



# Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

XXXIX, No. 10

October 2013



*Boers at Spion Kop (Wikimedia)*

## Veterans Wars, Gaming at TEG and Swag

*Message from CMH Secretary  
Binhan Lin*

Veterans Wars will occur during Veterans Day weekend (Nov. 8-10). Nate Forte is co-coordinating the event. Please contact Nate if you wish to run games, assist in the convention, or donate food/time/money towards his effort. We have contacted Dexter Schiller regarding some CMH themed swag. Dexter is the owner of Shark Mounted Lasers, which can custom cut/engrave wood and plastic items. We are thinking of CMH logo merchandise such as dice towers, buildings, measuring tools and such. In addition the idea of CMH patches was brought up and may be possible if there is sufficient interest. If you have an opinion on these items or would like to suggest other forms of swag, please contact me. There will be some FNF's hosted at Total Escape Games in Broomfield. Dates are variable, so please check the mailing list to see what the current dates and events at TEG will be.

# Military History of October

*By CMH Secretary  
Binhan Lin*

The month of September saw many historical military events.

Oct. 8

1918, Cpl. Alvin York assaults a German MG position, earning him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Oct. 11

1899, Second Boer War begins in South Africa.

Oct. 13

1775, United States Navy is created.

Oct. 14

1066, Norman Conquest of England begins, as William the Conqueror is victorious at the Battle of Hastings.

Oct. 16

1853, Crimean War begins as the Turkish Ottoman Empire declares war on Russia.

Oct. 19

1781, The British Army under General Cornwallis surrenders to General George Washington and the Americans at Yorktown.

Oct. 20

1944, General Douglass MacArthur steps foot on Philippine soil fulfilling his promise, "I shall return."

Oct. 21

1805, The British Royal Navy secures a major victory against the French and Spanish fleets at Trafalgar. Admiral Horatio Nelson is fatally wounded during the battle.

Oct. 23

1942, British General Bernard Montgomery launches an assault against German forces lead by General Rommel in North Africa at El-Alamein.

Oct. 25

1854, During the Crimean War, the Charge of the Light Brigade occurred as British Cavalry attacks Russian artillery positions, inspiring the poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson.



*Game of the Month entry – NURD – Egyptians vs. Hittites*

# Charge of the Light Brigade

By Alfred Lord Tennyson

1.

Half a league, half a league,  
Half a league onward,  
All in the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.  
"Forward, the Light Brigade!  
"Charge for the guns!" he said:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

2.

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"  
Was there a man dismay'd?  
Not tho' the soldier knew  
Someone had blunder'd:  
Theirs not to make reply,  
Theirs not to reason why,  
Theirs but to do and die:  
Into the valley of Death  
Rode the six hundred.

3.

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of Death,  
Into the mouth of Hell  
Rode the six hundred.

4.

Flash'd all their sabres bare,  
Flash'd as they turn'd in air,  
Sabring the gunners there,  
Charging an army, while  
All the world wonder'd:  
Plunged in the battery-smoke  
Right thro' the line they broke;  
Cossack and Russian  
Reel'd from the sabre stroke  
Shatter'd and sunder'd.  
Then they rode back, but not  
Not the six hundred.

5.

Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon behind them  
Volley'd and thunder'd;  
Storm'd at with shot and shell,  
While horse and hero fell,  
They that had fought so well  
Came thro' the jaws of Death  
Back from the mouth of Hell,  
All that was left of them,  
Left of six hundred.

6.

When can their glory fade?  
O the wild charge they made!  
All the world wondered.  
Honor the charge they made,  
Honor the Light Brigade,  
Noble six hundred.

# **CMH Triumphs in DBx Smack Down!**

## **Hayes, Scholtz and Santucci Lead in Tacticon DBA 3.0 Tournament**

*Article by CMH Member*

*John Brown*

September witnessed some spectacular Front Range DBx play. Perhaps most breath-taking, the seasoned CMH DBx Team took on their equally formidable CSGA counterparts in the third annual CMH/CSGA DBx Challenge Smack Down. Six events played on 3 August, and the seventh on 8 September. Competition was particularly intense, as CSGA won the first Smack Down in 2011 and CMH the second in 2012. When the dust finally settled CMH had won again, accumulating 238 points to CSGA's 216. On 1 September the DBA 3.0 Tournament at Tacticon involved many of the same players, but with very different match ups and results.

Particulars for the Smack Down results are as follows: In the DBA 3.0 Book I match up, Greg Rold of CMH with Thracians won against Bernie Santucci of CSGA with Later Athenian Hoplites, 41 to 19. In the DBA 3.0 Book II match up, Matt Vigil of CMH with Eastern Late Imperial Romans won against Mike Garland of CSGA with Pyrrhics, 38 to 2. In the DBA 3.0 Book III match up, John Brown of CMH with Qaramita won against Rob Scholtz of CSGA with Early Russians, 37 to 3. In the DBA 3.0 Book IV match up, Terry Shockey of CMH with the Medieval Scandinavian Union won against Doug Mudd of CSGA with Italian Condotta, 38 to 22. In 400AP DBMM2, Dick Fickes of CSGA with Desert Blemmye and Nobades won against Pat Harvey of CMH with Early Byzantines, 28 to 22. In BBDBA 3.0, Art and Roy Hayes of CSGA with Marian Romans and a Numidian ally won against Matt Vigil and Greg Rold of CMH with Gauls and an Iberian ally 78 to 22. In BBDBN, Doug Rains of CSGA and Nate Forte (on pre-pardoned loan from CMH to CSGA) leading the French won against Dan Gurule and Doug Wildfong of CMH leading the Prussians at the Battle of Placenoit 60 to 40. Andy Oertig, President of CSGA and our gracious host, won high praise for his accommodations and victuals while acting as Quartermaster General. One can well imagine the ranting and the crowing that accompanied the tight 238 to 216 point CMH victory! Undaunted Doug Rains, the CSGA ImPotentate of DBx Affairs, noted that the overall score for three Smack Downs running totaled 667 to 663 – and ominously added that CMH had best not rest on its laurels!

Most of the same bad actors showed up for the DBA 3.0 Tournament at Tacticon on 1 September. When the results were in, Art Hayes channeling King Arthur (Sub-Roman British) led the field with 24 points. Rob Scholtz with Early Russians came in second with 23 points, and Bernie Santucci with Early Imperial Romans third with 19 points. Other strong performances were fielded by John Brown with Medieval Germans, Roy Hayes with Burmese, Doug Mudd with Parthians, Doug Rains with Pueblo Indians, Greg Rold with Thracians, Terry Shockey with Classical Indians, Brent Sustaita with Feudal Spanish and Matt Vigil with Medieval Poles. Doug Rains won the infamous Pink Dice Award, and Doug Mudd the Braveheart award for incredible daring – not necessarily in the presence of wisdom. Doug Rains could not help but notice the dramatic reversal of fortunes those from the wrong side of Castle Rock experienced between the Smack Down and the Tacticon Tournament. Where, he lamented, had all of these winning performances been during the course of the Smack Down!

Our next DBx event will be a Rise of Rome DBMM2 medley at Veterans Wars on 10 November. The BBDBA 3.0 Tournament at Genghis Con in February will follow, with warm ups at the CMH monthly meetings in January and February. If you have questions, please contact John Brown at [jsandmbrown@msn.com](mailto:jsandmbrown@msn.com).



*(wikimedia)*

## **Corporal Alvin C. York Congressional Medal of Honor Winner**

Citation:

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Army, Company G, 328th Infantry, 82d Division

Place and date: Near Chatel-Chehery, France, 8 October 1918

Entered service at: Pall Mall, Tenn.

G.O. No.: 59, W.D., 1919

Citation: After his platoon had suffered heavy casualties and 3 other noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Cpl. York assumed command. Fearlessly leading 7 men, he charged with great daring a machinegun nest, which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machinegun nest was taken, together with 4 officers and 128 men and several guns.

# After Action Report: WW2 Naval Action at Savo Island

*By Jay Rhoten*

## **Scenario**

The WWII naval battle of Savo Island was re-played by two teams of people. One team played the Japanese fleet and the other team an American naval task force. The order of battle played during the game resulted in a fairly even balance of power. Playing the game during simulated night conditions eliminated complexity by removing air power and supported Japanese target acquisition capabilities.

## **Objectives**

Japanese fleet units were tasked with several objectives; interdiction of allied air fields, landing supplies & troops on Guadalcanal, and eliminating enemy naval units.

The American fleet units were ordered to locate, close with, and destroy enemy ships; preventing logistical support for continued Japanese offensives.

## **Game Play**

The concept of the game was briefed to the teams, the briefing took the better part of an hour mainly due to the lack of experience possessed by some of the participants.

The sequence of game play was concise and easy to follow for the opposing teams. As the tempo increased, questions arose on actions and consequences of a game ruling. The discussions enlightened the teams and set the stage for faster paced game play.

Tracking the results of battle damage on fleet units was accomplished on plastic sheets and using erasable markers. The teams were generally successful in recording the damage, but a clearer record of damage inflicted needs to be developed. Additionally, markers recording fires or target acquisition need to be closely tracked for each fleet unit. The relative combat power of the unit is materially affected by degradation of it's firepower, propulsion, & armor or its ability to acquire targets in degraded observation conditions.

As a member of the Japanese team, I believe we were not diligent in target acquisition, employment of all combat systems like torpedoes, and coordinated in movement toward our Guadalcanal objective.

## **Conclusion**

The game ended in a draw due to expiration of allotted time. Each team learned about the capabilities of the units assigned to them. The Japanese interdicted Henderson field, almost landed troops & supplies on the island, and significantly reduced American combat power. The Americans delayed landing operations, destroyed Japanese fleet units, and potentially delayed enough for Allied air-power to be deployed as daylight approached.



*Game of the Month enties – Power Grid and Sharps Practice*

## September 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	Battlefront	WW2	Captured Nazi Vehicles
Jeff Lambert	15mm	Battlefront	WW2	Su-152 Animal-Killers
Jeff Lambert	1/144	OzMods	WW2	P-39 Kobra
<b>Eric Elder</b>	1/2400	GHQ	WW2	French BB Dunkerque

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



*Unit of the Month entries – French BB Dunkerque, Captured Tanks, Su-152's and P-39 Kobra*

## September 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
<b>Dave Manley</b>	28mm	Napoleonics	Sharps Practice	British Retreat at Coruna
John Brown	15mm	ANC	BBDBA	CMH/CSGA Smackdown
John Mumby	10mm	ANC	NURD	Egyptians vs. Hittites
Dave Minor	Board	Modern	Power Grid	Power up USA

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



*Game of the Month entry – CMH/CSGA Smackdown - BBDBA*

## CMH October/November 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
October 4	FNF	TEG	7PM
October 11	FNF	TBD	TBD
October 13	MM	Baker	Noon
October 18	FNF	Baker	7PM
October 25	FNF	TBD	TBD
November 1	FNF	TBD	TBD
November 8	VW	Baker	7PM
November 9	VW	Baker	9AM
November 10	VW/MM	Baker	9AM
November 15	FNF	TBD	TBD
November 22	FNF	TBD	TBD
November 29	FNF	TBD	TBD

VW – Veterans Wars, November 8-10, Baker Community Center

TEG – Total Escape Games  
 6831 W 120th Ave  
 Suite C  
 Broomfield, CO 80020  
[www.totalescapesgames.com](http://www.totalescapesgames.com)

FNF (TBD) may or may not occur these months 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 who serve 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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