



HISTORICON™

Historical Miniature Gaming's Biggest Summer Vacation! **2009**

The 25th “Silver” Anniversary of HISTORICON

HMGS WAR COLLEGE **(Formerly the Military Seminar Series)**

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 Napoleon, his rivals, and the major campaigns and battles of 1809 and during the Peninsula War of 1807-14, and includes special talks about the *Sharpe* series of movies. *Note: Seminars are not available for pre-registration – they are a first-come first-seated basis at the convention – so plan to arrive early to ensure a seat!*

THURSDAY

Modern Trends in Intelligence Analysis

Thursday 11 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Peter Mancini, Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

In the post-2001 world the U.S. Intelligence community was taken to task for not “connecting the dots” to predict a “known unknown” (the 9-11 Attacks). Since then, there have been major efforts to get our make disparate intelligence communities to share information and to build better systems. This presentation looks at the problems faced over the last several years, some of the solutions and what the future holds.

Louis-Alexandre Berthier in the American Revolution

Thursday 12 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Prof. James McIntyre

Louis-Alexandre Berthier is most commonly recognized as Napoleon Bonaparte's chief of staff, who served with him throughout much of his career beginning with the Italian campaign of 1796. Few are aware that Berthier actually enjoyed a long career prior to ever meeting the young Corsican who would-be emperor. Part of this distinguished career even included service under the Comte de Rochambeau as part the *Expédition Particulière* to the aid the United States in what came to be the Yorktown Campaign.

We will examine Berthier's role in the expedition to the U.S. In doing so, it will shed new light on the background of one of Napoleon Bonaparte's most prized subordinates, and contend that many of the skills that would later make Berthier such an invaluable chief of staff were first honed under combat conditions in the North America. The chief source for this investigation will be the journal Berthier kept during his participation in the campaign, supplemented by those of several French officers who took part in the campaign, as well as relevant American and British sources. While primary focus will be Berthier's role in the French expeditionary force in the Yorktown campaign, additional info will be provided on his activities up to the Italian Campaign of 1796, when he first met Bonaparte, as well as comments on the conditions that surrounded his death in 1815.

Planning and the Belorussia Operation

Thursday 1 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

Describes why and how the Soviet *Stavka* and General Staff planned and conducted Operation Bagration, a strategic offensive the Red Army conducted from 22 June through August 1944 to liberate German-controlled Belorussia. Launched by the Soviet 1st Baltic and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Belorussian Fronts, the offensive struck German Army Group Center's Third, Fourth, and Ninth Armies, which were manning defenses anchored on the eastern Belorussian cities of Vitebsk, Mogilev, and Bobruisk. In just over a month of active combat, Soviet forces destroyed the bulk of three German armies, captured Minsk, the capital of Belorussia, and began an exploitation that ultimately propelled Soviet forces westward into the Baltic States and into the German "heartland" of East Prussia.

Intelligence Success and Failures in Operation Desert Storm

Thursday 2:30 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

John Hill; Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

The speaker, a 20-year veteran of the US Intelligence Community, will use both historical and analytical approaches to assess the performance of both National and Theater Level intelligence organizations in Operation Desert Storm. Examines the three critical functions of any intelligence organization: intelligence collection, dissemination, and analysis and offer an assessment of what was done well and/or poorly in each of these areas during Desert Storm.

First French Invasion of Portugal, 1807-08 – Theme Seminar

Thursday 3:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: Osprey Publishing

First of three seminars on the three French invasions of Portugal 1807-11, presented with many illustrations of the personalities, troops, and battlefields. The presenter has traveled all over Portugal and western Spain retracing these campaigns. These invasions failed as Napoleon did not manage to detain the royal family of Portugal, nor did his armies to occupy Portugal permanently.

The subject of this presentation is the first invasion under General Junot in late 1807, which was initially unopposed. The Portuguese Royal Family and court did not surrender, but rather fled to Brazil. A harsh French occupation followed, and by 1808, the Spanish Revolt spread to Portugal and the whole country rose up. With the arrival of a British expeditionary force under General Welsley (later called Wellington), the French were beaten at Roliça and Vimeiro, and evacuate the country. *Note: The seminar includes many illustrations of the personalities, troops and battlefields; the lecturer has traveled all over Portugal and western Spain retracing these campaigns of the Peninsular War.*

Historical Art – Capturing the Past: *The Creative Process*

Thursday 5 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Keith Rocco, Historical Artist

Rocco looks to the conception of historical art as we know it today from Meissonier to Frederick Remington. He then proceeds to explain the traditional methods employed in creating both these past masters and his own current works. The slide show is full of artwork and the step-by-step process, with always interesting conversations about painting, artifact collecting and historical research.

How Not to Fight a Civil War Battle: Bad Tactics, Poor Marksmanship, and Questionable Decision Making at the Battle of Pilot Knob

Thursday 6 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Dr. Kyle Sinisi

In September of 1864, the Confederacy launched its last major offensive west of the Mississippi River. Over 12,000 poorly armed and equipped cavalymen under the command of Major General Sterling Price rode and walked into Missouri with the primary intention of liberating a state that had been occupied by Union forces since 1861. Should Price not be able to peel Missouri away from the Union, his secondary mission was to scour the state for recruits and war material. Price's objectives were considerable yet fruitless. After riding 1,400 miles and fighting over forty engagements, Price accomplished little except for the destruction of his own army.

This campaign has drawn a minimal amount of scholarly and popular attention despite its strategic significance and its status as the longest sustained cavalry operation of the war. This is unfortunate as the campaign can serve as a primer on cavalry operations during the Civil War. Of particular relevance was the Battle of Pilot Knob, which occurred near the outset of the campaign on September 27. Pilot Knob has not lacked for historical treatment, but that treatment has shown little originality. Historians have tended to focus on just a few aspects of the battle, including the perceived bold decision making of Union commander Thomas Ewing, the bravery of an out-manned Union garrison, and the poor generalship of Confederate Sterling Price.

This presentation will offer a fresh perspective on the battle with particular emphases upon Union generalship, tactics, and marksmanship. The end result will be a presentation that addresses issues of weapons training and accuracy, map-making, and the effects of sleep deprivation and darkness upon Civil War combat operations.

Napoleon as Urban Warrior – The Cairo Uprising of 1798

Thursday 7 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Dr. Melanie Byrd

Napoleon might be better remembered for Austerlitz, Wagram, or Borodino, but in addition to these traditional battles, he was also familiar with urban warfare, as demonstrated by his actions during the First Cairo Uprising of 1798. This presentation is focused on how the French dealt with what was possibly the most serious threat to their control of Egypt before the arrival of the British in 1801.

The Little Wars of the World: H.G. Wells and the Genesis of the War Game

Thursday 8 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Alexandra Carter

The history of war, waged on playing boards, kitchen tables, and attic floors, begins with a slim volume of rules entitled *Little Wars*, written by H.G. Wells in 1912. Originally a two part series in *Windsor Magazine*, *Little Wars* was designed for boys “from twelve years of age to one hundred and fifty, and for that more intelligent sort of girl who likes boys’ games and books.” In writing *Little Wars*, H.G. Wells began the systematization of rules for war games intended for civilians. But why would Wells, a noted pacifist, develop a war game for children?

In examining this question, the presenter analyzes the historical, social, and personal context of Wells’s life in order to understand why he created the game. She explores Wells’ position within the history of the development of war gaming, which was largely confined to the military up until 1912, and his interactions with military personnel in the game’s development.

The presenter argues that, even though Wells was a pacifist, his desire to create a playable game led him to interact with the military. The social and economic context of early twentieth-century Britain, as well as Well’s personal, professional and psychological context, reveals Wells’ motivation for creating *Little Wars* at this time during his career. While Wells presents a specific case, the history of *Little Wars* illuminates broader issues in the development of war games and representations of war.

FRIDAY

The Lublin-Brest Offensive

Friday 8 AM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

Describes why and how the Soviet *Stavka* and General Staff planned and conducted an operation designed to destroy German Fourth Panzer Army, liberate the Lublin region of eastern Poland, and, marching westward, capture strategic bridgeheads across the Vistula River. Launched by the armies on the left wing of General K. K. Rokossovsky’s 1st Belorussian Front, the operation shattered German defenses in eastern Poland, captured Lublin, and seized vital bridgeheads across the Vistula River south of Warsaw.

In addition, in an attempt to exploit an uprising by the Polish Home Army in Warsaw, the 1st Belorussian Front dispatched its 2nd Tank Army northward toward Warsaw in an attempt to reach and seize the city in a coup de main. Although the Germans thwarted the Soviet attempt to seize Warsaw, this offensive virtually destroyed German Fourth Panzer Army and captured all of Poland east of the Vistula River.

“Hot Wash-Up” – A Critical Analysis of the Pearl Harbor Attack

Friday 9:30 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Dr. Alan Zimm

Since Pearl Harbor has been mostly portrayed as a drama of personalities, the Japanese attack has never been subjected to a complete critical analysis. In the modern US Navy, the end of an operation or exercise initiates a follow-on process of evaluation and criticism – a “Hot Wash-Up”. Events are closely examined, errors detected, flaws analyzed, deficiencies noted, and lessons learned recorded. Operations Research (OR) analysts further scrutinize the data.

The presenter has participated in many such events, both as a naval officer and an OR analyst, and presents a detailed evaluation of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which puts a new light on the risks taken by Yamamoto, and Japanese potential losses had the American forces been on alert.

Napoleon vs. Wellington: The Third Campaign in Portugal – Theme Seminar

Friday 10:30 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Dr. Donald Horward

By 1807, Napoleon overpowered all of Western Europe except Iberia. He sent a half million men into Spain and Portugal to occupy the Peninsula and defeat the British Army. The major effort was launched in 1810 under Marshal Masséna, but the French were halted before the Lines of Torres Vedras near Lisbon. This setback was a major factor in the eventual defeat of the French effort to dominate Iberia, and ultimately in the collapse of the First Empire.

The American Civil War in the Southwest

Friday 11:30 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

John Hill, Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

The 1862 Confederate invasion of New Mexico represented one of the most arduous and long distance campaigns – from San Antonio, Texas, to beyond Santa Fe, New Mexico – of the entire Civil War. And despite the relatively small numbers of troops involved it included the two major battles of Valverde and Glorietta, numerous small skirmishes, wide flanking marches, daring lancer charges, burning wagons, exploding mules, along with a most improbable and incredible cast of frontier characters. A fascinating, entertaining and frequently hilarious “final frontier” of the Civil War!

Second French Invasion of Portugal, 1809 – Theme Seminar

Friday 12:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: Osprey Publishing

This follows Thursday's (3:30 PM) introduction and examines the second French invasion under Marshal Soult, which occupied Northern Portugal. Topics include how the Portuguese army was re-raised and reorganized plus the massive influx of British aid and training. Portuguese resistance in the North under General Silveira, and the battles at Amarante, etc., are also featured. Wellington then used his Anglo-Portuguese army to retake Porto, and the French evacuated into Northern Spain. During the summer, Wellington made a daring entry into Spain, beat the French at Talavera, and got back to Portugal. *Note: The seminar includes many illustrations of the personalities, troops and battlefields; the lecturer has traveled all over Portugal and western Spain retracing these campaigns of the Peninsular War.*

At The Sharpe End! – Theme Seminar

Friday 2 PM, 1.5 hrs, Windows Restaurant

Jason Salkey – *Guest of Honor*

Discussion includes the journey of getting Sharpe from page to screen, from an acting viewpoint. Jason will also explain the genesis of his video diary project, a combined product of his foresight and enthusiasm for his role on Sharpe. Fans of the Sharpe series will enjoy this talk, which has been very popular in the U.K., and brought to North American for the first time – not to be missed!

The Franco-Austrian War, 1809 (Pt. 1) – Theme Seminar

Friday 2 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Prof. John Gill, Sponsor: Casemate Publishing

Based on the research from his three-volume series, *Thunder on the Danube*, John Gill presents a look at the Franco-Austrian War of 1809. This is Pt.1 (Pt.2 Sat. 9 AM), and is focused on army organization (ORBAT, allies, etc), strategy, and actions at the operational/grand tactical level. Talk incorporates material that could not be included in the books.

Growing Flowers in the Data Dump

Friday 2:30 PM, 1 hr, Top Flight Room

Gerald Swick; Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

“This is sooooo boring!” How many times have you heard that about history? Attendees in this seminar will get hands-on experience in extracting information from a data dump and turning it into an interesting, engaging piece of writing – the kind that just might get you published! Writing materials provided.

The 1809 Campaign: Napoleon vs. Austria – Theme Seminar

Friday 3 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Todd Fisher

The Executive Director of the Napoleonic Historical Society will give a pictorial tour of the battlefields and sites of the 1809 campaign in Germany, Austria and Italy along with Historical commentary.

Task Force Ranger: *Operation Gothic Serpent*

Friday 3:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Windows Restaurant

First Sgt. Matthew P. Eversmann, U.S. Army (Ret.) – *Guest of Honor*

1SG (ret.) Matt Eversmann recounts [Operation Gothic Serpent](#), the battle in Mogadishu, Somalia on 3 October 1993. This epic fight was the basis for the *New York Times* bestseller and the Jerry Bruckheimer movie *Black Hawk Down*. Eversmann was a member of Task Force Ranger who led men in battle that Sunday afternoon. Hear his first hand account of fighting alongside some of America's greatest sons as well as the lessons learned from this historic episode of American military history. If you saw [Black Hawk Down](#), then you need to hear it from someone that was in the middle of the real action.

Reflections on the Danube: Napoleon's 1809 Campaign – Theme Seminar

Friday 4 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

James Arnold

Twenty years ago, James Arnold wrote *Crisis on the Danube*, which examined Napoleon's last strategic victory in the 1809 campaign against Austria. It stimulated significant discussion on this campaign, and encouraged a host of publications devoted to this theme. Arnold invites interested parties to revisit 1809 as he directs an interactive lecture that draws from *Crisis on the Danube* and additional research from his book on the French 1807 campaign in Poland - *Crisis in the Snows*. Come join a presentation that focuses on how one of history's "Great Captains" achieved his success.

1809: Battles and Consequences of the Campaigns in Germany, Austria and Spain – Theme Seminar

Friday 5 PM, 1.5 hrs, Windows Restaurant

Todd Fisher, Moderator

Todd Fisher will host panel of eminent Historians discussing this fascinating subject. The panel historians are James Arnold, Scott Bowden, René Chartrand, Dr. John Gill, Dr. Howard Horward, and Jean Lochet. A unique opportunity to hear from such an esteemed panel about one of the greatest periods of military history!

The L'vov-Sandomierz Offensive

Friday 5 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

Describes why and how the Soviet *Stavka* and General Staff planned and conducted an operation designed to destroy German First Panzer Army, liberate the L'vov region of southeastern Poland, and, exploiting westward, capture strategic bridgeheads across the upper Vistula River.

Launched by the forces of Marshal of the Soviet Union I. S. Konev's 1st Ukrainian Front, the operation shattered German defenses in southeastern Poland, captured L'vov, and advanced westward to seize vital bridgeheads across the Vistula River east of Krakow. This offensive virtually destroyed German First Panzer Army, captured all of southeastern Poland, and paved the way for the subsequent Red Army advance toward Berlin.

Forward the Colours! – A History of Military Flags

Friday 6:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Dr. Arthur Etchells III

What is a regiment marching into battle without flags waving in the breeze? For many years the average soldier identified himself with his regimental flag, as there were no national flags. In many languages the word for regiment is the word for flag.

In this seminar we will discuss the development of the military flag over history and look at themes and trends in design. We will discuss the development of flags and the influence of heraldry, and watch how regimental flags developed along several different lines.

In addition we will discuss resources for finding out about flags both in print and online and the sources of flags for your favorite regiment. The talk will be mainly euro-centric but some mention will be made of flag developments in Asia. There will be lots of pictures.

Genius at Leipzig? A Study of Napoleon's Leadership Skills as Judged by Clausewitz

Friday 8 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Morgan Deane

The writings of Karl Von Clausewitz continue to provide historians with judging criteria for matters of war. In particular, Clausewitz's material concerning military genius provides excellent material that one can test in a case study. An examination of Napoleon's conduct at the Battle of Leipzig using the criteria established by Clausewitz allows us to determine if the general could be classified as a genius. After studying the descriptions laid down by Clausewitz and then studying the decisions and actions of Napoleon in the events surrounding the conflict at Leipzig, Napoleon as a general would qualify for the title of "genius."

SATURDAY

The Franco-Austrian War, 1809 (Pt. 2) – Theme Seminar

Saturday 9 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Prof. John Gill, Sponsor: [Casemate Publishing](#)

This follows up the Friday's (2 PM) introduction to the Franco-Austrian War of 1809. Based on the research from his three-volume series, *Thunder on the Danube*, the author presents several case studies examining specific tactical engagements during the war (forces, terrain, alternative outcomes, etc.). This talk incorporates material that could not be included in the books.

Napoleonic Wargame Scenarios, 1807-09 – Theme Seminar

Saturday 10 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

James Arnold

This new scenario booklet – available at HISTORICON – provides historical maps and orders of battle and interprets them to enable wargamers to fight some of the lesser-known engagements of this era. This discussion by the author is aimed squarely at the wargamer with emphasis on using historical information to create entertaining, challenging games.

Casemate Seminar – Exclusive Insights into the Military Book World

Saturday 11 AM, 30 mins, Hopewell Room

Simone Drinkwater, Marketing and New Business Director – [Casemate Publishing](#)

Casemate, the fastest-growing military history publisher and distributor, invites you to learn more about the company 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 & Company, 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.

Attendees should also plan to stop by the Casemate info booth located on the balcony in the Expo Center to attend an author signing by *Thunder on the Danube* author John Gill, and enter daily giveaway contests for HISTORICON – prizes include a year's supply of military history books, artwork prints, signed *Thunder on the Danube*, painting guide DVDs, a selection of Histoire & Collections books, Foundry rulebooks, and more!

At The Sharpe End! – Theme Seminar

Saturday 11:30 AM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

[Jason Salkey](#) – *Guest of Honor*

Discussion includes the journey of getting [Sharpe](#) from page to screen, from an acting viewpoint. Jason will also explain the genesis of his video diary project, a combined product of his foresight and enthusiasm for his role on [Sharpe](#). Fans of the [Sharpe](#) series will enjoy this talk, which has been very popular in the U.K., and brought to North American for the first time – not to be missed!

Osprey Insights: *From Development to the Latest Publications*

Saturday 1 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Richard Sullivan, Marketing Director – [Osprey Publishing](#)

Learn about the company in more detail and get 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 for you 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 there will be information on the new army lists coming out in the *Field of Glory* wargaming rules series!

Attendees should also plan to stop by the [Osprey Publishing](#) info booth located on the balcony in the Expo Center to enter daily giveaway contests for HISTORICON – a great way to get free Osprey books!

Task Force Ranger: *Operation Gothic Serpent*

Saturday 2 PM, 1.5 hrs, Windows Restaurant

First Sgt. Matthew P. Eversmann, U.S. Army (Ret.) – *Guest of Honor*

1SG (ret.) Matt Eversmann recounts [Operation Gothic Serpent](#), the battle in Mogadishu, Somalia on 3 October 1993. This epic fight was the basis for the *New York Times* bestseller and the Jerry Bruckheimer movie [Black Hawk Down](#). Eversmann was a member of Task Force Ranger who led men in battle that Sunday afternoon. Hear his first hand account of fighting alongside some of America's greatest sons as well as the lessons learned from this historic episode of American military history. If you saw [Black Hawk Down](#), then you need to hear it from someone that was in the middle of the real action.

The Battle of Magnesia 190 B.C.

Saturday 2 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Dr. Ilkka Syväne

New revisionist reconstruction of the battle in five short parts; includes diagrams and maps of the battle, pictures of the types of troops involved etc. First part begins description and analysis of principal extant primary sources Appian and Livy. Since both authors used as their principal source Polybius' Histories, particular attention will be paid to the likely sources of information used by Polybius and the motives and purposes of both Polybius himself and his sources.

Second part will describe the armies, types of forces used, and the tactical doctrines of both the Romans and Seleucids. When the weaknesses and strengths of both sides are assessed, particular attention will be paid to relative strengths and weaknesses of their tactical doctrines.

Third part will analyze the political situation, the quality of generalship, and the military abilities of the commanders on both sides, plus describe the actual campaign preceding the battle, the strategies of both sides, the chosen theatre of operations, and the chosen site of battle. Particular attention will be paid to the manipulation of the enemy through the use of various tricks, diplomacy and false information. The sources and their motives are scrutinized thoroughly in order to obtain these nuggets of information.

Fourth part will analyze the actual battle; describe and analyze the effects of the terrain, weather, time of the year, chosen battle formations, effect of chance, and the again the quality of leadership in order to assess why the battle ended as it did, and also assess the various numbers of casualties given by the sources on the basis of the speaker's new revisionist analysis and reconstruction of the battle.

Fifth and final part will analyze the aftermath of the battle and what it meant for the future of the Mediterranean and also for the development of the art of war.

The Greatest Tactical Study Ever: Pascal Bressonnet's Immortal Work on the 1806 Campaign in Prussia

Saturday 3 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Scott Bowden – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: [Military History Press](#)

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the publication of Pascal Bressonnet's legendary, detailed work of Napoleon's 1806 campaign in Prussia. A century after the original work appeared, Bressonnet's incomparable tactical study is for the first time brought to the English language audience through a newly translated, annotated and lavishly illustrated work. Scott will lead a discussion of *Napoleon's Apogee*, and what insights from Bressonnet await Napoleonic enthusiasts.

Third French Invasion of Portugal, 1810-11 – Theme Seminar

Saturday 4 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

René Chartrand – *Guest of Honor*, Sponsor: [Osprey Publishing](#)

Follow up to Friday's (12:30 PM) seminar. Here the speaker recounts the Third effort by French forces under Marshal Masséna. His large French army took Ciudad Rodrigo (Spain), crossed into Portugal and captured the Almeida fortress at border and marched west into difficult terrain. Wellington's Anglo-Portuguese army battled these troops at Buçaco; where the newly raised Portuguese contingents reveal themselves as good as British regulars. Wellington retreated behind the Lines of Torres Vedras, which Masséna could not pierce. He spent winter there then retreated back to Spain in spring 1811. Wellington followed and beat him at Fuentes de Onoro.

The seminar concludes with a few notes on the terrible (and largely unknown) price paid by the Portuguese people during the three French invasions. *Note: The seminar includes many illustrations of the personalities, troops and battlefields; the lecturer has traveled all over Portugal and western Spain retracing these campaigns of the Peninsular War.*

Myth, Memory, and the Combat Effectiveness of the British Soldier of the Peninsular War – Theme Seminar

Saturday 2:30 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Dr. Edward Coss

The British infantryman of the Peninsular War, 1808-14, performed extraordinarily well in combat, contributing to series of unbroken battlefield victories in Spain and Portugal. The battlefield triumphs of the British army over its French counterpart, however, are usually attributed to the command genius of Arthur Wellesley—the first Duke of Wellington—and his ability to master and make use of the criminal and savage natures of British rankers. Wellington made a number of comments that contributed to this interpretation; his references to the British rank and file as the “scum of the earth” have been accepted as the definitive evaluation of the men.

We will explore two myths: 1) The ranker as “scum of the earth,” and 2) British fire rates as the key to tactical success. Using demographic data (drawn from a 7,300 man database compiled from regimental description books), regressions comparing the effects of various economic variables on enlistment, a macro and micro-nutritional analysis based on standard rations, body mass index, and energy expenditure in the field, and primary source tactical accounts allow a new portrait of the British soldier to immerge, one that runs counter to the accepted image of the ranker. The data, as presented, is anything but dry and should leave the audience both surprised and convinced.

This seminar will argue that much of the British soldier's background has been misunderstood or overlooked and his reputation as a consummate plunderer may have been founded more on nutritional and logistical considerations than on inherent character flaws, as has been assumed. Moreover, it was the strength of the bonds between British soldiers, forged by hardships on campaign and in battle, which allowed Wellington to formulate battlefield tactics that made optimal use of his soldiers' willingness to risk death to preserve the group. Wellington combined tactical variations, based on close-range fire and bayonet assaults, to create a combat methodology that was, if not unique to the British army, then highly unusual for the period.

The applicability of the latter aspect on wargaming is obvious, as most Napoleonic games focus on British fire rates and miss the connection between group cohesion, musket limitations, and the adopted British tactical dynamic of short-range fusillades and the threat of cold steel. This short presentation is derived from the presenter's upcoming book -- *All for the King's Shilling: An Analysis of the Life, Campaign, and Combat Experiences of the British Soldier in the Peninsular War, 1808-1814* (Oklahoma University Press).

Recollections of a Rifleman – Theme Seminar

Saturday 6:30 PM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

[Jason Salkey](#) – *Guest of Honor*

Join Jason “Rifleman Harris” Salkey who'll be reading passages from [The Recollections of Rifleman Harris](#), a first hand account of a 95th rifleman fighting in the Napoleonic campaign. The vivid picture Harris paints of life during the Peninsula War (1807-14) has seldom been bettered and of course, it is that particular soldier that Jason's character in [Sharpe](#) was based on. A unique presentation, and a first in North America!

Napoleon's Grande Armee: The Birth, Development and Operations of the First Modern Army

Saturday 7:30 PM, 1.5 hrs, Hopewell Room

Jean Lochet, Sponsor: [Military History Press](#)

Napoleon's Grande Armée -- why was it able to move faster than its opponents? What were the consequences of its more rapid advances? Why was it the world's first "modern army?" Jean discusses these and other points drawn from his new book, just published by [Military History Press](#), and the result of many years of research and of the discussions that took place during the publishing of *Empires, Eagles & Lions*.

SUNDAY

The Crisis in Somalia and the Horn of Africa

Sunday 8 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Louis Desy

Will the Horn of Africa become the next front in the war on terrorism? This overview presentation will touch on many of the political, cultural, economic and military issues that have shaped the development of current challenges for the governance, peace, and security of today's Horn of Africa since the fall of government of Somalia in 1991.

The End of Empire

Sunday 9 AM, 1 hr, Hopewell Room

Merle Robinson

The dissolution of the British Raj in the Indian subcontinent was the death knell of the Empire. This overview presentation will touch on many of the political, cultural, economic and military issues that have shaped the development of current challenges for the governance, peace, and security of today's subcontinent.

The Lasi-Kishinev Offensive

Sunday 10 AM, 2 hrs, Hopewell Room

Col. David Glantz – *Guest of Honor*; Sponsor: Weider History Group (www.historynet.com)

Describes why and how the Soviet *Stavka* and General Staff planned and conducted an operation designed to smash Axis defenses in northern Romania, destroy German Eighth and Sixth and Romanian Third and Fourth Armies, and exploit southward to capture the Romanian capital city of Bucharest and the strategically vital oil depots at Ploesti. Launched by the forces of Marshals of the Soviet Union R. Ia. Malinovsky's 2nd Ukrainian Front and F. I. Tolbukhin's 3rd Ukrainian Front, the operation shattered German defenses in Romania, destroyed two German armies, forced two Romanian armies to surrender and change sides in the struggle, liberated Romania from axis domination, and paved the way for the Red Army to penetrate into and occupy the Danubian basin.