



Colorado Military Historians

Newsletter

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Tank Ace Otto Carius with his Tiger I as part of the
502nd Heavy Panzer Battalion.

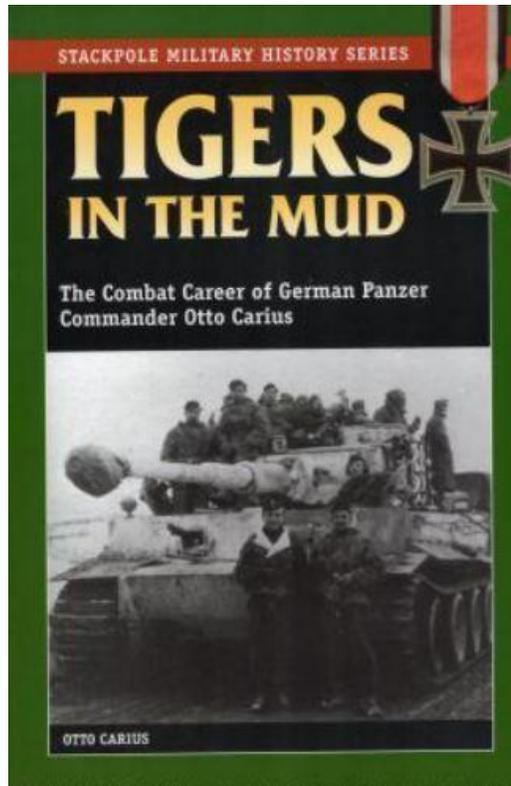
News and Views

*Message from CMH Secretary
Eric Elder*

Club news has been quiet. We continue to not have in person meetings and try to meet online on Friday nights. Like everyone else, I am sure, I have been continuing to work on wargaming projects. It will be good to see everyone again in person and get back into in-person gaming. Till then, it looks like we must keep making progress on our projects for future meetings and conventions. I look forward to seeing all the new painted miniatures and games members bring to the club. A July meeting is not looking good, it looks like we can hope for a meeting in August. Any updates will be posted to our Groups.IO site.

HMGS has decided to host an online convention called CYBËR WÅRS. It sounds like it will be a Facebook convention held July 23-26. It looks to be like Historicon but completely online. Once details are posted, we will share the information on our Groups.IO site.

This month I would like to thank John Owen for his review of the book *Tigers in the Mud*.



TIGERS IN THE MUD

Book Review by CMH Member

John Owen

TIGERS IN THE MUD by Otto Carius, Stackpole Books, 2003

From the title one would expect a narrative about Pzkw VIs bogged down during the rasputitsa on the Eastern Front or in Lorraine on the West. But the Tigers play a somewhat more tangential role, as the work primarily relates to the service of the author – Otto Carius - a panzer commander – with the 2nd Company of Heavy Panzer Battalion 502. In all honesty, there is not much to recommend this book. The author invariably presents himself as a fearless, duty-driven, tactical savant. He denigrates a substantial number of more senior German officers, reserving accolades for a select few who endorsed his tactical dispositions and recommendations.

Most of his active service takes place on the Eastern Front, starting with the commencement of Operation Barbarossa, until, after being wounded in 1944, transferred to a Jagdtiger unit on the Western Front in the closing weeks of the war. While many photos from his personal collection are included, the diagrams of the tactical set-ups of 2nd Company engagements relate poorly to the narrative, lack necessary detail, and would not do justice to an artistic 3rd grader.

The Waffen SS receives high marks from the author (conveniently ignoring atrocities). He describes at some length a meeting he (a lowly lieutenant) supposedly had with Heinrich Himmler – at the Reichfuhrer's request. The occasion was Carius being awarded the Oak Leaves of the Knight's Cross – the Fuhrer being preoccupied with directing the war, so Himmler was designated stand-in! Carius' criticism of the Fuhrer, the National Socialist Party, and its functionaries is so muted as to be practically nonexistent.

The author openly admires the Red Army for its hammer-headed persistence and willingness to take astronomical casualties in men and material (he is credited with destroying over 100 Soviet tanks). Conversely, he dismisses the American propensity to expend ordnance instead of lives – he heaps contempt on the U.S. Army for not recklessly attacking to quickly reduce the Ruhr pocket (the German Army would have!). This ignores the salient fact that Germany was collapsing, total victory was at hand, and additional U.S. casualties would not alter the postwar settlement. Of which, he further castigates the Western Allies for not joining the Germans and turning on the Soviets!

Included are reproductions of certificates for every medal awarded the author, as well as wound badges and miscellaneous service awards – in the original German and English translations. The sole inclusions that might interest readers are a series of official reports documenting deficiencies in the Pz Kw VI, as well as corrective suggestions and proper deployment of these tanks.

This book was first published in 1992, when Carius was 70 years old, and reflects the musings of an embittered veteran, disgusted with the fate of postwar Germany and in his mind the disdain shown by most of the world – and especially contemporary Germans – for the service of German troops during the war. Never mind that the Third Reich started the European war, and that while its armed forces fought very well it was in the very worst of causes.

Historic Location of the Month

Villers Bocage, France

Six Tiger tanks were destroyed in Villers Bocage, June 13, 1944. The Tiger destroyed below was commanded by SS-Oberscharführer Hans Swoboda.



CMH Social Media Posting Policy

1. Only postings, which contain content related to military history, collecting toy soldiers or models related to military history, and wargaming; or postings regarding club business, are allowed.
2. Postings are allowed for members to sell personal items related to military history, or the collecting of toy soldiers, models, or wargaming equipment and supplies, but not for commercial sales. However, postings are allowed to notify members of new products or sales by outside commercial entities, that may be of interest to our membership.
3. Postings containing religious or political content are not allowed.
4. Postings must not wrongfully discriminate or suggest a preference for or against people because of a personal characteristic, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, color, national origin, citizenship, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, family status, marital status, disability, or medical or genetic condition. Listings must comply with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination.
5. The insult, verbal attack, or degradation of any person, group, living or dead, is prohibited.
6. The use of profanity is prohibited.
7. Postings may not contain content that infringes upon or violates the intellectual property rights of any third party, including copyright or trademark. This includes, but is not limited to, the promotion or sale of counterfeits, such as goods that copy the trademark (name or logo) and/or distinctive features of another company's products to imitate a genuine product.
8. Members who violate this policy can have their posting privileges curtailed or removed, including but not limited to, removal from membership in the Groups.IO group.

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 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 \$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: \$25.00 (16 to 22 years old)

Children: free (younger than 16 accompanied by member)

Club Links:

Web Site: <https://cmhweb.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cmhgamers/>

Groups.io Group: <https://groups.io/g/cmhweb>

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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