



Dismounted Close Combat Pot Luck Supper



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Pot Luck Supper – the General Idea:

“Share and Enjoy”

- To pool the wisdom and experience of the participants (this means you)
 - To collect sources of data, models, rules of thumb
 - In order to relieve our collective ignorance about dismounted close combat
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- But first, a few introductory remarks...



Motivation

- We (the military OR community) do not understand DCC well enough
 - Tens of millions of people have experienced DCC over the past century, but few have made trustworthy notes
 - Decreased size of militaries in the West, increasing casualty aversion and unwillingness to put “boots on the ground” mean DCC is more remote than ever from most people’s experience
- There is a persistent need to understand DCC better
 - Carrying absurd loads has prevented infantry in operational theatres from conducting tactical manoeuvre
 - Many technocentric “soldier modernisation” programmes exist, but none seems based on any coherent theoretical basis beyond “suck it and see”
 - Old debates about ideal calibre, the role of the section automatic weapon, and platoon organisation are all undergoing a resurgence



What Do We Know? A Few DCC-related Classics

- The S L A Marshall controversy
 - Ardant du Picq, Marshall, Wigram, Grossman, Glenn
- Historical Analysis
 - Dupuy, Rowland, “Leo Murray”
- Situational Awareness and Recognition-primed Decision Making
 - Endsley, Klein
- Small-arms Suppression
 - Kubala & Warnick, Kushnick & Duffy, Fort Sill Suppression Symposium
- Wound Ballistics
 - Kneubuehl et al



A Caution Against Technolatroly

- DCC is fundamentally a human, not a technological, activity
 - The weapons technology involved in small arms has remained remarkably stable over 100 years
- Consider a platoon attack as a resource management game: The Pl Comd must accomplish the mission before running out of
 - Soldiers
 - Ammunition
 - Time
 - Motivation/Energy
- We can model the first three tolerably well, but lack of the fourth is normally the reason for winning or losing
- MITL modelling is justified by the saying “The best model of a human is a human”, but:
 - That’s not what a model is
 - Safe, dry, well-rested humans do not behave like tired, wet humans in mortal danger



A Soldier Activity Framework

(after Nicholson & Shelley, modified by Salmon & Salt)

