



HISTORICON™

Historical Miniature Gaming's Biggest Summer Vacation! **2008**

THE MILITARY SEMINAR SERIES

The Military History Forum returns for its third year at HMGS. Join with authors, artists, rules and scenario designers, gaming and hobby VIPs, etc., for some of the most interesting seminars and discussions you've ever attended as a wargamer or student of military history. The following is a list of the seminars offered at this year's convention. This year's convention theme is also well represented with some great seminars about the Seven Years' and French & Indian Wars. [Seminars are not available for pre-registration – they are a first-come first-seated basis in the Hopewell or Laurel Grove rooms at the convention, so plan to arrive early to ensure a seat!]

THURSDAY

Ground Combat in the Clouds: Mountain Warfare Tactical and Operational Considerations

Thursday 1:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Lester Grau – *Guest of Honor*

Man has been fighting for control of mountains for centuries, despite this being one of the toughest locales for a good dust-up. It is a different fight with different tactics and different operational considerations. Les Grau takes a look at high-altitude fighting with an emphasis on the Sino-Indian War, the Indian-Pakistan fight for the Siachen Glacier and British/Soviet/US attempts in Afghanistan.

Secret Turning Points of the Napoleonic Wars

Thursday 2 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

Dana Lombardy, *Armchair General Magazine*

Famous, decisive battles from 1805-1815 such as Austerlitz, Borodino, Waterloo, etc., have been the subject of numerous books and even movies. Less well-known, but equally critical decisions and events also took place that had significant impact on the course of the Napoleonic Wars. Dana Lombardy, former publisher of *Napoleon Journal*, presents a seminar offering "secret" turning points that led to strategic advantages or fatal errors. This will be a fun seminar where the audience can participate by suggesting their favorite "secret" turning points in the Q&A portion of the talk.

Preliminaries to Operation Blau and Blau I and II, 1 Apr. - 23 July 1942

Thursday 3 PM, 2 hrs, Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*

Describes German and Soviet planning for the summer campaign of 1942, the genesis of Operation Blau, operations conducted from 22 May to July 1942, to include Khar'kov and Kerch' (May 1942), Operations Fridercus and Wilhelm (June 1942), the fall of Sevastopol' (June to July 1942), and operations during Blau I and II (28 June to 23 July 1942).

How to Write History (*without putting people to sleep!*)

Thursday 3 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

Gerald D. Swick, *Armchair General Magazine*

Aching to see your name as the author of a book or article about Austerlitz, War Plan Orange, or the value of Spanish moss to the Confederate cavalry? Stumped about how much research to do, how to approach an editor, or whether you can include humor in your historical writing? Whether you're interested in writing military, social or political history, this is the seminar for you!

A Fresh Look at First Bull Run

Thursday 4 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

John Hill – *Guest of Honor*

The battle of First Bull Run has often been dismissed as a bungling clash between amateur armies. However, John Hill will make a convincing case that commanders on both sides exhibited a relatively high level of tactical

competence and operational skill throughout a hard fought, day-long battle – and when compared to many later battles, it was downright masterful.

Beginnings to the Age of Louis XIV – Theme Seminar

Thursday 5 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*

Light troops in Ancient times and their tactics. Renewed interest in the second half of the 17th century; notably regarding light cavalry hussars. The influence of Indian tactics on early European troops in America.

Turkey's Remarkable Victory: The Crimean War's 1853 Danube Campaign

Thursday 5 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

Frank Chadwick

In July 1853, eighty thousand Russian troops invaded the Danube Principalities – modern day Rumania – and triggered the Crimean War. The outcome of the war seemed almost a foregone conclusion. Russia in 1853 was the dominant military power in Europe, had been since the Napoleonic Wars. The Turkish Army, by comparison, was poorly trained, equipped, disciplined and – it was widely believed – poorly led. Twelve months later, Russia withdrew from the Principalities. In the intervening time, six major engagements were fought – Kalafat, Oltenitsa, Citate, Rahova, Silistria, and Giurgevo – every one of them a Turkish victory. What happened? Frank Chadwick walks you through the critical decisions and events of the campaign along with a detailed description of the Russian and Turkish Armies in 1853. *Handouts provided.*

FRIDAY

Operations in the "Great Bend" of the Don River and Between the Don and Volga Rivers, 22 July - 2 Sept. 1942

Friday 9 AM, 2 hrs, Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*

Describes German Sixth Army's advance into the "Great Bend" of the Don River, Fourth Panzer Army's advance south of the Don River, Soviet defensive planning and the formation of 62nd and 64th Armies, and combat between Army Group B's Sixth and Fourth Panzer Armies and Stalingrad Front's 62nd and 64th Armies up to 2 Sept. 1942. Concludes with Sixth and Fourth Panzer armies' advance to the Volga River at Stalingrad.

Withdrawal Without Leaving Chaos: The Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Friday 9 AM, 2 hrs, Laurel Grove Room

Lester Grau – *Guest of Honor*

Contrary to US lore and Al Qaeda revisionist history, the Soviet Union was not driven out of Afghanistan. It conducted a skilled operation involving mutually supporting diplomatic, economic and military plans coupled with a strong "Afghanization" program. The Soviets left behind a viable government that outlasted the Soviet Union. Their withdrawal operation might well serve as a model for other withdrawals by other armed forces.

"Where the Leaf Falls, Let it Rot" – Captain Robert Cholmely and the Braddock Campaign of 1755 – Theme Seminar

Friday 11 AM, 1 hr., Hopewell Room

Dr. Walter Powell, Executive Director of the Conococheaque Institute

The British and colonial military expedition led by General Edward Braddock in the summer of 1755 seemed full of promise, and despite the daunting challenges of building a road across rugged mountain terrain in Maryland and Pennsylvania, very nearly succeeded. The story of this expedition, and its tragic aftermath, is explored through the first person account of Captain Robert Cholmely's "batman."

The American Civil War in the Southwest

Friday 11 AM, 1.5 hrs, Laurel Grove Room

John Hill – *Guest of Honor*

The Confederate invasion of New Mexico in 1862 represented one of the most arduous long distance – from San Antonio to Santa Fe – in the entire civil war. And the battles of Valverde, Apache Pass, and Glorietta demonstrated an unequaled tactical variety; to include the Civil Wars' only confirmed lancer charge along with an incredible cast of improbable characters and leaders.

Osprey Insights: From Development to the Latest Publications

Friday 12:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Richard Sullivan, Osprey Publishing

Richard Sullivan, Marketing Director, from [Osprey Publishing](#) will talk about the company in more detail and to give you some sneak previews of new titles. Topics will include how Osprey makes their publishing decisions, what is the best way to submit a synopsis if you are interested in becoming an author, a chance to suggest new title ideas, what their bestsellers are, who to contact with about new title ideas and news on the latest online developments. Plus information on the new army lists coming out in the *Field of Glory* series!

General Macdonald's Crossing of the Alps in 1800

Friday 12:30 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

Rick Parrish

This seminar will deal with General Macdonald's epic march across the Alps in 1800-01, after the Battle of Hohenlinden, and before the Treaty of Luneville. Macdonald's Army of the Grisons formed the lynch-pin between the Army of Italy, led by General Brune and the Army of the Rhine, commanded by General Jean Moreau. Unlike Napoleon, however, Macdonald had to march through the Alps in winter...!

German Defenses at Omaha Beach

Friday 2 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Steven Zaloga

This presentation will describe the German coastal defenses at Omaha Beach on D-Day including newly discovered German maps, historical photos, and contemporary photos of the site today.

New France: Light Troops in Frontier Warfare, 1680-1740 – Theme Seminar

Friday 3 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*

Early use of light troops features from the 1630s. The development of a Canadian doctrine involving light troops in frontier warfare, 1680s-1740s, absolute success of this doctrine over European and Indian opponents, and its lack of 'publicity'.

How To Deploy Seven Years' War Battalions and Brigades – Theme Seminar

Friday 4 PM, 1 hr, Fireplace Area – Main Lobby

Bill Protz & Jim Purky – *Guests of Honor*

Join Bill Protz, author of "Drums of War Along The Mohawk and his new *Batailles de l'Ancien Régime 1740-1763* (BAR) for an easy, fun and informative session about mid-18th Century battle lines. You will benefit by a hand's on experience deploying battalions and squadrons from line to column and back again as was done 250 years ago. The importance of intervals, passing through the lines, seniority and other dynamics will also be explained. If time allows, Bill will form you into small platoons marching you into column and line for a visual and physical means to uniquely understand how things were done. Adapt all this to you own games. Be sure to wear a tricornered hat!

The World Ablaze: An Introduction to the Seven Years' War – Theme Seminar

Friday 4:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Martin West, Director of Fort Ligonier

This program, based on a new, permanent exhibition at Fort Ligonier on the Seven Years' War, is a narrative of the conflict, the most significant war of the 18th century. It presents images from 300 original objects on display, as well as numerous contemporary pictures, from the Seven Years' War theaters of North America, Maritime, Central Europe, Western Europe, India, Africa and Spain, and concludes with the legacy of the war.

War for Empire in Western Pennsylvania – Theme Seminar

Friday 6 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Doug MacGregor, Fort Pitt Museum

Often forgotten in textbooks, the French and Indian War is far more than the paragraph preceding the American Revolution. The events and results of this war would have a tremendous impact on global events as well as the American Revolution. George Washington would get his first taste of battle in this war as he ignited the conflict. This presentation will cover the conflict in Pennsylvania including Washington's loss at Fort Necessity, General Braddock's disastrous defeat along the Monongahela and the victorious campaign of General John Forbes in 1758, resulting in the creation of Pittsburgh.

The Road to Empire: The Building of the Forbes Road and the Forbes Campaign of 1758 – Theme Seminar

Friday 7 PM, 1 hr., Hopewell Room

Dr. Walter Powell, Executive Director of the Conococheague Institute

The Forbes Campaign of 1758 was one of the most important military expeditions of the French and Indian War in North America. Yet despite the successful capture of the French Fort Duquesne on November 25th, the victorious outcome of this campaign was by no means assured, and, at times, seemed destined to fail. Personalities, inter-colonial political rivalries, and the sheer magnitude of trying to build a road across 150 miles of Pennsylvania's most rugged mountain terrain – all played a role. This seminar will examine the challenges faced by General John Forbes and Colonel Henry Bouquet as they successfully maneuvered their way through engineering, logistical, and political problems to complete a road and pave the way for British victory.

Frederick the Great – Theme Seminar

Friday 8 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*

The King of Prussia develops his concept of light troops as tactical shock units – notably hussars and jaegers. Publications (including one attributed to Frederick) dealing with various aspects of light troops start to appear in continental Europe.

Lessons and Heroes from 30-Years-a-Soldier

Friday 9:30 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Pete Panzeri

Join decorated combat veteran infantryman Pete Panzeri along with both video and photos to impart his “Lessons-Learned and Modern-Day Heroes” from over 30 Years of active service on five continents, during five foreign conflicts, starting as private E-1 in 1977, and culminating in leading a battalion. According to the Royal Military Academy's War Studies head: "Some of Panzeri's lessons learned are controversial, some are heartbreaking, some are hilarious, but ALL are astonishing."

SATURDAY

Patterns and Predictability: A Soviet View of Operation Linebacker II during the Vietnam War

Saturday 9 AM, 2 hrs, Laurel Grove Room

Lester Grau – *Guest of Honor*

President Nixon launched Operation Linebacker II over the Christmas holiday at the end of the Vietnam War to force North Vietnam back to the negotiating table before Congress could reconvene and strip him of any negotiating power. The USAF claims the operation was a major victory since the North Vietnamese did return to negotiate. The North Vietnamese claim victory since they downed so many B-52 bombers. The most-neutral observers were, strangely enough, the Soviet advisers to the North Vietnamese Air Defense Forces. Their records are now declassified and present a compelling look at what really happened during the Christmas bombings.

1757 – Year of Battle: The First Campaign of the Seven Years' War – Theme Seminar

Saturday 10 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Frank Chadwick

Frederick the Great invaded Saxony in 1756 and precipitated the Seven Years' War, but it was not until 1757 that the major belligerents were fully mobilized. Europe was prepared for another war of maneuver and sieges, punctuated by the occasional pitched battle. What they got instead was a maelstrom; six major battles – Prague, Kolin, Hastenbeck, Gross Jaegersdorf, Rossbach, and Leuthen – all in one campaign season. It was combat at a level of intensity for which none of the combatants were prepared. It brought Prussia to the brink of annihilation, and left all of the major armies – Prussia, France, Austria, and Russia -- damaged instruments. Frank Chadwick provides a detailed look at this remarkable first campaign, and what it meant for the remaining course of the war. *Handouts provided.*

Secret Turning Points of the American Civil War

Saturday 11 AM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

Dana Lombardy, Armchair General Magazine

Dana Lombardy, designer and editor of *The First Battle of Bull Run: Campaign of First Manassas*, continues his popular series of “secret” turning points lectures with a look at the decisions (and non-decisions) that have been overlooked or downplayed in most books written about America’s Civil War. What decision crippled Lee’s invasion of the North in 1863 before his army even left Virginia? What simple oversight hamstrung Grant’s army in its first encounter in 1864 in Virginia? Audience participation is encouraged during the Q&A segment of the seminar.

Seven Years’ War in Europe – Theme Seminar

Saturday 11AM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Charles K. Bunger

This seminar will focus on the campaigns of Ferdinand of Brunswick against the French. Showing the battlefields as they are now and comparing them to contemporary battle maps, also discussing the campaigns in some detail as the theatre of operation was actually larger than those of Frederick’s battles in the east.

Casemate: Exclusive Insights into the Military Book World

Saturday 12:30 PM, 30 minutes, Hopewell Room

Simone Drinkwater, Casemate Publishing

Simone is the Marketing and New Business Director of [Casemate](http://www.casematepublishing.com), the fastest-growing military history publisher and distributor (previously Business Development Manager, and former Commissioning Editor, at Osprey Publishing), and will talk about Casemate in more detail and provide you with exclusive highlights of future publications. As Casemate are also distributors for a number of other military publishers, including Histoire & Collections, Pen and Sword, Foundry, Greenhill Books and Heimdal, amongst others, you can be sure to find out everything there is to know about the developments of the military book world! If this wasn’t enough, there will also be the chance to find out more about becoming an author, the opportunity to suggest ideas for new titles, and even put in your request for any out-of-print books you would like to see reprinted. *For more info on Casemate and their range of military history books and DVDs, please visit www.casematepublishing.com*

Frederick the Great...oh Really? – Theme Seminar

Saturday 1 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Bob Fulton

As SYW gamers we know the legend of Frederick the Great, and read praises of his skills and innovative approaches to battle. But was Frederick really that great? Most comparisons that are made in this regard by historians are comparisons to Napoleon, Caesar or Alexander. But Frederick was not fighting with phalanxes, Roman legions or masses of French assault columns. He was a product of his day – of dynastic politics, linear tactics and massive firefights – and that is where we need to seek the benchmark for an examination of his skills. This discussion presents an analysis of Frederick’s campaigns and battle tactics, and specifically deals with his skill as a strategist and tactician. We’ll explore some of his political triumphs and blunders as well.

Ben Butler: The Union’s Most Underrated General

Saturday 1 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

John Hill – *Guest of Honor*

While the popular impression was that General "Beast" Butler was one of the worst of the Union's political generals, John Hill will make a compelling case that he was, in fact, one of the best and that without Butler's brilliant resource and logistic management, the Petersburg campaign would have been impossible.

Poland Is Still Free! The Polish Armed Forces in 1939

Saturday 2 PM, 1 hr, Laurel Grove Room

Frank Chadwick

Germany invaded Poland in September of 1939 as the first act of World War II. Few modern campaigns have produced more absurd propaganda myths than this one – Polish cavalry charged German tanks with lances, the Polish Air Force was destroyed on the ground the first day, the German Army reaffirmed its tradition of tactical skill – all false. Frank Chadwick takes on some of these myths, and also gives a detailed breakdown of the organization, equipment, and capabilities of the Polish Army. *Handouts provided.*

Fort Ligonier: Outpost of the British Empire – Theme Seminar

Saturday 2:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Martin West, Director of Fort Ligonier

This program examines the history of Fort Ligonier, set against the backdrop of the 1758 Forbes expedition against French Fort Duquesne. George Washington’s role in the expedition is highlighted, including the infamous Fort

Ligonier friendly fire incident, of which he later wrote, "I never was in more imminent danger." Fort Ligonier commemorates its 250th anniversary this year, 1758-2008.

Triumph and Its Limits: The Battle of the Monongahela, 9 July 1755 – Theme Seminar

Saturday 4 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room
René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*

Seminar will discuss this battle and the outstanding example of light troop tactics by French and Indians, plus the limitations of light troops faced with powerful regular armies that have outstanding logistical support.

The Struggle for Stalingrad's Suburbs and Center City, 3 Sept. - 5 Oct. 1942

Saturday 4 PM, 2 hrs, Laurel Grove Room
Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*

Describes, on a street-by-street and hour-by-hour basis, the struggle for Stalingrad's suburbs and center city between German Sixth and Fourth Panzer Armies and Soviet 62nd and 64th Armies, and combat on the periphery of Stalingrad.

The Role of the Riflemen in the American War of Independence—A Reassessment

Saturday 5:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room
James R. Mc Intyre, Moraine Valley Community College

Based on extensive research in both primary and secondary materials, this presentation seeks to offer a balanced appraisal of these troops. In doing so, it will provide an examination of the weapons carried by the riflemen, the strengths and liabilities of both the men and their weapons. Likewise, the tactics the riflemen used and the overall combat effectiveness of these troops will be discussed as well. In addition to describing the positives and negatives of the contributions made by the riflemen in the northern department, this presentation will incorporate material on the use of rifles in the southern campaigns, an arena often neglected by historians who seek to point out the liabilities of the weapons and the troops who carried it. In the end, a new understanding of the contribution of the riflemen to the winning of independence will emerge that places the efforts of these troops into a more balanced perspective.

Killing for Buddha – The Tibetan Army, 1911-50

Saturday 7 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room
John Dunn, Valdosta State University

This presentation is on Lamaist Tibet and its failed effort to create a modern military machine. Focused on the 13th Dalai Lama, the "God King" of Tibet, who was chased from his capital by British troops in 1904, and then Chinese in 1908, breaks with tradition and decides to create a strong army. Its nucleus drove out Lhasa's Chinese garrison during the Tibetan Revolution of 1911, then was augmented, and defeated warlord armies in Kham between 1912 and 1919. In the end, this army became powerful enough to threaten the Tibetan monastic establishment, and lost the God King's support. After 1924, the Tibetan military lost funding, and was involved in power plays during the interregnum between the death of the 13th (1933), and discovery of the 14th Dalai Lama (1939). It also failed to hold eastern Kham during renewed conflict with warlord forces in 1934. Afterwards, internal politics gravely impaired efforts to beef up this Army, which was involved with internal security issues during the 1940s. Repeated failures allowed for the People's Liberation Army of Red China to overwhelm resistance in 1950.

Anglo-American Light Troops in the 18th Century – Theme Seminar

Saturday 8 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room
René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*

British American colonies and light troops – the evolution of ranger units and their use as regular troops from mid-18th century. Advent of regular light troops in the British army. Demise of light troops in the French armies. Conclusions.

SUNDAY

The Largest Tank Battle in History?

Sunday 9 AM, 1 hr, Wheatland Room
Moderator: Dana Lombardy; Panel: Frank Chadwick, Col. David Glantz, John Hill and Pete Panzeri

From WWII to Desert Storm, which was the Largest Tank Battle in History? The numbers are there to count; but what constitutes a Tank Battle? What counts as a Tank? What counts as one battle? How many days over how many miles with how many formations can one engagement be counted as "The Largest Tank Battle in History"? Our panel of

WWII subject-matter experts' opinions may differ slightly. After a brief introduction, each will speak. Then for 30 minutes the panel, and then the audience will question each. Knowing the backgrounds of our panelists, this is something *NOT* to be missed!

The Struggle for Stalingrad's Factory District, 6 Oct. - 18 Nov. 1942

Sunday 11 AM, 2 hrs., Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*

Describes, on a street-by-street and hour-by-hour basis, the fight for possession of Stalingrad's factory district between Sixth Army's LI Army and XIV Panzer Corps and Soviet 62nd Army, and covers peripheral operations affecting the city fight.