

Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

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December 2012

In Remembrance of our Veterans – Veterans Day 2012



Dianna Stockton, Sgt. Becker and his wife Pat

Presentation by Sgt. “Flo” Becker, WW2 Veteran

Article by CMH Secretary

Binhan Lin

Mr. Becker came to our November meeting on Veterans Day to present to CMH his experiences in World War 2. His wife, Pat and several of their children and their families accompanied him.

After being inducted and several months of training, Mr. Becker was assigned to the 38th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mechanized) and completed his training at Fort Bliss, Texas. In early November 1943, he boarded a train for New York and had a day of leave before embarking for England.

The 38th shipped out on the Queen Mary, the luxury liner having been converted to a troop transport for wartime use. The high speed of the liner was put to good use as she made the journey to Glasgow, Scotland in 4 days and 18 hours, several days faster than the slow convoys. The port at Glasgow was not deep enough to dock the Queen Mary directly and the troops were off loaded on a variety of small craft and shuttled to shore. Once there they were transported to London via train.

The unit trained in England and Mr. Becker reminisced about a particular incident during this time. His unit was formed up, when a black limousine pulled up to the camp gates. A general hopped out of the car, climbed on top of an armored car and gave a 5-minute speech. He then quickly jumped down, into the car and was driven away. General Eisenhower had just given them their pre-D-Day pep talk.

On June 10th, the 38th embarked on their transports in Weymouth on LST 504 and other ships and began crossing the English Channel. Arriving in France, the unit drove their vehicles straight onto Omaha Beach, and drove inland to an assembly area. For over a week the unit was supplied and organized in the assembly area.

During this time they could see the occasional dogfight in the skies above them, contrails showing the paths of the aircraft as they twisted and turned in the sky. Mr. Becker also observed many tanks being used as artillery, being backed up into to ditches to increase the elevation of the guns and the constant rumble of firing.

Once in the field, the 38th Cav Recon was assigned to scout and screen for the 4th Infantry division as it advanced towards Paris. On August 25, the 38th was the first American unit to enter the French capital city to the cheers and enthusiasm of the liberated Parisians. After arriving, the 38th had a week of “guard duty” providing armed support for intelligence units investigating and securing intelligence targets within Paris.

Once again out in the countryside, the 38th again roamed ahead using its 0.50 M2 heavy machine guns mounted on top of their armored cars and M24 Chaffee light tanks to root out snipers and light resistance. Any determined resistance would result in a call to the nearest armored unit to bring up more substantial tanks or a shower of artillery shells. During this time, the unit would average 15 miles a day, crossing France and into Belgium. The unit criss-crossed France and was attached to different units through the rest of 1944 and in January 1945 crossed the Siegfried Line into Germany.

One incident was outstanding in Mr. Becker’s memory – his unit had bivouacked in an abandoned German office building and setup camp with the kitchen truck next door. Just before dinner, the building

exploded, booby trapped with explosives by the retreating Germans. Although no one was seriously hurt, the kitchen truck was a loss. Needless to say, the unit did not stay to spend the night.

In April 1945, the 38th was assigned to escort Major General Heubner of V Corps to the historic meeting on the Elbe at Torgau. Mr. Becker remembers seeing an extremely long table being setup and many US and Soviet dignitaries attending and a shot of vodka after the affair.

The unit was then stationed in Czechoslovakia and as part of R & R, Sgt. Becker attended an opera in Pilsen. After V-E day, the unit was demobilized and returned to the States via Paris.

I would like to thank Sgt. Becker for taking the time an effort to provide us his precious memories of his experience in Europe during WW2 and to remind us of the reason for Veterans Day.



UOM entry -Flak (dice) Tower - Perusing Sgt. Becker's WW2 Scrapbook

CMH Fall News

*Message from CMH Secretary
Binhan Lin*

Veterans Wars was a success with a wide variety of games and a Special Guest on Veterans Day. Sgt. Becker was a welcome speaker who provided an interesting account of his experience in WW2.

Schwag for the coming year will be green CMH dice. As always members will receive four free dice with their paid 2013 membership. We will be accepting dues for 2013 at the December meeting.

Thanks to John Brown and Eric Elder for their contributions of articles to this month's newsletter.

Shockey Dominates Veterans Wars DBA 3.0 Tournament! Barbarians Crush Romans in DBMM2!

By CMH Member John S. Brown

The gaming boards once again trembled with the clash of DBA 3.0 armies at our Colorado Military Historians' annual Veterans Wars Convention. This time, for the first time, all of the players had played DBA 3.0 before. The pace quickened and the competition sharpened. In grim array we saw Art Hayes' Late Imperial Romans, Bernie Santucci's Middle Imperial Romans, Doug Mudd's Nikephorian Byzantines, Greg Rold's Norse-Irish, John Brown's Medieval Scandinavians, Matt Vigil's Late Imperial Romans, Roy Hayes' Burmese and Terry Shockey's Italian Condotta. When the dust had settled, the shouts of victory had wafted into the ether, and the groans of defeat had muted into tears, Terry Shockey bestrode the Convention like a Colossus. Amassing 15 points, he was the uncontested winner, and got first choice of three historical (kind of) DVD's purchased from Target at bargain basement prices.

Art Hayes and John Brown would have been tied for second at 13 points, but Brown was disqualified for playing with more than one six-sided dice, having naked women in his camp, and promulgating rule interpretations that were shouted down by his colleagues. This cleared the way for Roy Hayes at 12 points to take third and win the final historical DVD, *10,000 B.C.* Bernie Santucci and Doug Mudd were in contention for the infamous Pink Dice Award, which Bernie won by being the first to roll a "one" with it. Matt Vigil would have been in contention for the Pink Dice Award too, but had to leave early and couldn't participate in the roll off. Doug Mudd did win the Can of Beans Award, by having come the closest of anybody to actually capturing a camp. Greg Rold won the Braveheart Award, the DVD *Braveheart*, for doing as well as he did (fourth with 9 points) despite fielding an army that was nothing but a mass of auxilia and psiloi.

The current DBA 3.0 rules play extremely well, and remain a big hit with those who joined the tournament. All but one of the players had participated in the play-testing survey we reported out in our October newsletter. The remaining player said he liked everything just fine, so we didn't extract a written survey from him as well. The few issues we flagged up in October have been happily resolved by Phil

Barker and his committee. This time around the only item provoking expressed dissatisfaction was a 2 pip cost to move 4Kn other than straight ahead into contact. The Late Imperial Romans considered this unduly repressive, and the other players expressed varying degrees of sympathy – some with fewer crocodile tears than others. Beyond this, we had to stipulate interpretations with respect to visibility from a hamlet, fate of a hard flanked second element in column when the first is destroyed, and corner contact by a unit with insufficient movement to make edge combat. Hopefully the next (and perhaps final) iteration of the rules will make all of this clearer.

Veterans Wars also witnessed our Fall of Rome DBMM 2 Medley on the day before the DBA 3.0 Tournament. Pat Harvey's Late Imperial Romans, John Brown's Patrician Romans and an army of not for attribution Middle Imperial Romans faced off against Greg Rold's Sassanids, Jeff Goss's Huns and Larry Irons' Suevi. 240 point armies were used with the DBMM 200 rules. The results were disastrous for civilized man! The Sassanids beat the Middle Imperial Romans and the Huns smashed the Patricians. Only the embattled Late Imperial Romans were able to fight to a respectable draw against the fierce Suevi. As a number of us are still learning the rules and we were only able to get one round in, all parties involved committed to play another round or two at the 9 December meeting. DBMM 2 truly is a major advance over the much beloved DBM 3.1.

The next major DBx event will be the BBDBA 3.0 Tournament planned for Genghis Con in February. All armies from all books will be invited and welcome. Hopefully we will have final drafts of the army lists available by then, but if not we will continue to honor the lists from DBA 2.2. We all eagerly await Phil Barker's publication of DBA 3.0 in its final form! Between now and Genghis Con we plan on playing a little BBDBA 3.0 and wrapping up the Fall of Rome DBMM 2 medley at our monthly club meetings. For further information, contact John Brown at jsandmbrown@msn.com. If you have time and are so inclined, please join us. We are always eager to recruit new combatants in the DBx community! Roll "sixes"!



Wings of War battle at Veterans Wars

Bataan Museum

Article by CMH Member

EricElder



In November my wife Liz and I went on a long weekend trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico. We had stopped there briefly before, but wanted to spend some more time to explore the city. Liz surprised me by discovering the Bataan Museum and actually suggesting it as a museum we could visit. I had no idea such a museum existed and also found it interesting that the museum would be in Santa Fe. It turns out the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery Regiments from New Mexico were part of the force defending the Philippines when the Japanese invaded in 1941.



The museum is not very big and is actually mostly non-Bataan related, but it is still good. It is free to visit. I liked the sections on the Spanish American War and World War One. I thought the

Bataan/Philippines section focused too much on the Bataan Death March. Having read the story of the defense of the Philippines, especially in the Bataan peninsula, there are many incredible stories of holding back the Japanese. I highly recommend the book *Bataan: Our Last Ditch: The Bataan Campaign, 1942* by John W. Whitman. Post WWII the museum touches on all the major conflicts. The museum staff employee at the museum was very approachable and talked to us about the various WWII veterans living in Santa Fe and shared some stories he was told. Maybe because there was only Liz and I, and a Father and Son visiting the museum first thing in the morning he shared the stories, but I am sure he would be completely open to giving a guided tour around the museum. Behind the museum outside there is an area dedicated to vehicles/artillery and a helicopter.

All in all, well worth stopping in and checking out the museum if in the area. Both Liz and I enjoyed the museum.



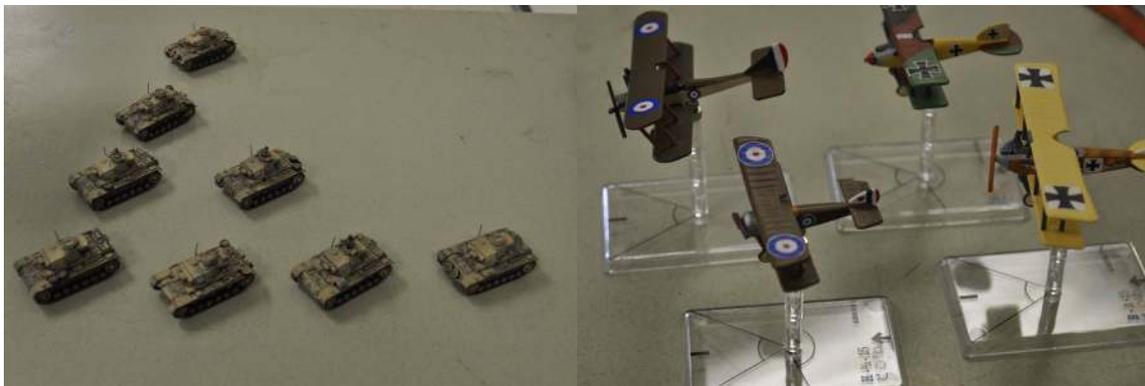
Museum website:
<http://www.bataanmuseum.com/>

November Monthly Meeting Unit of the Month

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.

CMH Member	Scale	Manufacturer	Era	Unit
Jeff Lambert	15mm	Scratch Build	WW2	Flak (dice) Tower
Jeff Lambert	1/144	Shapeways	WW1	WWI Aircraft
Jeff Lambert	15mm	FoW and PSC	WW2	Pz.Kpfw III's

Unit of the Month Winner is highlighted in **RED**.



Unit of the Month entries – PzKpfw III's and WWI aircraft

November Monthly Meeting Game of the Month

Each month CMH members host games at the monthly meeting. This award is for the effort put out by the host.

CMH Member	Scale	Era	Rules	Description
John Brown	15mm	Ancients	DBA 3.0	DBA Tournament
Doug Wilfong	28mm	7YW	Lace Wars	Prussians vs. French

Game of the Month Winner is highlighted in **RED**.



The DBx Trophy plaque and SDS Large Battle – Prussians and French

CMH December 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
December 7	FNF	TBD	7:00 pm
December 9	Monthly Meeting	Baker	Noon
December 14	FNF	TBD	7:00 pm
December 21	FNF	Baker	7:00 pm

FNF (TBD) may or may not occur this month due to a lack of a scheduled host.



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. One Friday of the month will be held at the Baker Community Center. The other Friday meetings will be held at a future determined location. See website 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 \$35.00 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: \$35.00

Half year Adult Membership: \$25.00

(For NEW members who join after June 30)

Family Membership: \$35.00 (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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