



# Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

LII, No. 3

Mar 2026



B-29 bomber at the Pueblo Weisbrod Aircraft Museum

# News and Views

Message from CMH Secretary  
Eric Elder

Thank you to John Brown and Doug Wildfong for your after-action articles this month. I recently popped into the Aviation museum in Pueblo and you can see some of my photos in this newsletter.

A reminder of our Spring convention, West Wars, is coming up May 16-17. Let Greg or myself know if you have a game planned to run either day.



We continue collecting Membership 2026 dues. Please pay cash or check, \$60 to Dave or Greg at an upcoming meeting.

With the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, our club Vice-President has shared the fourth verse of the Star-Spangled Banner:

*O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand  
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!  
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land  
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!  
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.*

# February

## 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
Dave Manley	28mm	Dixon & Perry	AWI	Hessian, Colonials, British, etc
Eric Elder	15mm	Roundway	Jacobite	1745 Jacobites
Eric Elder	6 & 10mm	2d6 & Wargames Atlantic	Samurai	Ashigaru
<b>JEFF LAMBERT</b>	15mm	Battlefront	WWII	Comet Squadron

**Winner in RED**

# 2026 Winter ADLG(F) Scenario Stalemates

## Ice Queen and Pleistocene Amazons Parry Blows

*Article by CMH Member  
John Brown*

The February 8<sup>th</sup> CMH meeting featured our customary *L'Art de la Guerre Fantasy* (ADLG(F)) Winter scenario. The Ice Queen again was up to no good, marching with her evil minions to seize Santa's Workshop on the south bank of the Noel River. The Pleistocene Amazons rallied to the rescue, positioning to defend the workshop and decapitate the hordes advancing against it.

Richard Kasten, Jim Rairdon, Greg Rold, and Steve Van Dyke played the Ice Queen's Evil Xmas Army. The troops they commanded were as follows:

### Combat Command Jack Frost

1 DCG (+1) Elite Itinerant Magician	5 + 10 Pts
6 Psycho Present Piles (LMI Shooters) with Stakes (Christmas Trees)	48 Pts
6 Gingerbread Man Swarms (MI Swords, with Impact)	42 Pts

### Combat Command Smack Frost

1 DCG (+1) Itinerant Magician	5 + 10 Pts
6 Snowmen (HI Spear)	48 Pts
3 Abominable Snowmen (Battle Bears)	36 Pts

### Combat Command Mack Frost

1 DCG (+1) Elite Itinerant Magician	5 + 10 Pts.
3 Dark Elf Knights (Heavy Impact)	39 Pts
3 Dark Elf Horse Archers (LH Bow)	18 Pts

### Combat Command Penguin

1 DCG(+0) Embedded in Penguin-Ridden Leopard Seal Cavalry	6 Pts
3 Penguin-Ridden Leopard Seal Cavalry	27 Pts

### Combat Command Dragon

1 DCG(+0) Embedded in Elite Dragon	29 Pts
2 Eagles (Wingmen)	16 Pts

Self-Deployed: The Ice Queen as a Hero with two Charisma Bump cards to play 6 Pts

Spells: 4 Power Bolts, 1 Enhertation, 1 Healing, 1 Lethality Bump, 1 Wall of Fire, and 1 Karmic Cover



*The ADLG(F) Commanders Muster*

John Brown, Pat Harvey, and Les Stuart played the Pleistocene Amazon Expeditionary Force that rode to Santa's assistance. The troops they commanded were:

Totemic Team Mammoth

Sororal Shamaness (+2) CG Elite Itinerant Magician *	8 + 4 = 12 Pts
2 Elite Mammoth-Borne Ballistic Behemoth Batteries	38 Pts
1 Iphicratian Medium Pike Phalanx	9 Pts
2 Assault Archer Cohorts (Medium Swords with Longbow)	20 Pts
2 Amazon Scout Platoons (LI with Bows)	8 Pts

Totemic Team *Sparabara*

1 DCG (+0) Embedded in <i>AmazAner Sparabara</i> (Mixed Med. Sword & Bow)	5 Pts
2 <i>AmazAner Sparabara</i> (Mixed Med. Sword and Bow)	16 Pts

3 *AmazAner Sparabara* (Mixed Med. Spear and Bow) 27 Pts

Totemic Team Rhino

1 DCG (+0) Embedded in Daeodon Rider Detachment	9 Pts
2 Rhino Rider Detachments	24 Pts
2 Plesippid <i>Sagittarii</i> Troops (Light Horse, Bow)	12 Pts

2 Daeodon Stampedes 6 Pts

Totemic Team Wolf

1 (+2 CG) Supreme Sororal Shamaness: E. Telepathic Coven. Magician*	8+1+15 = 24 Pts
1 Engineer Detachment	3 Pts
3 Neander-Pike (FI, SI) Phalanxes	33 Pts
2 Wolfman Warrior Contingents (Medium Swords, Impact)	14 Pts
3 Wolf Packs, with Handlers	18 Pts
2 Elite Amazon Scout Platoons (LI, Sling)	10 Pts

Totemic Team Hippogriff

1 DCG (+0) embedded in Hippogriff Cavalry Squadron	16 Pts
2 Hippogriff Cavalry Squadrons	38 Pts

Self-Deployed

1 Sabretooth Mounted Valkyrie (Hero)	4 Pts
1 Ent	14 Pts

Spells: 1 Karmic Coverage, 1 Healing, 2 Power Bolts, 6 Spell Points in Reserve

The terrain north of the Noel River was generated as Tundra (Steppe) and largely open with a few low hills and rough patches. Here the Ice Queen deployed Combat Commands Mack Frost, Penguin and Dragon, whereas the Pleistocene Amazons deployed Totemic Teams Mammoth, *Sparabara*, Rhino, and Hippogriff. As Mammoth charged forward along the riverbank supported by *Sparabara* and Rhino, Penguin and Mack Frost recognized they were badly overmatched. Mack Frost threw up a Wall of Fire and behind it the two commands artfully extricated themselves across a ford in the Noel River before Mammoth and Rhino could close.

Meanwhile Combat Command Dragon and Totemic Team Hippo swirled above the Tundra in high altitude combat. The Dragon gained a bit of an advantage with a Flame Attack but became separated from its Eagle Wingmen by a Hippogriff charge. When time ran out the air battle was still



*The Battlefield, Looking North*

undecided, with the Dragon and a Eagle pursuing a Hippogriff in one quadrant while two Hippogriffs pursued an Eagle in another. Neither side had descended to get security from ground units.

South of the Noel River the terrain was generated as Taiga (Forest) and dominated by knots of woods, wooded hills, and brush near Santa's Workshop. A marsh hemmed in the south flank of this sector of the battlefield. The Ice Queen deployed Combat Command Jack Frost and Mack Frost south of the Noel for an assault on Santa's Workshop. These were joined by Combat Commands Mack Frost and Penguin when they escaped the more powerful Pleistocene Amazon forces north of the river. Only Totemic Team Wolf faced these four Ice Queen commands south of the Noel River.



*Totemic Team Mammoth, including Ballistic Behemoths, Trundles Forward*

Totemic Team Wolf had an economy of force mission, including an Engineer Detachment to assist with fortifications and obstacles and an Ent to defend in the forest. Heavily outnumbered, it delayed the advance of somewhat ponderous Jack Frost and Smack Frost with skirmishers while positioning light and medium troops uphill in difficult terrain and digging heavy troops in where the ground was open. Meanwhile Totemic Team *Sparabara* force marched to cross the Noel River at another ford and fall into fortifications hastily constructed by Totemic Team Wolf.



*Totemic Team Wolf and Sparabara Settle into Defenses as Ice Queen Forces Close In*

When time ran out, both sides had parried their opponent's intended knock-out blow and were momentarily stalemated. North of the Noel River Ice Queen ground forces had successfully evacuated, and Totemic Teams Mammoth and Rhino were laboriously repositioning to try to force a crossing themselves. South of the Noel River Totemic Team Wolf, reinforced by *Sparabara*, had settled into formidable defensive positions incorporating difficult terrain. Overhead, Dragons, Eagles, and Hippogriffs swirled indecisively – thus far. Both sides had maneuvered skillfully, and both needed more time to achieve decisive results. Victory perched on a knife's edge!

Many of these troops will reappear at the March 8<sup>th</sup> CMH meeting, as we are planning yet another round of ADLG(F). We will be playing 240 AP scenarios on 120cm by 80cm mats. Beyond that, the ADLG crowd will be preparing for the ADLG Tournament at West Wars. The theme will be Armies and Enemies of the Achaemenid Persians.

# February 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
John Brown	15mm	ADLG(F)	Cold HOTT (Santa's Workshop)
<b>GREG SKELLY</b>	1:600	Beer and Pretzels Ironclads	River convoy battle
Dave Manley	Boardgame	Combat Commander	WWII Pacific

**Winner in RED**

# Battle of Wilson's Creek

*After Action Report by CMH Member  
Doug Wildfong*

This was a refight of an early battle in the Civil War fought on August 10, 1861. It also held acclaim for holding the State of Missouri in the Union.



In the early hours of the engagement at Wilson's Creek, Brigadier General Nathaniel Lyon executed a bold and unexpected advance upon the Confederate bivouac commanded by Brigadier General Benjamin McCulloch. The Federal column, moving under cover of the wooded ridges north of the creek, closed upon the Southern encampment before dawn had fully broken. McCulloch's forces, dispersed in a loose arrangement about their fires and tents, were caught in a state of partial readiness, their pickets thin and their formations unprepared for a concerted assault.

Lyon's initial deployment placed his infantry regiments along the high ground overlooking the Confederate position, with supporting artillery brought forward at a deliberate pace. When the first volleys rang out, they did so with the advantage of elevation and surprise, sending McCulloch's forward companies scrambling to form a coherent line. The Confederates, though seasoned by months of training, required precious minutes to rally under the sudden pressure.

*Lyon's decision to strike before the Confederates could properly assemble was sound in principle. Rank & File engagements reward early positional dominance, and by seizing the ridgeline he forced McCulloch to react from a disadvantaged posture. However, the success of such an opening depends heavily on maintaining momentum; any delay in bringing up supporting units risks allowing the defender time to consolidate and counterattack.*

Lyon opened the assault with an assertive concentration of artillery. Totten's Battery, fielding six light pieces, was brought up at the double and unlimbered on the forward slope of the ridge. To their right, DuBois's Battery deployed in similar fashion, forming a contiguous line of twelve Federal guns overlooking the Confederate encampment. The combined batteries commenced fire almost immediately, their opening salvos tearing through tents, supply wagons, and the hastily forming Southern companies below. The sudden weight of Federal artillery fire did more than disrupt McCulloch's morning routine; it forced his officers to rally their men under conditions of severe disarray.

*Lyon's decision to lead with both Totten's and DuBois's batteries reflects a clear understanding of the Rank & File system's emphasis on early fire superiority. By massing twelve light guns on elevated ground, he maximized both range and accuracy while denying the Confederates the time needed to form a stable defensive line. This opening also served a secondary purpose: it fixed McCulloch's attention to the front, limiting his ability to reposition units or mount an immediate counterstroke. However, such an aggressive artillery commitment carries inherent risk; should the infantry fail to advance in concert, the guns may find themselves exposed to a determined Confederate push.*

As the Federal guns settled into their work, Lyon brought his supporting infantry forward to secure the line. The 1st and 2nd Iowa, followed closely by the 1st and 2nd Kansas, emerged from the tree line in steady order and dressed their ranks behind the artillery. These regiments, though composed largely of volunteers with limited battlefield experience, advanced with commendable discipline. Their presence stiffened the Federal position and ensured that Totten's and DuBois's batteries would not be left exposed should the Confederates attempt a sudden countercharge up the slope.

The four regiments formed a broad supporting front, anchoring themselves on the ridge and extending Lyon's control over the high ground. Their arrival also signaled to McCulloch that the Federal attack was no mere probing action; the Union commander had committed a substantial portion of his force to the opening blow.

*Lyon's decision to bring up the Iowa and Kansas regiments immediately after unlimbering his guns reflects a sound appreciation for combined-arms coordination in Rank & File. Artillery alone can disrupt an enemy, but without infantry support it remains vulnerable to rapid assaults or flanking maneuvers. By positioning four regiments directly behind the batteries, Lyon created a layered defense that discouraged Confederate aggression and allowed his guns to maintain sustained fire. This early consolidation of infantry and artillery also gave the Federals a stable platform from which to expand their attack, though it risked slowing the momentum of the initial surprise if the regiments became too tightly fixed to the ridge.*

Despite the shock of the Federal bombardment, elements of the Confederate force managed to rally with surprising speed. Colonel James Rains, commanding one of the Missouri State Guard divisions, gathered several of his infantry companies from the confusion of the bivouac and pushed them toward the rising ground opposite Lyon's guns. At the same time, a portion of Colonel Cawthorn's cavalry—those troopers who had been nearest their mounts when the first shells burst—formed up in loose order on Rains's flank. Together, these improvised formations established a ragged but determined line facing the Federal position.

Their alignment was uneven, marked by gaps where companies had not yet assembled and by the telltale disorder of men who had been roused from camp rather than marched into battle. Even so, their presence signaled that McCulloch's army was not wholly paralyzed by the surprise. The Confederates had begun to

contest the ridge, however imperfectly, and their forward posture forced Lyon to reckon with the possibility of an early counterstroke.

*Rains's ability to form even a partial line under artillery fire speaks to the resilience of the Missouri State Guard in Rank & File terms. Early stabilization of a defensive front—no matter how thin—can blunt the attacker's momentum by compelling them to commit additional units before exploiting their advantage. The inclusion of Cawthorn's cavalry, though not ideally suited for a static defense, added both mobility and psychological weight to the Confederate response. Still, the improvised nature of the line left it vulnerable; without reinforcements or a coordinated advance, it risked being shattered by sustained Federal fire.*

Rains's improvised line did not hold long under the sustained Federal fire. As the Iowa and Kansas regiments advanced to support the batteries, their volleys joined the artillery in sweeping the slope below. The Missouri infantry, already disordered from their hurried assembly, wavered almost immediately. Within minutes, Rains's forward companies were driven back in uneven retreat, falling upon their own reserves and further complicating McCulloch's efforts to form a coherent defense.

On the Confederate right, Cawthorn attempted a more decisive intervention. His lone cavalry regiment, acting without the benefit of full brigade support, spurred forward in an effort to overrun the nearest Federal battery. The charge, though spirited, was ill-timed and poorly coordinated. As the troopers closed the distance, Totten's guns shifted to canister, and the effect was devastating. The cavalry line shattered under the blast, horses and riders tumbling in confusion. Those who survived the initial volley wheeled away in disorder, retiring to the rear in an unsteady mass that bore little resemblance to a formed regiment.

*Rains's repulse illustrates a common vulnerability in Rank & File engagements: units assembled under fire rarely possess the cohesion needed to withstand a disciplined advance. Without time to dress ranks or establish supporting formations, his line lacked the staying power to contest the ridge. Cawthorn's charge, meanwhile, demonstrates the inherent risk of committing cavalry against prepared artillery. Even a single battery, when properly supported and positioned, can deliver catastrophic defensive fire. The failed assault not only cost the Confederates valuable cavalry strength but also removed any immediate threat to Lyon's guns, allowing the Federals to maintain their dominant position on the high ground.*

While the initial Confederate response faltered, the broader Federal plan was already unfolding across the northern approaches to the creek. Lyon had committed all three of his brigades to the attack, and the movements of Colonels Dietzler and Sigel now came into view. Crossing Wilson's Creek at separate fords, their columns advanced southward toward the heart of McCulloch's encampment. The terrain, broken by low rises and scattered timber, offered intermittent cover, but the Federal brigades maintained steady alignment as they pressed toward the Confederate rear.

Their advance struck at a moment of maximum Confederate disorganization. Brigadier General McBride's brigade, encamped nearest the creek, was still in the process of forming when Dietzler's lead regiments emerged from the brush. The sudden appearance of disciplined Federal infantry on their flank forced McBride's officers to rally their men under fire, creating a confused and uneven line that bent rather than held. To the east, Sigel's brigade pushed directly toward McCulloch's headquarters, where staff officers and couriers scrambled to coordinate a defense amid the rising tumult. Tents were

overturned, wagons hastily moved, and scattered detachments attempted to form a perimeter, but the speed of the Federal advance left little time for coherent resistance.

*The decision to commit all three Federal brigades to a converging attack from the north reflects a deliberate attempt to overwhelm the Confederate position before it could stabilize. In Rank & File terms, this maneuver maximized pressure across multiple fronts, preventing McCulloch from reinforcing any single threatened point. Dietzler's and Sigel's crossings effectively turned the Confederate flank and struck at units still forming, a situation that heavily favors the attacker. However, such broad advances also risk overextension; if the Confederate brigades farther south recovered quickly, the Federal forces might find themselves engaged on multiple fronts without secure lines of support.*

McBride's brigade, encamped across the open fields of Farmer Ray's property, bore the brunt of the Federal advance. Though caught amid forming, McBride's officers managed to steady their regiments along the fence lines and shallow rises that bordered the farm. When Dietzler's and Sigel's leading companies emerged from the northern brush, they met a surprisingly firm volley. The initial Federal push stalled as the Confederates, fighting from ground they knew well, held their alignment with unexpected resolve.

This brief stand bought McCulloch precious minutes. To the west, Colonel McIntosh rallied his dismounted cavalry and pushed them toward the sound of the firing. Weightman's Missouri brigade, shaken but not broken by the earlier artillery barrage, re-formed behind the farmstead and advanced in support. Pearson's contingent, drawn from the scattered elements around headquarters, likewise moved forward in uneven but determined fashion. These converging Confederate formations began to thicken the line around McBride, transforming what had begun as a vulnerable outpost into the nucleus of a more substantial defense.

*McBride's ability to hold the fields of Farmer Ray's, even briefly, proved critical. In Rank & File terms, a defending unit that stabilizes under pressure can dramatically alter the tempo of an engagement. By delaying Dietzler and Sigel, McBride prevented the Federals from rolling up the Confederate flank before reinforcements could arrive. The timely intervention of McIntosh, Weightman, and Pearson illustrates the value of interior lines: McCulloch's scattered brigades, though initially disordered, were able to converge more quickly than the Federals could exploit their advantage. Still, the Confederate position remained fragile; their line was a patchwork of partially formed units, and any renewed Federal push risked breaking it apart before it fully solidified.*

By mid-morning, the tempo of the fighting across the Wilson's Creek field began to ebb. The early fury of the Federal assault and the desperate Confederate attempts to stabilize their lines had drained both armies. Smoke hung low over the ridges, and the steady crack of musketry gave way to scattered, irregular volleys as ammunition wagons struggled to reach the front. Units on both sides, having expended much of their cartridges in the opening exchanges, found themselves firing more slowly or falling back to search for resupply.

In this lull, Colonel Pearson attempted to restore Confederate momentum. Recognizing the danger posed by Totten's battery on the ridge, he dispatched two regiments of cavalry to reinforce the battered remnants of Rains's command. These fresh horsemen, advancing at a measured trot, found the Federal gunners depleted and increasingly isolated. Their charge, though not as dramatic as Cawthorn's earlier attempt, struck at precisely the moment when Totten's crews were at their weakest. The battery broke under the pressure, its guns abandoned as the surviving artillerymen fled toward the rear in disorder.

The cost of the morning's fighting, however, was not borne by the artillery alone. In the confused struggle around Farmer Ray's fields, both General Lyon and Colonel Dietzler were struck down while attempting to steady their regiments. Their deaths, occurring within minutes of one another, sent a palpable shock through the Federal line. Though the remaining officers acted swiftly to maintain order, the loss of two senior commanders at such a critical juncture sapped the cohesion of the northern brigades.

With low ammunition, casualties mounting, and command authority disrupted, the Federal leadership elected to withdraw while the Confederate line remained disorganized and unable to press an advantage. The retreat was conducted with commendable discipline: regiments fell back by bounds, covering one another as they recrossed the creek and re-formed beyond effective musket range. The Confederates, themselves exhausted and short of ammunition, made no serious attempt at pursuit. McCulloch's men held the field by default rather than by decisive counterstroke, too spent to convert their defensive stand into a broader victory.

*The final phase of the engagement illustrates how attrition and ammunition scarcity can dictate the outcome of a Rank & File battle as surely as maneuver or firepower. Pearson's timely cavalry intervention succeeded largely because Totten's battery had been worn down by prolonged action without adequate support. The deaths of Lyon and Dietzler, meanwhile, highlight the vulnerability of command structures in close-quarters fighting; once senior leadership falters, even well-positioned forces may lose the initiative. The Federal withdrawal, though orderly, reflected a realistic appraisal of their diminished capacity to continue the assault. The Confederates, equally depleted, lacked the strength to exploit the moment, resulting in a battlefield that neither side could truly claim as a decisive triumph.*



# Historic Location of the Month

## *Ray House*

### *Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri*

During the Battle of Wilson's Creek, the Ray family, along with Rhoda, their slave and her children, took shelter in the cellar of the house. When they emerged, they found their house had been taken over as a Southern field hospital. Roxanna, Aunt Rhoda and their children assisted in the treatment of the wounded. [www.civilwarvirtualmuseum.org]



House c.1883



House 2014

# Weisbrod Aircraft Museum

*Trip photos by CMH Secretary  
Eric Elder*

I recently had some free time and chose to drive down to Pueblo to check out the aviation museum by the Pueblo airport. I was pleasantly surprised at the good variety of planes, especially the B-29 and the A-10 Warthog. There are planes and helicopters on display in two hangers and outdoors. Most planes are post-WWII vintage. There is also a good NASA related display. The museum is well worth visiting.







# 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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