

COLDWARS 2013 8-10 MARCH

Theme-Women Warriors Through History (And Myth)



St. Joan Or The White Company? Plate Armor Obscures Gender



Although COLDWARS Has Reverted To A Nominal Three Day Affair After A Brief Stint As A Contractual Four Day Affair, It Still Gets A Thursday Start



Thursday Night-Khalkin Gol 1939?-No, Looks Like A T-34/85. Must Be August 1945



The Usual Ancients Contests Were Ongoing



And Things Were Pretty Lively Considering That The Convention Hadn't Started



FRIDAY IT WAS DIFFERENT-150 GAMES FROM 9am, 70 DEALERS FROM NOON



Phil Viverito's Latest Masterpiece-Siege of Basinghouse from the ECW



He Calls It Pike Hack. I Keep Telling Him You Don't Hack With Pikes!



Bruce Weigle, Third From Right, Runs an 1866 Epic in the HAWKS Club room



There Were Several Club Rooms, Including The Wednesday Night Adventurers of Alexandria

ON SATURDAY 187 MORE GAMES



But On A More Sinister Note, The Dark Side Was Entrenched In The BATTLETECH Room



Fortunately The Painting University Provided An Educational Tone To Balance The Dark Side



And From Noon The World's Greatest Hobby Shop Was Open-70 Name Dealers-Over 260 Tables



Theme Games? I Think It Was An Amazon Attack on Athens, But I'm Not sure



The Most Popular Heroine Seems To Have Been Boudicea of the Iceni



I'm Pretty Sure This Is Her, Bent Spear And All



Of Course Many Periods Were Represented-Especially WWII





And A Spectacular Epic Of The Polish Baroque



ATKM Took The Lead Bringing The Victorian Model Railroad Scale To 1812 Among Other Eras



The War Between The States Was Done In All Scales



One Thing That Impressed Me Was The Crowds of Gamers Enjoying Our Hobby



Flames Of War-One Of Many Tournaments In The Lampeter Room



Ancients Tournaments-Best Not To Use African Bush Elephants Against Indian Elephants But You Have To Make Do With What You've Got



There Were Aviation Games



There Were Naval Games-But I'm Suspicious Of The Historical Accuracy Of This One



The T-34/85 Seems To Have Been The Most Popular Model In All WWII Scales





Napoleonics Were Well Represented-Though Not As Prominently As in The Early Days of HMGS



For Me The Battle Of The Pyramids Was Most Spectacular-Above, Mameluks Poised To Attack



Napoleon's Boys Prepared To Receive Their Charge



THE HMGS E-ZINE EDITORS (Hawaiian Shirts) Played The Most Recent SCW-But I Am Offended That Their Scenario Featured The Rosa Luxembourgos-Devout Communists, Fraternizing With Anarchists!



19th Century Carlist Wars Are Getting More Popular As They Attempt To Enforce Salic Law



**But 100 Years Later It Still Isn't Working-The King Of Spain Is Still Of The Isabelline Line
Up Close-The Carlists Try Again To Enforce The Salic Law (No Luck This Time Either)**



Jim Brokaw Brings Back The Age of Marlborough



Looks Like The Blue King's Horse Guards Are In Deep Trouble



Later Jim Deployed His New Favorites-ACW Model Ships

EPILOGUE

Basically COLDWARS 2013 was a solid convention. I hope I've been able to give some impression of the range and quality of games. But even though no effort was made to stimulate gaming on Sunday and the dealer area was closed down around noon, there were by my informal count 342 listed events not including separate games or even rounds of the numerous tournaments. There was an extensive Painting University, though the Seminar Schedule lacked the Academic Luster of some previous HISTORICONS it was present and emphasized presentations by members of an HMGS honorary (The Legion of Honor) more than professional historians.

But consistently throughout the two principle days of the convention there were lively well attended games, mostly somewhat historical but with a leaven of dark side stuff, going on throughout the facility. The dealer area probably had fewer tables than almost a decade ago when a backlog of dealers led people to think about "Next Levels" for HISTORICON. But this was COLDWARS-normally no more than two thirds the size of the larger convention. And both the gaming and shopping venues seemed better attended than those of HISTORICONS in the days of delusions.

We won't have a good idea of the actual numbers until HMGS Inc.'s accounting firm turns in the financial reports from which the attendance can be determined. However, I'm fairly sure that the numbers will be substantial for COLDWARS.