

CASLO XXIII AAR



Introduction

CASLO XXIII was held in Ottawa, Ontario. A record 36 players took part over three days, May 17-19, 2019. The tournament featured a strong field, with 5 former tournament winners present, including the two-time defending champ. We also welcomed a number of first time CASLO participants, some from the local gaming community and others from across the continent. Many thanks to all for coming out and making it a great event!

Sponsors and Prizes

Once more our loyal sponsors were very generous: everyone was going home with a prize. Many thanks to Battleschool, Lone Canuck Publishing, MMP, LFT, BFP, Alex Key's Hobbies and Games, and Broken Ground Design for their support and friendship. As well, two local gamers, Rob MacDonald (dice-tower) and Steve Hewitt (Canadian Sherman tank model) contributed special prizes.



Game On!

The tournament opened Friday at noon with the traditional toast to Jim McLeod, founder of the CASLO tournament. As part of the tradition, a wee dram of Scotch was offered to all, and with spirits lifted, play began.

Round 1: The Fat Lady Sings

This round featured late war scenarios. But it wasn't all monster AFVs and special weapons. Tin cans showed up, captured weapons were central, and second line troops and Partisans played their parts as occupied countries rose up to help their liberators while the Third Reich tried to land its last punches.

CASLO pits the top half of the field against the bottom half in this round. All 5 scenario options were played with Axis players holding a 12-5 advantage over the Allies, due to a perfect 6-0 records in SP259 Corridor to Extinction. Defense!

Round 1					
Scenario Name	Allied Player	Result	Axis Player	Result	
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	Jean-Pierre Raymond	Won	Alain Chabot	Loss	
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	Tim Kelly	Loss	Andy Beaton	Won	
ELC04 Dragoons, Parachutistes, and the Dutch Resistance	James Rimmer	Loss	Rich Domovic	Won	
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	Andrew Ryerson	Loss	Kevin Killeen	Won	
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	Rob MacDonald	Loss	Ken Young	Won	
V24 Eagles Against Lions	Keith Hill	Won	Kurt Berger	Loss	
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	David Garvin	Loss	Erik Lindblad	Won	
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	Michael Rodgers	Won	Jim Suderman	Loss	
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	Jim Rudek	Loss	Jonathan Kay	Won	
FrF100 Deutsch Lesson	Doug Rimmer	Loss	Bruce Stevenson	Won	
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	Blair Bellamy	Loss	Jeff Wasserman	Won	
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	Ray Woloszyn	Won	Steffen Knippel	Loss	
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	Ray Kruger	Loss	George Kelln	Won	
V24 Eagles Against Lions	Jean-Francois Fortin	Won	Brent Pollock	Loss	
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	Dan Braund	Loss	Darren Kovacs	Won	
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	Denis Leclair	Loss	Dino Limosani	Won	
FrF100 Deutsch Lesson	Mike Rosberg	Loss	Rene Cote	Won	

Round 2: Canada

Scenarios in this round covered Canadian attacks in Italy, starting in December '43, and across France, with a final scenario seeing them defend against a German counterattack in the last months of the war. Sturmtigers, Kangaroos, Crocodiles, deluxe boards, HASL maps, HIPsters, OBA and Mines were just some of the ingredients that players mixed together in search of victory. Our boys had a 10-6 record in this round, with the attacking and defending side each claiming 8 victories. Canadian players held a 3-2 against non-Canadians (aka Americans), with both US victories coming while playing the Canadian side. Four of five scenarios were played with MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet, played on deluxe boards, being the crowd favourite.



Round 2					
Scenario Name	Allied Player		Result	Axis Player	Result
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	James Rimmer		Loss	Ray Kruger	Won
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Keith Hill		Won	Andy Beaton	Loss
HS32 A Few Rounds	Steffen Knippel		Won	Tim Kelly	Loss
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Mike Rosberg		Won	Kurt Berger	Loss
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Erik Lindblad		Won	Kevin Killeen	Loss
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Jean-Francois Fortin		Loss	Jean-Pierre Raymond	Won
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Rich Domovic		Loss	Bruce Stevenson	Won
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Jonathan Kay		Loss	Ken Young	Won
HS32 A Few Rounds	Ray Woloszyn		Won	Michael Rodgers	Loss
CDN17 Heart of Oak	George Kelln		Won	David Garvin	Loss
HS32 A Few Rounds	Denis Leclair		Loss	Doug Rimmer	Won
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	Darren Kovacs		Won	Dino Limosani	Loss
CDN17 Heart of Oak	Andrew Ryerson		Won	Jim Suderman	Loss
ELC03 Kangaroos in Louisendorf	Jim Rudek		Won	Dan Braund	Loss
HS32 A Few Rounds	Jeff Wasserman		Won	Rene Cote	Loss
ELC03 Kangaroos in Louisendorf	Rob MacDonald		Loss	Alain Chabot	Won

Round 3: Gurkhas!

Now things began to get serious; after two pleasant rounds on Friday, Saturday morning started to separate the best from the rest. And what better way to separate than by Gurkha! Set in Italy, Tunisia and Burma, against German, Italian and Japanese forces, round 3 scenarios required the Gurkhas to attack in close quarters, hold their ground and carry out fighting withdrawals. Three of the scenarios were set in PTO terrain. While several were quite small, two of them featured 15-20 squads per side. It was time to find out if it's okay for Gurkhas to bring a knife to a gunfight!

And the results were the most even round so far. The Gurkha sides went 7-10 with the Attacking sides going 9-8. After the fighting was done, 5 players stood 3-0: Keith Hill, George Kelln, Jean-Pierre Raymond, Bruce Stevenson, and Jeff Wasserman.

Round 3					
Scenario Name	Allied Player	Result	Axis Player	Result	
SP242 Ciao Gurkha Ciao!	James Rimmer	Won	Denis Leclair	Loss	
SP242 Ciao Gurkha Ciao!	Brent Pollock	Won	Rob MacDonald	Loss	
SP242 Ciao Gurkha Ciao!	David Garvin	Loss	Kurt Berger	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Doug Rimmer	Loss	Andy Beaton	Won	
SP80 Die Gurkha Die!	Keith Hill	Won	Ken Young	Loss	
SP242 Ciao Gurkha Ciao!	Blair Bellamy	Won	Tim Kelly	Loss	
SP242 Ciao Gurkha Ciao!	Rene Cote	Loss	Jean-Francois Fortin	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Andrew Ryerson	Loss	Jonathan Kay	Won	
SP80 Die Gurkha Die!	Steffen Knippel	Loss	Kevin Killeen	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Alain Chabot	Loss	Dino Limosani	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Jean-Pierre Raymond	Won	Rich Domovic	Loss	
ASL156 Broken Bamboo	Erik Lindblad	Loss	Jeff Wasserman	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Dan Braund	Won	Jim Suderman	Loss	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Jim Rudek	Loss	Mike Rosberg	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	Ray Kruger	Loss	Michael Rodgers	Won	
FrF65 War Ensemble	George Kelln	Won	Darren Kovacs	Loss	
ASL156 Broken Bamboo	Ray Woloszyn	Loss	Bruce Stevenson	Won	

Round 4: Tin Cans

From the first weeks of the war to September '42, round 4 featured scenarios using 8 different nationalities, each trying to use their underwhelming AFVs to secure victory. Tin Cans abounded in battles on 3 continents. And there was more: air support, PTO, simultaneous setup, OBA, and armor leaders gave players different choices to achieve their missions.

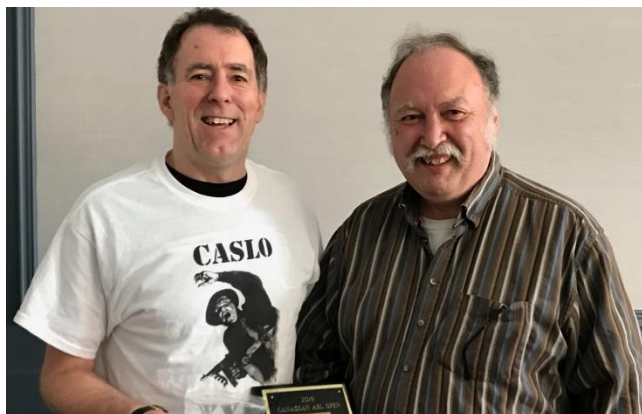
Despite all those options, most players choose Kotovskij, Russia as their hill to die on: 11 of the 17 games played J130 The Art of Dying, including virtually all of the top matches. It was a day for the Allies: as shooting stopped in the early hours of Sunday, the Allies had 12 victories, all of them achieved in defense.

And then there were three 4-0: Keith, Jean-Pierre, and Jeff.

Round 4					
Scenario Name	Allied Player	Result	Axis Player	Result	
J130 The Art of Dying	Michael Rodgers	Loss	Kevin Killeen	Won	
BoF2 A Polish Requiem	Jeff Wasserman	Won	George Kelln	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	David Garvin	Loss	Andrew Ryerson	Won	
BoF2 A Polish Requiem	Ray Kruger	Won	Rene Cote	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	James Rimmer	Won	Alain Chabot	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	Keith Hill	Won	Erik Lindblad	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	Andy Beaton	Won	Dino Limosani	Loss	
BoF2 A Polish Requiem	Doug Rimmer	Won	Mark Kraatz	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	Blair Bellamy	Loss	Brent Pollock	Won	
J130 The Art of Dying	Ken Young	Won	Darren Kovacs	Loss	
WO22 The Cost of Non Compliance	Steffen Knippel	Loss	Rich Domovic	Won	
BoF2 A Polish Requiem	Jim Suderman	Won	Rob MacDonald	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	Jean-Pierre Raymond	Won	Bruce Stevenson	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	Rob MacDonald	Loss	Jim Rudek	Won	
J130 The Art of Dying	Dan Braund	Won	Kurt Berger	Loss	
J130 The Art of Dying	Ray Woloszyn	Won	Mike Rosberg	Loss	
BFP35 Mai Phu	Jean-Francois Fortin	Won	Jonathan Kay	Loss	

Round 5: Something New

The idea behind this round was to give players something new: two were from new HASL releases and featured special SSRs which are included. Two more were set during the Korean War and required Forgotten War counters. Players focused on one of the HASL scenarios as HF6 Jackpot Jones got 9 players, including both matches with the 4-0 players to determine the new CASLO Champion. This round went well for the Allies who won 12 times.



TD Doug Rimmer (left) presents award to 2019 CASLO Champion Jean-Pierre Raymond

In the championship matches, Jean-Pierre Raymond won as the Allies, while Jeff Wasserman won as the Axis. Under CASLO rules, players get 10 points for a win and 1 bonus point for each game won by the opponents that the player beats. The player with the most points wins the tournament. In 2019, that victory went to Jean-Pierre Raymond on the strength of one extra bonus point!

Round 5					
Scenario Name	Allied Player	Result	Axis Player	Result	
RO3 Defenders of Stalingrad	David Garvin	Won	Alain Chabot	Loss	
RO3 Defenders of Stalingrad	Brent Pollock	Won	Andrew Ryerson	Loss	
FrF98 Amerikanskaya Suka	Doug Rimmer	Won	Olivier Poulin	Loss	
RO3 Defenders of Stalingrad	Darren Kovacs	Won	Mike Rosberg	Loss	
A70 Wintergewitter	Denis Leclair	Loss	Mark Kraatz	Won	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Michael Rodgers	Won	Jim Rudek	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Jim Suderman	Won	Blair Bellamy	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Jean-Pierre Raymond	Won	Ken Young	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Keith Hill	Loss	Jeff Wasserman	Won	
FrF98 Amerikanskaya Suka	Ray Kruger	Won	Erik Lindblad	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Bruce Stevenson	Loss	Kevin Killeen	Won	
FrF98 Amerikanskaya Suka	Andy Beaton	Won	George Kelln	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Rich Domovic	Won	Dan Braund	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Steffen Knippel	Won	Kurt Berger	Loss	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Dino Limosani	Won	James Rimmer	Loss	
RO3 Defenders of Stalingrad	Rob MacDonald	Loss	Rene Cote	Won	
HF6 Jackpot Jones	Jean-Francois Fortin	Loss	Ray Woloszyn	Won	

Scenario Analysis

Of the 25 scenarios offered in the 5 rounds, 20 were played, showing a strong, balanced set of choices. From those 20, 11 had at least three playings each. Disappointingly, in round 5 neither of the two scenarios set during the Korean War were selected. Overall, Allied players went 46-38 with over half of those wins coming in the last two rounds while Attacking players were 37-47, having been thumped in both rounds 1 and 4.

Scenarios Played							
Scenario	Allied Wins	Axis Wins	Overall Record		Attacker	Defender	Overall Record
ELC04 Dragoons, Parachutistes, and the Dutch Resistance	0	1	0-1		1	0	1-0
FrF76 Pain in the Neck	3	3	3-3		3	3	3-3
FrF100 Deutsch Lesson	0	2	0-2		0	2	0-2
SP259 Corridor to Extinction	0	6	0-6		0	6	0-6
V24 Eagles Against Lions	2	0	2-0	5-12	2	0	2-0
MWT7 The Streets of Carpiquet	4	4	4-4		4	4	4-4
ELC03 Kangaroos in Louisendorf	1	1	1-1		1	1	1-1
HS32 A Few Rounds	3	1	3-1		1	3	1-3
CDN17 Heart of Oak	2	0	2-0	10-6	2	0	2-0
SP242 Ciao Gurkha Ciao!	3	2	3-2		3	2	3-2
FrF65 War Ensemble	3	5	3-5		5	3	5-3
SP80 Die Gurkha Die!	1	1	1-1		1	1	1-1
ASL156 Broken Bamboo	0	2	0-2	7-10	0	2	0-2
WO22 The Cost of Non Compliance	0	1	0-1		0	1	0-1
J130 The Art of Dying	7	4	7-4		4	7	4-7
BoF2 A Polish Requiem	4	0	4-0		0	4	0-4
BFP35 Mai Phu	1	0	1-0	12-5	0	1	0-1
RO3 Defenders of Stalingrad	3	1	3-1		3	1	3-1
FrF98 Amerikanskaya Suka	3	0	3-0		3	0	3-0
HF6 Jackpot Jones	6	3	6-3		3	6	3-6
A70 Wintergewitter	0	1	0-1	12-5	1	0	1-0
Totals				46-38			37-47

Thank yous

First of all, a big thank you to all of our registered players, from near and far. Everyone of you was a great addition to the tournament. CASLO moves from city to city each year. I hope to see many of you again next year wherever we are, and when CASLO comes back to Ottawa in the near future.

Many people from Ottawa helped and in particular Rob MacDonald, Denis Leclair, Rene Cote, Reg Plummer, Adrian Earle, Chris Doary, Steve Hewitt, and James Rimmer all made important contributions.

My two CASLO colleagues, Michael Rodgers and Darren Kovacs were also of great assistance in the months leading up to the tournament.

Thanks for the memories!

Doug Rimmer
CASLO XXIII Tournament Director