a command with four Gothic impetuous heavy swordsmen, two *auxilia* medium swordsmen, and two medium archers. The battlefield was largely open, with a plowed field adjacent to the Roman camp.

The Gepids assaulted the Roman right flank with their infantry command while the smaller of their two cavalry commands successfully landed a flank march into the Roman rear on that side. Meanwhile the larger of their cavalry commands engaged the Roman cavalry command in the center while avoiding contact with the legionaries on the Roman left. Losses on their left and center caused the Romans to break before two thirds of their legionaries, on the Roman right, made contact.



Opening Moves



The Lines Close

When our day of battle closed, Greg Rold was in the lead with 10 points. John Brown trailed him with 9 points and then Pat Harvey with 6. Points per game are awarded at 5 for breaking an opponent, 4 for having an advantage of 20% or more when time runs out, 3 for a tie wherein both players are within 20% of each other when time runs out, 2 for being at a disadvantage of 20% or more when time runs out, and 1 for being broken. The tournament will go for a third and final round at the January meeting. Greg basks in the glory of unbroken triumphs through the last ADLG Tournament and this one. Can this Juggernaut be stopped? We'll find out when the Patricians meet the Sassanids.

If you have missed the Tournament in all or in part thus far but would still like to play some ADLG, please join us on January 11. We are an easy crowd, you would be welcome, and we will be happy to work you in. Contact John Brown if you have questions.

December

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
SCOTT HOLDER	10mm	Circus Maximus	Chariot Racing
Dave Manley	28mm	Live Free or Die	AWI Trenton

Winner in **RED**

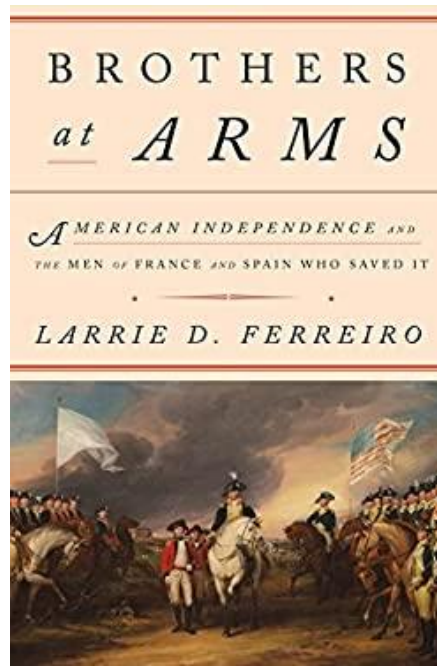


Historic Location of the Month

Persepolis, Iran

Apadana Palace of Persepolis was the ceremonial capital of Achaemenid Empire (c.550-330 BC).





Brothers at Arms

*Book Review by CMH Member
John Carter*

Most American histories of the American Revolution (AR) briefly address France's contributions of money, arms, naval and military support. If they mention it at all. This book looks at the contributions of France and Spain from their point of view. What did they want? What were their goals? The result is a very detailed account that will broaden the horizon of researchers in the AR.

First the various actors, the merchants, the kings and their administrations, diplomats and the militaries are broken out. Then the events are laid out. This is overlaid with the events happening in America at large, not just the thirteen rebellious colonies. The result is a much better understanding of the support the Rebels / Patriots received from Spain and France and how critical it was. But, we also see the ebb and flow of the fortunes and goals of these two countries.

It happened that, at this time, I was reading about the various forts the rebels built around New York and Philadelphia, all of which were lost. And yet large numbers of cannon kept being found for these forts as well as the fledgling Continental navy. And America with no cannon foundries. And so, this book proved to be very illuminating.

An excellent resource, highly recommended.

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:

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

- Our Groups.io page is the best way to see what our club is up to.

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

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

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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