

# Colorado Military Historians

**Newsletter**

XXXVI, No. 8

August 2010



Lieutenant Dwight D. Eisenhower, aged 25, married Mamie Doud, aged 19, on July 1, 1916, at the home of the bride's parents, 750 Lafayette Street in Denver, Colorado.



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# Dues and Conventions

*Message from CMH President*

*Binhan Lin*

There was a CMH Board meeting just before the June Monthly meeting. One of the topics discussed was the current financial situation of the club. Although we are currently financially sound, the general trend for the last few years has been a decrease in club revenue and an increase in club expenses – mostly the rental of Baker for Friday Nights. To this end, the board has come to the decision that members should be encouraged to pay their dues, and for non-members attending FNF's at Baker, a voluntary donation to help defray the cost of the rental. We will not be requesting donations for Sunday meetings or FNF's at Valhallas. If you are a previous member who has not paid dues for this year, please contact Dave Manley for a limited time ½ year rate or other negotiable payment plans.

I will not be at the August meeting due to the imminent arrival of my live miniature, however I will send the dice along so that paid members can receive their dice and make available spare dice for purchase. This coming winter, the schwag will be gray dice with a red logo at the request of the Civil War crowd.



Tacticon is scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Rob Graham is the new Miniatures Coordinator. If you are interested in running an event at Tacticon, please contact him at [rebel222@netzero.net](mailto:rebel222@netzero.net).

Veterans Wars will be November 12-14 and will again be held at Baker Community Center. Contact Dan Gurule ([dagurule@gmail.com](mailto:dagurule@gmail.com)) if you are interested in running games or assisting with the planning or running of the convention. Keep an eye on the newsletter and website for updates on games and events for the weekend. The weekend is free to paid CMH members.

There is continuing interest in the Black Powder rule set and last Friday a good turnout for a revival of De Bellis Napoleonicus (DBN). There are rumors of a future Viking Campaign as well as ongoing interest in BBDBA, DBM, and Warmaster Ancients.

# Tacticon Website Misstep

*Message from CMH Secretary*

*Eric Elder*

This month Terry and Binhan have passed along content for the newsletter. Thanks to you both. Terry has provided his Historicon 2010 convention report. Binhan explains how to easily create 15mm Roman tents. I should explain the choice of cover page material. I am getting married on August 21. You will be happy to know, our wedding reception is at The Fort.



I was curious how the Tacticon website was coming along so I recently popped onto the site and was unimpressed. I have been unimpressed with the Denver Gamers Association Genghis Con and Tacticon site since I first visited it years ago. Each time I visit I keep hoping it will be a flashy functional site that draws more stay at home gamers to the convention. Currently to actually see any list of games at the convention, the visitor has to create an account, add a convention badge purchase to their cart, then they can look through the available games to sign up for. This does not make sense. A casual visitor will give up looking at the site for information and move on. There is also no mention of what vendors are going to be at the convention. I have supported the convention by running games for a number of years now, and lately seem to have no problems getting people to sign up, but we always need to attract new people. Why does the site not have a simple link to a page or two showing what events (games) and vendors will be at the convention? The simple link to a PDF with this information in the past worked. One would think that a set of html pages listing the games might draw more attendees by the simple fact that a Google search would pick up on words on the pages (ie. Flames of War Denver). I appreciate the concept of listing how many people have signed up for games, but now once they are full, they disappear from the site. It would be good to show all the games, and see which games are popular, or that the convention is popular because many games fill up. In today's day in age the web is the main information provider and most people look to the web for everything. For example, it has been years since I used an actual paper copy of the yellow pages to search for businesses. I will continue to support Tacticon and Genghis Con, but I have seen a lot of one step forwards with two steps backwards. I will say I enjoy the conventions and it looks like everyone has a great time, but one area they can improve is their website.

# July Monthly Meeting

## Unit of the Month

Sponsored by Attactix



Each month CMH members bring their latest painted figures and models to the meeting to display their latest efforts and compete for Unit of the Month. The owner of the winning unit receives a gift certificate from Attactix in Aurora, Colorado. We thank Attactix for its continued support.

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Dave Manley	28mm	Sash & Sabre	ACW	14 <sup>th</sup> Virginia, Casualties, Gun, Armistead, Picket
Dave Manley	28mm	Acheson Creations	WWII	Japanese Bunkers, AT Gun, MG, Tank
Larry Irons	28mm	Bolt Action	WWII	US GI Platoon, Command
Jeff Caruso	28mm	Foundry	Pirates	Capt & Quartermaster
Eric Elder	N	Minifigs	Vietnam	Bunker, hedgerow, marines, village, LVTP5 with 106mm Recoilless Rifle
<b>BINHAN LIN</b>	15mm	Pass of the North	Ancients	Spanish Psiloi, Cretan Archers, Numidian Light Horse
Greg Skelly	28mm	Crusader	WWII	German Cavalry
Greg Skelly	28mm	Bolt Action	WWII	Italians

**Table: Unit of the Month (WINNER)**

# How to Build 15mm Roman Tents

*How-To Article by CMH President*

*Binhan Lin*



Replica Roman Tent (photo from Ermine Street Guard)

From the introduction of the Marian Reforms in 107 BCE, the smallest unit of the Roman army was based on an eight-man “tent” unit called the contubernium. The name contubernium refers to both the tent and the unit. Ten contubernium made up a Century. This tent design remained basically unchanged for centuries as similar designs can be found on Trajan’s Column from 113 CE.

The basic tent was approximately ten feet wide, twelve feet deep and six feet high. The sidewalls are roughly two feet tall. The tent is supported on the inside with large wooden poles at the center and short support poles at the walls and staked down with short ropes trailing from the sides of the roof, seven on each side, each matched to a short pole. The tent opens with large flaps in the front.

Archeological evidence from various digs has revealed that the tents were most likely made from calf or goatskins. No evidence of fabric or wool tent remains have been found. The leather was cut into standard rectangles and the overall tent was pieced and stitched from these standard pieces.

Officer tents were roughly double in dimension, taller, wider and deeper with the increased height made up of taller walls. Tents for Generals on campaign were an additional 50% larger in all dimensions than the officer tent with a footprint of roughly 30’x30’ and approximately 15’ in height.



Images of tents from Trajan's Column (Peter Rockwell, Trajan's Column Project)

### Model Design

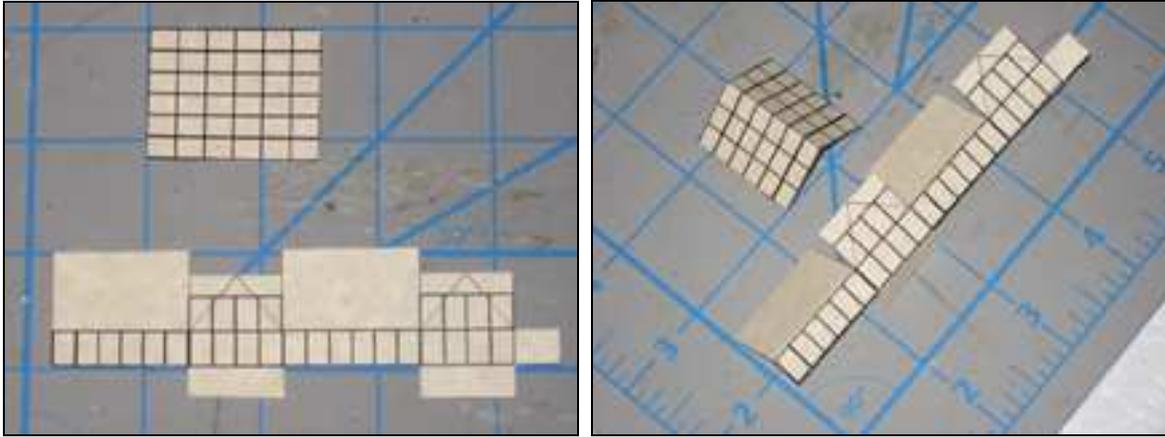
This article will focus on the standard eight-man tent or contubernium. In scale this would make the tent approximately 22mm wide, 30mm deep and 18mm tall. Since these tents will be used to create a Roman *DBM* camp, the tents are sized slightly smaller to fit several in the camp scene. The final dimensions that I used are 20mm wide, 30mm deep and 20mm tall.

The tents are designed to be printed on cardstock (colored paper preferred), cut out and glued together. There are two main pieces to the tent model, the walls and the roof. Both the walls and roof are pre-printed with markings to indicate the leather panels, however for my project these will be painted over to provide a more realistic coloration and texture.

After much trial and error, a basic pattern for the contubernium was designed and a modified version for a general's tent.

### Model Assembly

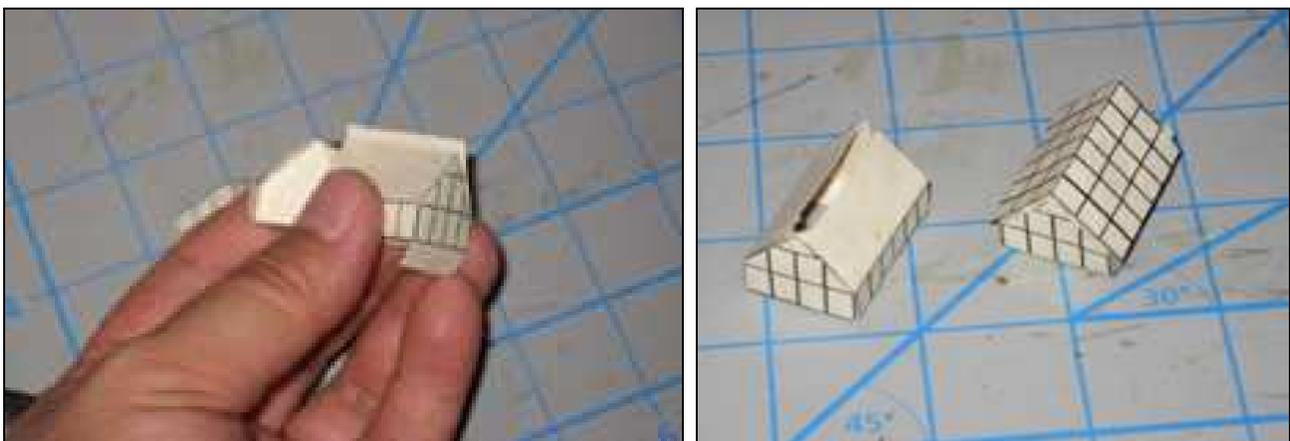
The tents are cut out – there are two pieces to each tent, a single piece for the walls and a separate piece for the roof. Optionally, additional tabs on the bottom of the walls can be left on to assist in gluing the tents onto bases (Figure 1).



Figures 1 and 2: Tent pieces cut out and partially folded.

The triangular parts on the front and back walls are retained to form support tabs for the roof. The large blank rectangles are also retained to support the roof. The roof is folded in half, and the roof support and bottom tabs are folded (Figure 2). I usually use a metal ruler to assist in forming a sharp crease.

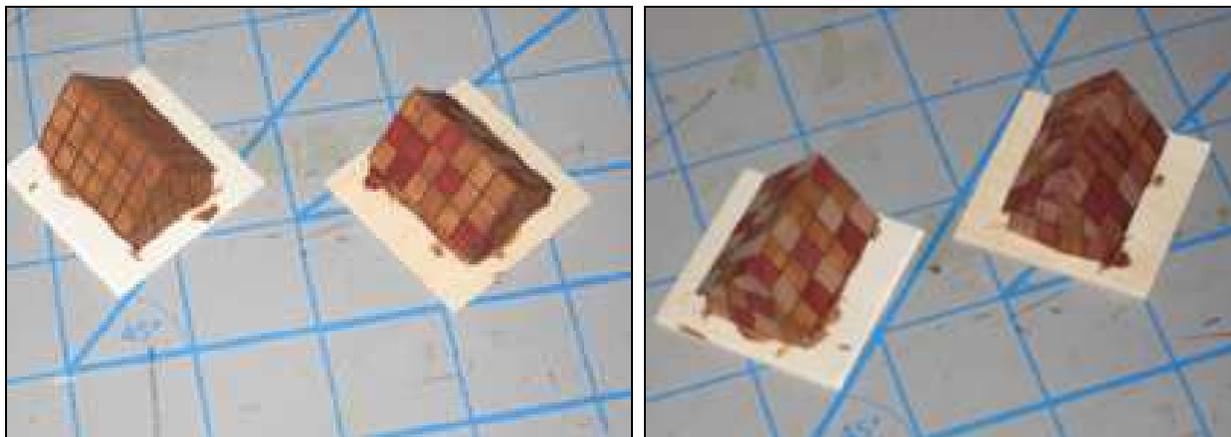
The triangular tabs and the small tab on the end of the wall are then folded. The rectangular roof supports will need to be trimmed slightly to fit at the peak. It is not necessary that they fit flush to each other, thus a small gap at the top is acceptable. Glue is applied to the triangular tabs and the end tab and the tent folded starting with the end opposite the wall tab (Figure 3). The rectangular roof supports should be folded and glued on top of the triangular supports. If the rectangular supports are too long and overlap the top, they should be trimmed down to be flush or just short of the top (Figure 4).



Figures 3 and 4: Folding the tent walls, a folded wall section and tent with the roof glued on.

After the walls are folded, glue is applied to the rectangular roof supports and the roof glued on. In addition a fillet of glue is applied to the front and back seams of the roof, to help hide the seams and any gap that might exist between the roof and wall pieces (Figure 4).

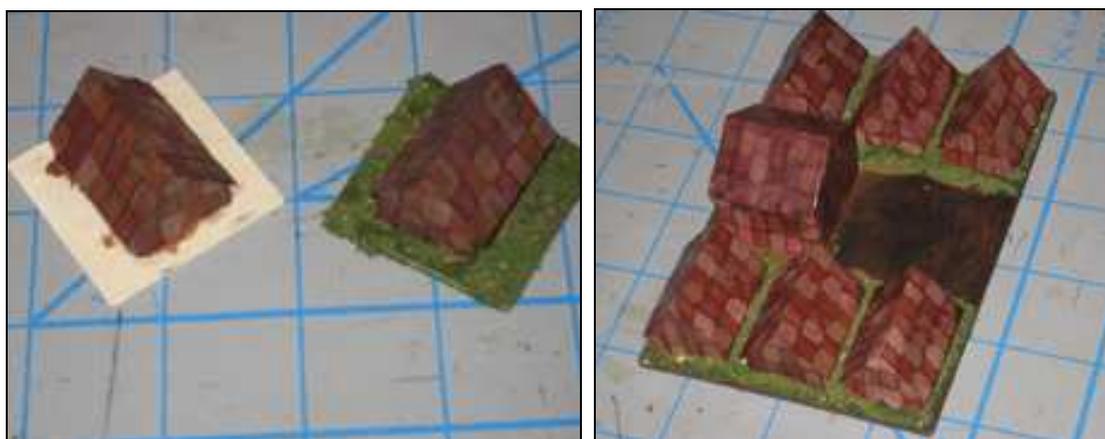
After the glue has dried, the tent is mounted on a wood base using the bottom tabs and painted a base brown color (Figure 5). A second reddish-brown color use used to paint some of the rectangles to provide a variety of color (Figure 5).



Figures 5 and 6: Tent attached to a base and painted basic brown colors.

A third, lighter shade of brown is used to add additional variety of color (Figure 6). The rectangle colors are then blended by using mixtures of the three base colors and dry brushing the individual rectangles (Figure 6).

A dark wash of dark brown paint with a hint of black mixed with an acrylic wash base was applied over the entire tent to provide a dirtier look (Figure 7). After drying, the base was flocked with a mixture of green paint and glue as an adhesive and a mixture of green flocks and brown railroad ballast (Figure 7).



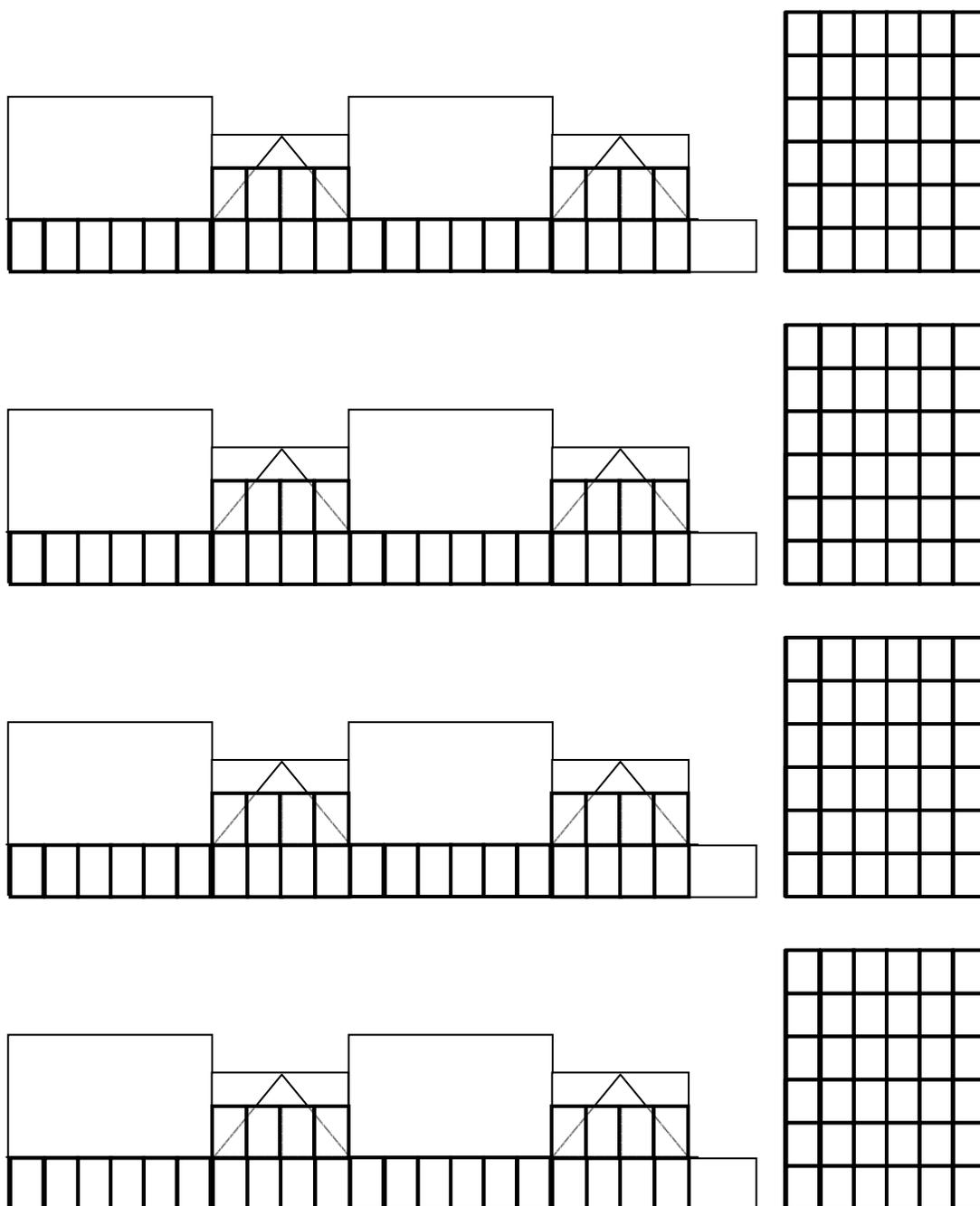
Figures 7 and 8: Washed and Flocked tents and a Roman Tent Encampment.

Several tents plus a larger commander's tent can be combined and mounted to form a Roman tent encampment (Figure 8).

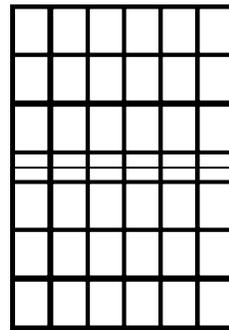
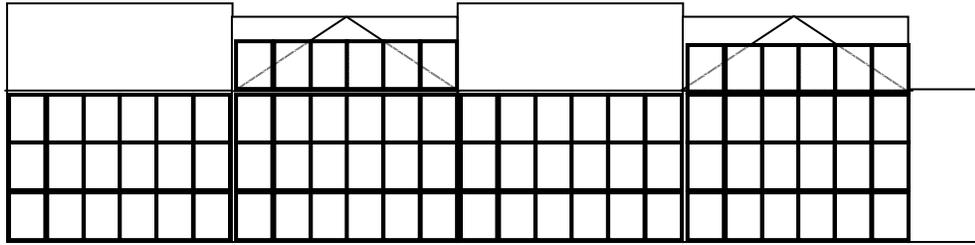
A pattern for the commander's tent is also included, and it is constructed in a similar manner as the contubernium.

This pattern provides a simple and cheap method in which to create Roman-style tents for use as terrain, encampments or support areas. With some scaling, the pattern can also be used to create 25mm-28mm tents.

### Roman Tent Pattern (15mm) Sides and Top Regular Tents



Commander Tent



# July Monthly Meeting

## Game of the Month

Sponsored by Valhalla's Gaming Center



Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host. The winning host receives a gift certificate from Valhalla's Gaming Center in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. We thank Valhalla's Gaming Center for its support.

CMH Member	Scale	Rules	Description
Larry Irons	-	1870	Railroad Building Game
<b>JEFF CARUSO</b>	15mm	DBA	Various Periods (Ancient to Feudal)
Todd Pressley	10mm	Warmaster Ancients	Samurai
Matt Vigil	15mm	Big Battle DBA	Egyptian vs. Hittites

**Table 1 Game of the Month (WINNER)**

## CMH July Scheduled Events



This table shows what scheduled CMH events are coming up. Next months Friday Night Fights (FNF) and the monthly meeting (MM) are listed. It is recommended to schedule your game for future meetings and will appear on this page.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>End Time</b>
August 6	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
August 8	MM	Baker	12:00 pm	5:00 pm
August 13	FNF	Valhallas	7:00 pm	midnight
August 20	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
August 27	FNF	Valhallas	7:00 pm	midnight

# Historicon 2010

*Trip Report by CMH Member*

*Terry Shockey*



Despite the dire predictions of chaos, frustration, and poor facilities, I am happy to report that the experience that John Mumby and I had at this year's Historicon was one of the best in recent years. The Valley Forge Convention Center is nestled between two large hotels, the Scanticon and the Radisson. The few people that I talked with about the hotels seemed to be pleased with the accommodations. The gaming areas were large, well lit, with plenty of room between tables, unlike Dystlefink at the Host. One complaint heard from others was the distance one had to travel for games or the War College in other parts of the complex. I do admit that a friend of John Brown's did show me a secret pathway through the complex that was much shorter and involved no stairs. It did however run through the staff areas of the complex with "employee only" signs seen occasionally. The staff that saw me did not seem to mind however. Food was plentiful, if not rather limited in scope. You could eat at one of the restaurants in the hotels, but found that to be pricey. The King of Prussia Mall is relatively close via car. There are a number of eateries in and around the mall. For those who have their wives along, the mall is the second largest mall in North America with 11,000 parking spaces. John and I found a wonderful breakfast diner at the mall named Rosie's. It is much like Gunther Toody's with very good breakfasts at a reasonable price.

The number of games and the vendors area were down some this year. Still the vendors were interesting, including the Geek Chic which had incredible gaming tables. But with the number of games that were presented there was much from which to choose. There were the usual large number of games of ACW and WWII.

The theme was "Pike and Shot" which was well represented. On Thursday John and I played in an ECW representation of Edgehill. Using the *Declare Thee Sir!* rules.

Friday, I participated in another ECW battle, 2nd Newbury using RFCM's *Regiment of Foote* rules. The Boston Trained Bands sponsored it. Richard Claydon was the GM. This was followed in the evening with a rousing attack by 1915 Russian forces against Austrians, hold up in the city of Przemysl. I have followed the development of a rules set for early war WWI by Philadelphian Lou Valenti entitled *Fall of Eagles*. The Russians assumed the Austrians would be pushovers. That proved to be incorrect. Lou, wearing a pickelhaub, claimed to be non-partisan in the battle. Hummm.

Saturday John and I helped with the first game of Bob Jones' new *Repique: Zouave* rules at Historicon. Tim Couper put on the game, from London. Peter Anderson from Connecticut ably assisted him. The game was an ACW scenario. John was, as usual, in the woods (see photo below). I am beginning to think he may be a Druid.



I slipped away from one civil war to another, what else but Russian Civil War. The rules were the very good *Red Action Pygmy Wars* Version. It ended in a draw with the Reds controlling part of a village and the Whites regrouping on the outskirts.

That evening John and I played in the HAWKS room. This is a group from Maryland that presents wonderful games for both kids and adults. I wish CMH could adopt an approach like theirs. The membership of HAWKS is actually smaller than ours. But they present multiple games each day. John pushed a huge force of Union troops in "Look Sarge, It's Fighting Joe Hooker!" The rules were *A Union So Tested*.

While John was ridding the world of Rebs, I was trying to help the U.S. invade Canada in the Battle of Chateaugay, 1813. Ironically, the three American players were Americans. The three playing Canadians were Canadians. As in the real battle the American attack was blunted. The game master was Duncan Adams. If you get the chance to play in one of his games at any of the HMGS East cons do so. They are always high quality.



I would be remiss in mentioning that Stan (see above) also represented CMH as well. He participated in the *Flame of War* tournament and a game in the HAWKS room.

We also saw three former members, Scott Holder, Paul Vogel, and Bill DiGiulio.

Both John and I attended a number of sessions at the War College. Most were very good presentations. Those included John Eager Howard at Cowpens and Guilford Courthouse, Wargaming the ECW, Battle of Granicus, and Exodus From the Alamo with the controversial author Dr. Philip Tucker.



There was also a very special event at this Historicon, the swan song of Duke Seifried. Uncle Duke is a legend in wargaming. Unfortunately his health is deteriorating quickly and this will be his last Historicon as a GM. I was privileged to talk with him on Wednesday evening for a few minutes. His diamond Jubilee presentation included at least 10 major tables. All of the scenery he created himself over the decades. His volume of work was staggering to behold.



We ended our trip to Historicon on Sunday by spending the remainder of our time touring Valley Forge National Park. It is a very beautiful site. Tim Couper accompanied us. It was interesting to get a perspective from the British point of view.

In summation, I would encourage you to attend next year, if you are at all considering it. For those who enjoy ACW there will probably be a plethora of games, as that is the theme. It is an easy drive from Philly's airport to the convention area. In the end it was an enjoyable experience.



# 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 every Friday night, called "Friday Night Fights" (FNF) at 7:00 p.m. The first and third Friday of the month, these meetings will be held at the Baker Community Center. The second and fourth Friday of the month, the meetings will be at Valhalla's Gaming Center, 6161 W. 44<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wheatridge, Colorado.



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  
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: \$20.00 (16 to 22 years old)  
Children: free (younger than 16 accompanied by member)

## 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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