

# Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XXXVII, No. 3

March 2011



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# Genghis Con 2011

*Message from CMH Secretary*

*Eric Elder*



Flames of War at Genghis Con

Jeff Caruso and Ed Meyers have supplied articles for this month. Jeff discusses the Mongol horse archer as it relates to the DBA rules. Ed brings us up to date on his ACW Campaign of Tournaments. Photos this month are from Genghis Con and our February monthly meeting.

Genghis Con looks like it went very well. I think most of the historical miniature games were sold out and were all well attended. The Flames of War tournament had just over 20 players. The DBA tournament had about 11 players. From what I saw while I was there, the convention was well attended. The historical miniatures were well coordinated by Mike Garland. I was even informed that there was a glitch in the registration system that could end up with more players signed up for a game beyond the maximum specified. I was afraid I would end up with more players than I could handle like what happened at Genghis Con. Fortunately Mike was tracking the games, and I was fortunate to only having the four players I said was my maximum. I was not as confused about where to park this time having been there last year. Overall, I would say it was a good convention.

# February 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
Jeff Caruso	28mm	Foundry	Pre-Historic	Caveman
<b>ERIC ELDER</b>	N	Minifigs	WWII	German Wespe Self Propelled Artillery
Dave Newport	15mm	Old Glory	WWII	SU-76
John Mumby	10mm	Pendraken	1866	Austrian & Prussian Armies
Jordan Newport	28mm	Wargames Factory	Post-Apocalyptic	Shock Troops
Dave Newport	28mm	Wargames Factory	Post-Apocalyptic	Blastwave Reds

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



DBA Tournament at Genghis Con

# Battle Cry Campaign of Tournaments

*Update by CMH Member*

*Ed Meyers*

Union forces won the first round in the opening of the Battle Cry! Campaign thanks to the cautious play of Champion, Major Joel Caruso. His tactics of using terrain for defensive purposes resulted in three victories that included a tie-breaking squeaker. He earned enough Victory Points to gain a promotion: Lieutenant Colonel.

The Confederate side suffered leader absences. A young Captain, Jordan, stepped in for ailing brev. Major Binhan Lin at the minute and did manage to score one victory. Major Tony Fryer was seriously wounded and had to leave the field. He was replaced by rather obscure Corporal, A. Schiklegruber, a megalomaniac with delusions of grandeur who failed miserably but grandly, in the Third Round. He might have fared better had his opponent had it been Jeff Caruso rather than Major Joel Caruso. Major Larry Irons turned in a resounding beat-down at Wilson's Creek, MO against Major Jeff "the-cards-were-against-me" Lambert who asked not be mentioned in any Battle Reports -so ignore this sentence.

Mention should be of Major Eric Elder who left his native Canada to fight for the Union and free men everywhere! (Except in Canada where they don't allow you to have guns). His accumulation of Victory Points earned him rapid promotion to Colonel.

Team Rankings:        CSA: 0            USA: 1

Officer Rankings:	Col. (CSA) Tony Fryer	29
	Col. (USA) Eric Elder	26
	Lt. Col. (USA) Joel Caruso	24
	Lt. Col. (CSA) Larry Irons	23
	Major (CSA) Binhan Lin	18
	Major (USA) Jeff Lambert	15



Respectively submitted 25 February 1861

## March 13 TEAMS

### CSA

Chris Graves  
Gary Stribling  
Scott McKenzie

### USA

Greg Rold  
Nate Forte  
Doug Wildfong

## Tournament Schedule

<b>Monthly Meeting</b>	<b>Scenarios</b>	<b>Date</b>
March	Greenbrier River, WV	Oct 3, 1861
	Belmont, MO	Nov 7, 1861
	Dranesville, VA	Dec 20, 1861
April	Ft. Donelson, TN	Feb 15, 1862
	Little Sugar Creek, AR	Feb 17, 1862
	Pea Ridge, AR	March 7, 1862
May	Kernstown, VA	March 23, 1862
	Shiloh, TN	Apr 6/7, 1862
	Williamsburg, VA	May 5, 1862
June	McDowell, VA	May 8, 1862
	Winchester, VA	May 25, 1862
	Oak Grove, VA	June 25, 1862
July	Gaines Mill, VA	June 27, 1862
	Cedar Mountain, VA	Aug 9, 1862
	Second Bull Run, VA	Aug 28, 1862
August	Richmond, KY	Aug 30, 1862
	Ox Hill, VA	Sept 1, 1862
	Antietam, MD	Sept 17, 1862
September	Perryville, KY	Oct 8, 1862
	Prairie Grove, AR	Dec 7, 1862
	Fredericksburg, VA	Dec 13, 1862
October	Murfreesboro, TN	Jan 2, 1863
	Gettysburg, PA	July 1-3, 1863
	Gettysburg, PA	July 1-3, 1863
November	Chickamauga, GA	Sept 19/20, 1863
	New Market, VA	May 15, 1864
	New Hope Church, GA	May 25, 1864

## Battle Cry Campaign of Tournaments Photos



## New Members

*Message from CMH Secretary*

*Eric Elder*

At the February monthly meeting, we welcomed two new members to the club. Their names are Chris (Lincoln) Graves and Brandon Kabelman. Lincoln is a board wargamer looking to expand his wargaming and looking for gamers to play some board games. Brandon comes to our club courtesy of Pat, and has been enjoying the hobby at least for a couple years.



Lincoln Graves at the January monthly meeting.



Brandon Kabelman enjoying a game of DBA.

# February Monthly Meeting

## Game of the Month

Sponsored by Valhalla's Gaming Center



DBA Tournament at Genghis Con

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
Jeff Caruso	15mm	DBA	Ancients
<b>JOHN MUMBY</b>	10mm	Wars of Empire I	1866 Austro-Prussian War
Ed Meyers	20mm	Battle Cry	Civil War Tournament
Terry Shockey	15mm	Red Actions	Verikyno

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



# Wargaming the Horse Archer in DBA

*Article by CMH Member*

*Jeff Caruso*

DBA is one of the easiest rules sets to play ancient and medieval eras. It achieves this by abstracting many factors such as types of weapons like the halberd, double handed axe, long sword, gladius, etc. into one class, Blade. Likewise the bow, self-bow, crossbow, and longbow are all one class, the Bow.

No problem with these classifications. The problem is that Light Horse (LH) who used the composite bow are not recognized as being a ranged weapon class.

The composite bow, as employed by the Mongols (effective range 300 meters) out ranged the longbow (effective range 220 meters) and the crossbow (75m) and the self-bow.



Rate of fire and velocity were also superior. One of the tools that allowed for these two factors was the thumb ring that made possible a longer draw and a quicker, cleaner release than the finger draw used by most other non-steppe archers.

Extra quivers of arrows were carried on the remounts saddles, facilitating resupply and allowing the Mongols to keep up a heavy sustained rate of fire.

The contemporary historians refer to this arrow storm or rolling barrage, fired at 200-300m, as a phenomenon of nature. This "rain of arrows" was used to break up and disorganize an enemy's formation. It also demoralized the enemy as they were not able to retaliate.

Concentration of such firepower was not developed by the West till the 1300's but the Mongols employed it on an ongoing basis.

In review, the Mongols had longer ranged bows than their opponents, better supply and the tactics to use these factors resulting in concentrated firepower against their enemies. It's time to address the historical record and allow for the Horse Archer to take his place in DBA.

I would suggest that it be applied to all armies designated as Steppe and limited to LH. Although the Mongols heavier cavalry carried bows the LH's main weapon was the bow. Food for thought.

### References:

The Mongol Art of War, Timothy May, Pen and Sword Books, 2007

The Devil's Horsemen, James Chambers, Atheneum, 1979

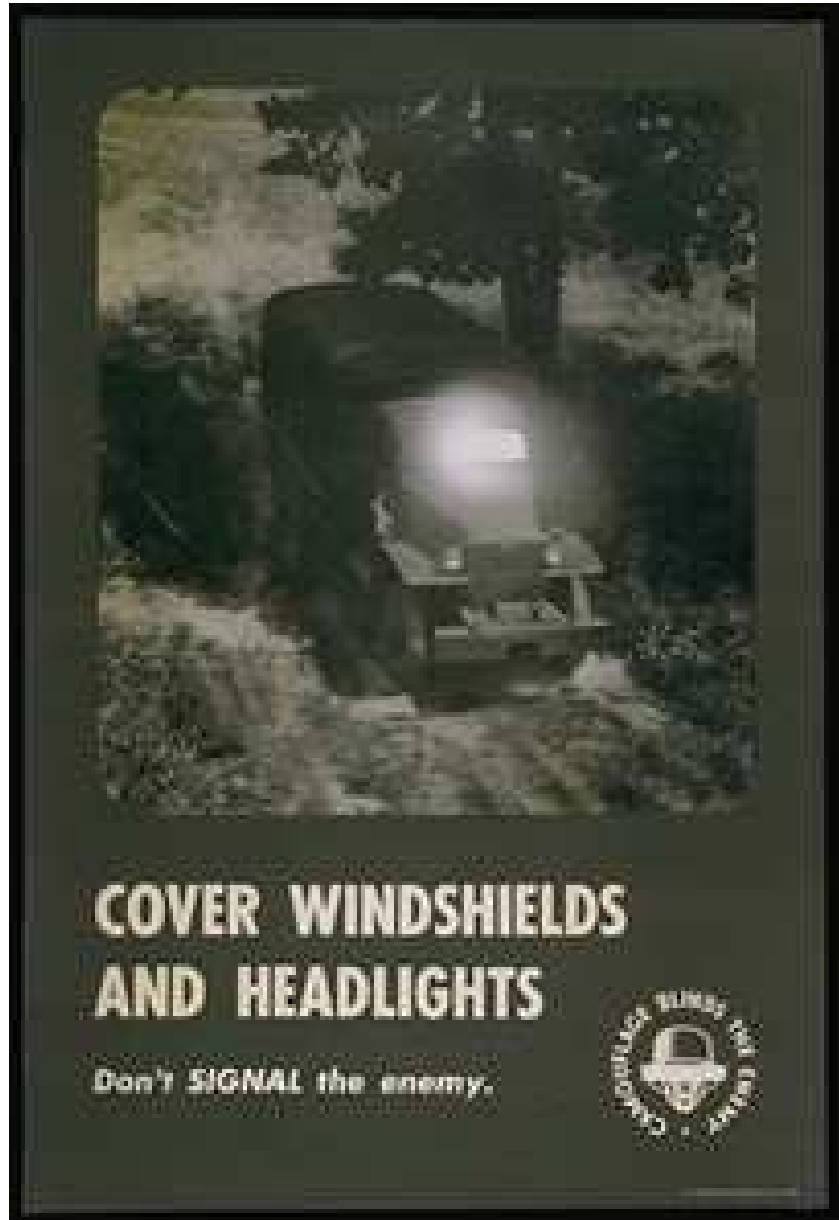
Arms and Armour of the Nomads of the Great Steppe in the Times of the Mongol Expansion (12th-14th Centuries), Witold Swietoslowski, Oficyna Naukowa, 1999



# Tactical Training Poster of the Month

*1943 U.S. Posters from Canadian War Museum Collection*

I stumbled across a collection of U.S. training posters from 1943 on the internet the other day and thought I would use it as extra content for the newsletter. The logo says “CAMOUFLAGE BLINDS THE ENEMY.”



## CMH March 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.

Date	Meeting	Location	Start Time	End Time
March 4	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
March 11	FNF	Valhallas	7:00 pm	midnight
March 13	MM	Baker	12:00 pm	5:00 pm
March 18	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm	midnight
March 25	FNF	Valhallas	7:00 pm	midnight

March 13 (Monthly Meeting):

- Wars of Empire I rules, 10mm, 1866 Austro-Prussian War**  
 Battle of Trautenau, Hosted by John Mumby  
 This Seven Weeks War battle ended in a costly Austrian victory.

## Photo of the Month



Las Vegas Gunnery School in 1942. The base was opened in January 1942. The site is now known as the Nellis Air Force Base. I picked this photo because I visited Las Vegas for the first time in February.

# 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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