

**COLDWARS 2010**  
11-14 March 2010



A colonial game Thursday in an almost empty DISTLEFINK

COLDWARS 2010 got off to a bit of a slow start. This may have been partly out of habit, since normally COLDWARS is a 3 day show. But HMGS owed the HOST a three day and a four day show after moving HISTORICON. Also the winter had been strange. A number of people, including Manny Granillo who was to run my SCW scenario with PANZERKORPS rules on Thursday afternoon, registered but were unable to attend.

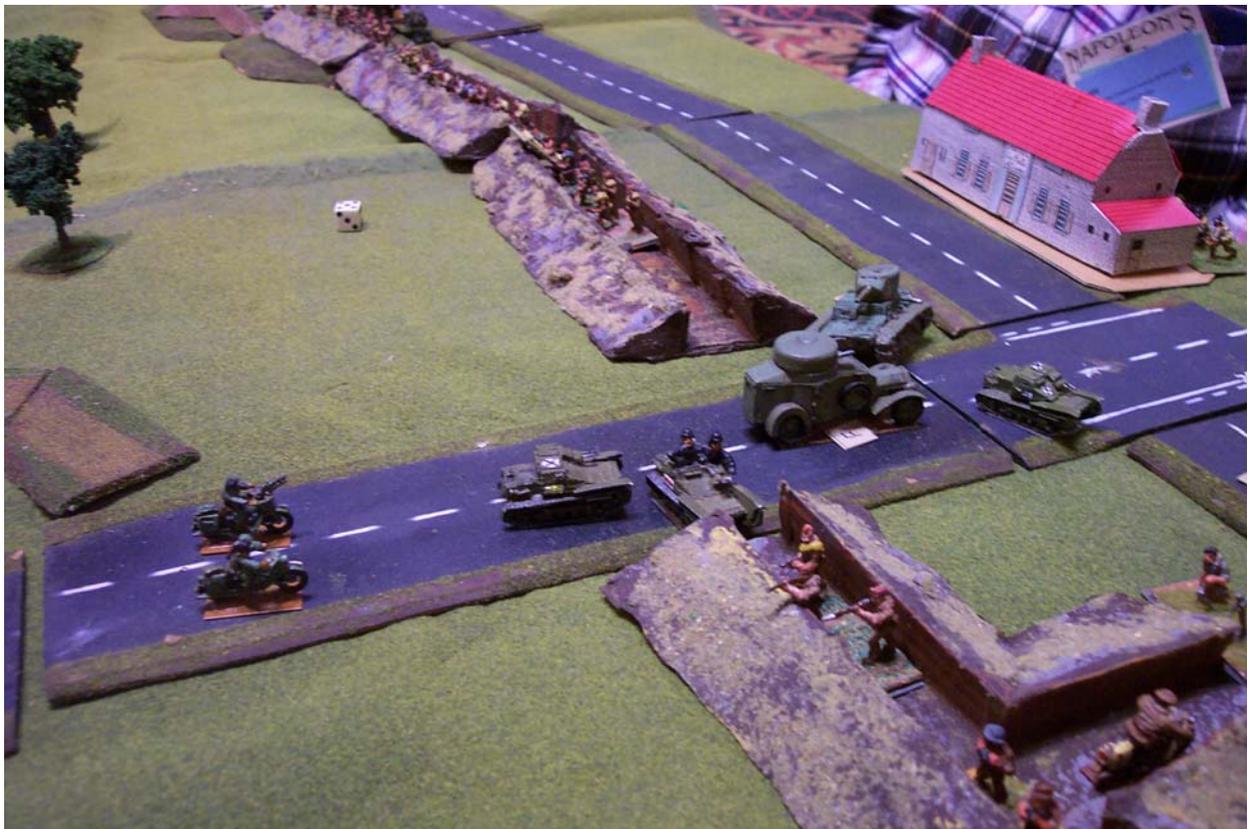
The same applied initially to the dealer area. Several tables near me were empty, but they had been reserved by MICHEGAN TOY SOLDIER, which had to cancel at the last moment. Gradually the attendance built up. But, again, some who had pre-registered could not attend. And there was a surprising surge of one day admissions on Saturday to make up for it.

When the financial reports were finally posted there was an 11% drop in paid attendance compared to last year. But some of the paid attendance was probably not there. And as stated, there seems to have been more one day admissions than anticipated. So while some could not make it, others who perhaps hadn't planned to attend came through at the last minute.

All in all, it was not one of the better attended COLDWARS. But after a slow start the attendance picked up and there were games to go around throughout the weekend. I had set up my "CARATARRA FRANZIA" Spanish Civil War game in the afternoon for Manny, but though pre-registered, he couldn't make it. So the game took place with my rules after dealer hours.



By evening when I ran my game attendance had picked up a bit.



The game went fairly smoothly in spite of the inexperience with my rules of most of the players. In the end after having most of their armor wrecked by the Russian T-26bs the Italian Fascists managed to seize the road to France.



And elsewhere Frank Chadwick ran a Battle of France Game which seemed to attract many gamers over the length of the game.



German Strong Point in France



The theme was Napoleon's Enemies. There were perhaps a few more Napoleonic games including the Russian battle shown above. But nowhere near as preponderant as used to be commonplace.



French Cavalry in a Theme Game



Best of Show proved to be Phil Viverito's Alesia setup-played all weekend. It seemed to be going all the time with a succession of players.



Alesia up close and personal. It is not at all unusual for Phil Viverito to get best of show for his masterpieces. And this year at COLDWARS the scenario repeated with a changing cast of characters. I don't know if the Gauls ever won or not.



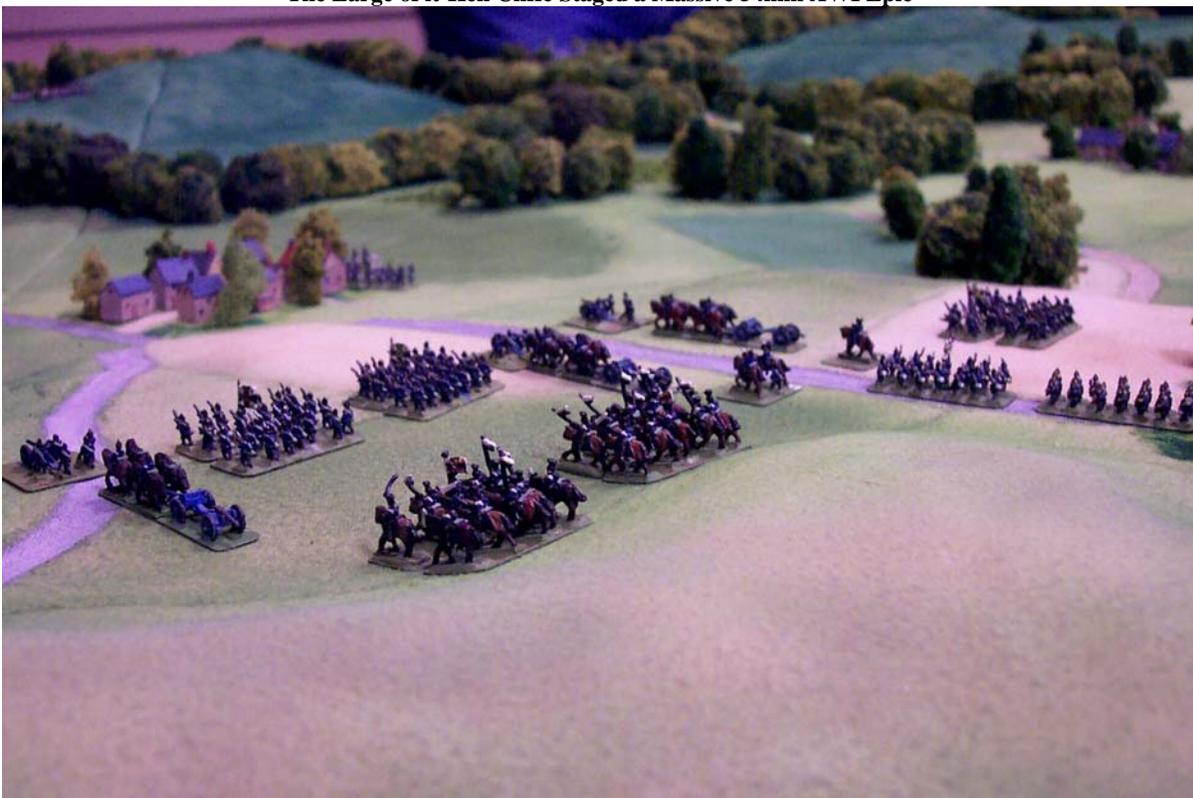
**Bill Gray contributed a series of Battles of Blenheim with his usual well laid out and carefully researched terrain and armies**



**As a one time flats wargamers the HAWKS 40mm half rounds fascinate me.**



**The Large of it-Ken Cliffe Staged a Massive 54mm AWI Epic**



**And the small of it-Bruce Weigle's 6mm Austro Prussian War.**

**COLDWARS 2010 was an enjoyable, but puzzling convention. Perhaps it is surprising that the paid attendance only dropped 11% considering that plans had been disrupted by uncertain weather prior to the convention, and there were across the board increases in admissions. Yet there were more empty dealer tables and dealer prices had not been increased.**