

HISTORICON 2014

17-20 JULY 2014

THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF HISTORICON 1984-2014

Fredericksburg Expo Center



Anniversary Cake Served Saturday 19 July 2014

It was in April of 1984 that our negotiations with a major multi-genre convention (ATLANTICON) fizzled out. For the second time we had to scramble for a prime time convention. In 1983 it was NYCON-a small affair in Manhattan (a high rent district.) So we went ahead and started HISTORICON. The first one (July 1984) was held "The Bunker" an underground parking garage in the Maryland Suburbs of DC. But by 1987 having outgrown the "bunker" we moved to the Penn Harris in Camp Hill PA in 1987. By 1991 we had outgrown that facility as well, and moved onto the Lancaster Host in Lancaster PA. From there HISTORICON moved to the Valley Forge Convention Center for 2010 and 2011. And in 2012 we came to Fredericksburg VA.

Compared to our 25th Anniversary Celebration the 30th was muted. Instead of a \$3,500 cake from hell we got a more modest one through COSTCO. And the oratory was scaled down. But while none of us had an expiration date for HISTORICON in mind, all of us who have supported HISTORICON over the years are very happy to see it alive and thriving thirty years down the road.



Usually 40mm Flats Are Imitation SYW By HAWKS.



This Time It Was AMR By a New GM On Thursday Night



American Rebels Advance Thursday Evening



For A Change I Got A Full House For My Jarama 1937 Game!



One Of The Most Colorful Games Was Duncan McFarlane's BATTLE OF FARKLOW



Sponsored By WARGAMES ILLUSTRATED-Napoleonic Brits Versus Irish Pikes



The Display Was Up Most Of The Convention-Don't Know How Many Times It Ran



Wednesday Night Heather Blush and Her Daughter Work The Desk



The Following Day Perhaps The Largest Miniature Hobby University Began With Six And A Half Pages of Listings In The Program



Napoleonics Were Well Represented- These 28mm Offerings Appeared Thursday



As Did These Smaller Versions



There Was Even A Napoleonic Mini Campaign Which Increased The Representation



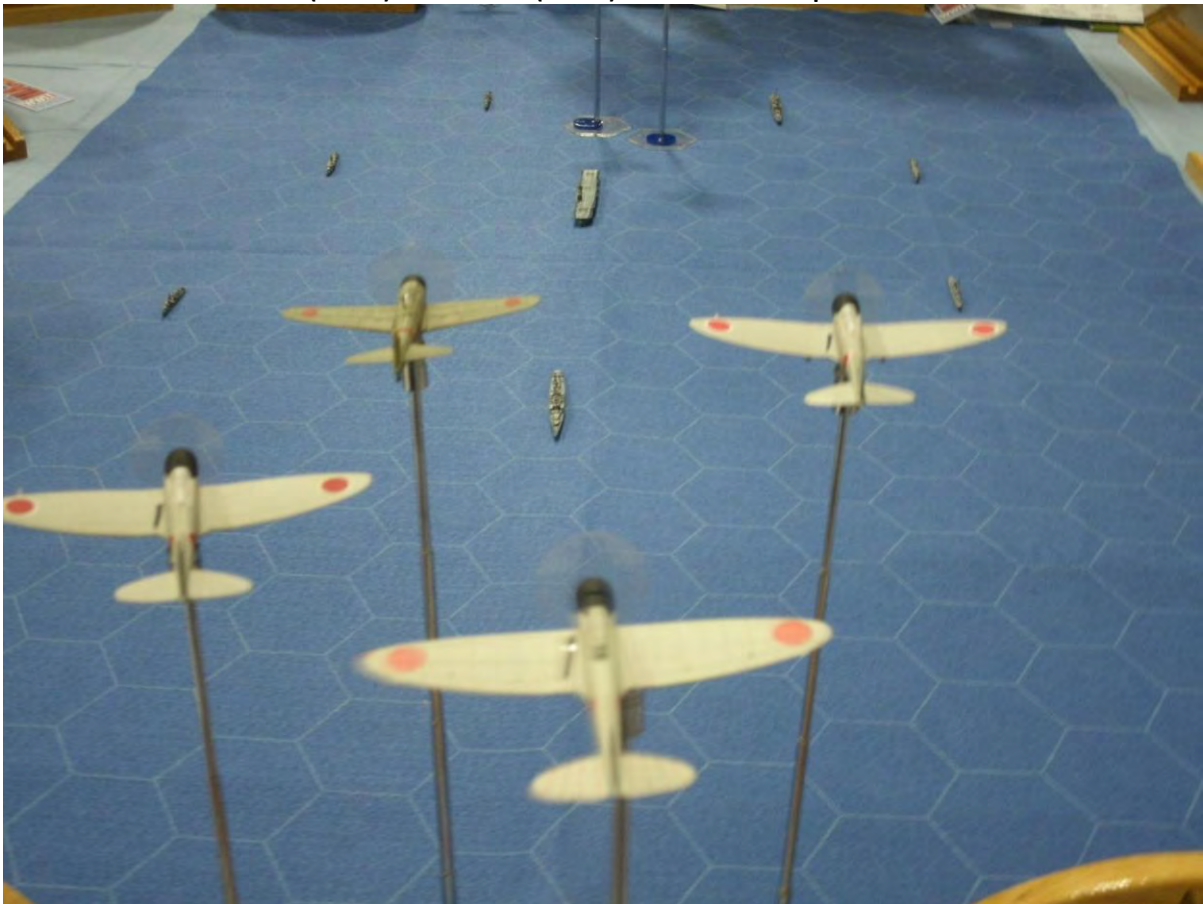
More Napoleonic Action-And High Quality As Well



A More Classic Macro Napoleonic Game



First (Polish) And Second (Dutch) Lancers of the Imperial Guard



Of Course There Were Other Periods-Air And Naval WWII



Zeroes and Hellcats Mix It Up-Above Large Planes Attack Tiny Ships



Modern Ships Tend To Be Small



Age Of Sail Vessels Are Larger



Some Are Big Enough To Actually Be Seen



A Sizeable FOW Tournament or Two-But Not The National



This Game Had More SP 90mm On An M13/40 Chassis Than Mussolini Ever Had



As Usual The Tournament Scene Included the DB Series



De Bellis Antiquitates (DBA) Ran Most Of The Convention



But Ancient And Later Periods Were Well Represented In Tournament And Stand Alone



An Odd Mix



A Lively Renaissance Scrum



An Impressive Stand of Pike



But Polish Winged Hussars Are a Crowd Favorite





Not Exactly Historical-Frank Chadwick's Mars As Of 1889



Overflowed By A Contemporary Airship



The Tournament Area (Mostly FOW Here) Filled Up Early



WW II Battle of the Bulge Wednesday Night-The first of Pete Panzeri's Zvezda Mega Games



Former HCON Director Bob Giglio Sits in On a Philippine Insurrection Game



American Imperialists Advance



Bill Moreno Maneuvers His 10mm ACW Minions



Bill Moreno Back At His Booth In The Vendor Area-He Was Also Inducted Into the HMGS Legion Of Honor At HISTORICON 2014



"Wally's Basement" AKA The Flea Market Always Draws a Crowd



Still More Of Wally's Basement



Col. Bill Gray Has Variations On Rich Hasenauer's Fire And Fury



From 1700 To The Russo Japanese War-But The Crimea Is A Good Fit-The Most Recent European War Before the American Civil War



Wally's Basement Veteran Bob Wiltrout Runs a Soccer Game-I rated it Historical



Only Token Attention Was Paid To The 100th Anniversary Of The Start Of The Great War-I've Seen Genuine 1914 Games In The Past-This Looks Like 1917 With The Wrong Tanks

A RECAP OF HISTORICON 2014

This convention reflected continued efforts on the part of the facility and the local community (Fredericksburg of 1862 fame) to accommodate HMGS' Flagship Convention. There were a lot of cloth partitions set up, and extensive temporary carpeting laid down to reduce noise. Admittedly I became hoarse running a game Thursday night owing to "ambient noise." But it was better than it has been in the past.

HISTORICON 2014 was, as noted, the 30th Anniversary of the first HISTORICON-1984 at the Sheraton New Carollton Bunker. Owing in part to the small size of meeting rooms at the Expo Center, it was much smaller than the 25th Anniversary (Lancaster Host) and featured a much less expensive cake. But it was fairly well attended, and featured a good spread of games.

In terms of individual games by my count there were 503 scheduled, and at least as many "open games" as cancellations. We hear a lot about the corruption of HMGS conventions. In this case I counted 386 historical and 117 dark side (fantasy, sci-fi, and pulp.) And the tournaments seem to have expanded. I counted 22, of which the HORDES OF THE THINGS (HOTT) Tournament was actually converted from Fantasy to Victorian Colonial. The only certain non-historical (at least by tournament standards) was War Gods Of Aegyptus.

The HMGS WAR COLLEGE had some interesting lectures-wish they made transcripts of them. And the MINIATURE HOBBY UNIVERSITY was going strong throughout the convention with a wide variety of well attended offerings.

This convention did not set an attendance record. But it was lively and active.