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On the Wire

Official Newsletter of the Great War Association Summer 2024

PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN ON THE ALLIES: BEHIND THE SCENES PART I

by Bret Werner,
Allied Combat Commander



I have been wanting to write an article for some time on what I believe makes us such a unique reenactment organization. Yes, we have trenches and bunkers and airplanes that fly over and we own our own property, all that makes us a premier reenactment organization, but there is something else that many do not think of. We have true military infrastructure, something I am very proud of supporting and helping to develop over the years.

Many of you may come to the event and spend the whole time in the frontlines tangling with the Hun (arguably still the most fun one can have), but did you know there are entire units and sections supporting you? Yes, we have a tooth to tail ratio ourselves. I'm sure most on the

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2024 Fall Tactical:

November 8-10

ADDITIONAL UNIT-SPONSORED EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB SITE:

[HTTP://WWW.GREATWARASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.greatwarassociation.org)



Photo courtesy of Pete Lerro

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Photo courtesy of Pete Lerro

PULLING BACK THE CURTAIN

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allied side and many on the CP have seen some of these groups in action like the Canadian Army Medical Corps patching up the wounded on both sides, maybe you were carried there by the American stretcher bearers, or you have stopped by the Salvation Army with their coveted donuts and refreshments, but they are just the tip of the iceberg.

Many of our specialists and support units come from units across the allied side. We have an engineer section that during events, as well as the off season, build all types of period correct trench obstacles & foot bridges, and make trench signs. During events they can be found making trench blocks, laying tape, assisting the signals, placing smoke pots among a plethora of other tasks. Speaking of signals, we have a fully functional signal group that have strung wire, built junction boxes and make sure we all have working comms during the event!

Another group you don't necessarily see but you surely hear are the mortar batteries! They provide support for the individual companies but are also coordinated along the entire front, and can be utilized for the entire battalion's operations. We also have a scout section that you may never see or hear, but they are out there gathering intel.

We have a training cadre that spends the off season researching and reading period training manuals and converting that information into a practical training program that can be implemented by any national company in the battalion. When not training, they support the battalion as Regimental Police and with HQ duties.

If you ate during the event, chances are you were fed by the cooks of the Yanks' rolling field kitchen, or the ladies of the British VAD/AANS, or the French Company's VAD ladies. We also have vehicle drivers, (who bring their own period vehicles) and a cartographer! We did have an MP section but many have moved to other tasks or retired, so we are actively looking for those who may want a more relaxed job as an MP guarding and interrogating prisoners and escorting them to the Swiss or for medical assistance. Any Allied nationality may apply.

What makes us distinctive is the depth of the Allied side. In any war there is a ratio of X amount of people supporting every 1 combat soldier at the front, we have that! Our people do not do impressions and peacock around the camp ground looking good, they actually perform the role of the uniforms they wear, making us truly a unique organization.

If I have missed any support elements or impressions please reach out to me and we can make sure to tie you into the overall battalion planning. My next article will introduce you to the Battalion staff. I'm sure you wonder from time to time, "Who are all these officers and NCO's strutting around?" Well, like the support units, these people all have a job.

Cheers,

Maj. Bret Werner
O/C 1st Allied Composite Battalion / Acting

FIGHTING RETREAT

Gefreiter Rheinhold Klein
(Rodney Schuyler), IR92

Late afternoon on Saturday is the armpit of any Newville event. You're cooked from the sun, your feet barking after running in hobnailed boots all morning, and you might be a bit hungover still. But that's when some of the best Newville moments happen. IR92's Dritte Gruppe had fought hard and well all weekend. Musketiere Ristig, Kirsch, and Gowin provided effective rifle support, Herr Peak and Herr Richert struck at the enemy with aggression and fearlessness as our assault troops, recruit Musketier Bauers proved himself to be an excellent Soldat and served the Gruppe well as our grenadier, while Musketier Danenhauer helped lead the unit as our indispensable second.

At about 18:00 on Sat. Sergeant Zoellner ordered me to gather my men because "something was about to go down." As I found our men they quickly gathered, and we took up our watch over Death Valley. At around 19:00 the Allied attack commenced to the north. Sergeant Zoellner ordered us into Death Valley. We formed a skirmish line in an attempt to gain flanking fire on the enemy. Not seeing an opportunity, Sergeant Zoellner

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Fellow GWA members, I hope this issue finds your summer going well. Though it seems like a long stretch between events, November will be here before we know it. I know many of you will make trips to Newville between now and then, whether for other events or work weekends, and in the spirit of encouraging everyone to be good neighbors, I'd like to ask you to support local businesses if possible. It's a small town, and while not everybody is familiar with the site or the organization, more than a handful of people share stories of times reenactors have left a less than favorable impression on the locals. "They tracked mud all over the floor and didn't even leave a tip." "They sat in the booth for two hours and only ordered coffee." You get the idea. Since we moved here in 2019, Scott and I have tried to paint a better picture of the GWA every chance we get - because it's true, our organization represents a sizable contribution to the local economy twice a year. Every time a GWA member shops here in Newville or chats with the locals, our stock as good neighbors goes up, and that's a win-win. So if you can, buy your groceries at Saylor's, your hardware and construction stuff at Newville Hardware or at Cumberland Supply (formerly A.B. Martin), etc. If there is enough interest, I'll include a basic listing of local businesses in the October issue.



In other news, I'm still working on the web site when snippets of free time present themselves - but they've been extremely few and far between since the April event. Thank you for your patience. Please do continue to send me corrections to any outdated unit website links, etc.

Thank you - and may you all have a safe and relaxing remainder of the summer.



Photo courtesy of G. Walters / IR92

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

Reenactors of the Central Powers,
Meine Herren und Damen,

This mid-year edition of On the Wire (OtW) provides the membership an update on where we stand between the semi-annual WWI events. We are roughly four months out from the Fall event and we will have another OtW before the event so I will tailor my comments here as to the Spring event and things we have in motion for the future.



I am exceptionally proud of your accomplishments during the Spring event. The Zug system worked and our Zugführere performed exceptionally well. It's rather difficult to adapt to new ways of conducting business, but there was a great atmosphere of Kameradschaft to make everything work well. Thank you for this! The scenarios we designed before the event seemed to provide a fresh perspective for all involved and I can't wait for y'all to enjoy what we've put together for the Fall event. As always, we have a plan for attack, but once we exit our trenches, everything changes and it's up to the individual leaders to take initiative of the tactical situation and make the very best we can of what we have. The Germans called this Selbständichkeit.

We had quite a number of Soldaten attend our training school and our training officer, Eric Cleveland, conducted a great training experience for all who attended. While the topics were relevant to basic skills we need right away, future iterations of the school will be expanded to making each of us more rounded in our impressions as WWI reenactors. Thank you, Eric!

Our communications unit, the 8th Kurassier, worked exceptionally hard to reconfigure and install new wire throughout our trenches, set up phones, and man and troubleshoot the network all weekend long. For the first time in a very long time the Central Powers was able to communicate effectively and we should all recognize and congratulate these men on their technical prowess which we all benefitted from. Great job, Männer!

During the weekend, we prayed several daily Rosaries as well as conducted a prayer service by our new chaplain. For those who attended this service or saw Tyler Holcomb conducting his religious services throughout the weekend, it was truly amazing and so needed! He was everywhere witnessing God in our midst! Laus tibi, Christi!

Who could not notice the excellent use of fire support this past event? Smoke, gas, "high explosive," and mobile mortars supporting attacks were all part of the coordinated support we received. We even had an original WWI German Feldhaubitze with a rich battle history and the battle damage to back it up! Steve Murphy, that was excellent, my friend. For all our mortar crews and our fire support coordinator, Aaron Sterling, a well deserved Drei Hoch for each of you! We could not conduct our attacks without each of you!

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

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In all my helmet fires Friday and thinking beyond my capabilities, I failed to initiate our song as we marched into the Friday Safety Meeting. I also missed several commands, forgot to call out the Landwehr for attacks, and many other simple things; I will work harder to practice beforehand and be better for y'all. My standards are exceptionally high for those in leadership positions and the standards I hold myself to are the highest. I would like to thank those individuals who approached me to give me solid advice and correct me on items which I was deficient. Thank you! Steel sharpens steel and I want to be right; I try very hard to humble myself so that I can be a servant leader for y'all.

During the Spring 2024 event, the Site Committee met and discussed ideas for a long term site development plan. Why is this important? Because we are growing as an institution and the Allies are bursting at the seams. They are starting to expand to the North and every event we see their lines extending more and more on our right flank. The issue is that we are going to start growing as well and we need to ensure that we have space to spread out to. It may take 20 years (or longer) to grow into the full site, but we need to plan it now so that we have a roadmap to grow rather than a series of short term plans that aren't connected to an overall one. Saturday morning after our large assault, I walked the lines with Bret Werner and a couple of his staff and we laid out a rough idea on how the expansion of trench lines would progress into the future. I'm excited about this because it ensures the Central Powers have the room to develop into the future.

The DRK is making a comeback and using the organizational name from the era; Rotes Kreuz. We have some strong leadership leading these Frauen and we wish to welcome them back into the Central Powers this Fall.

Lastly, the Allied Commander and I have been working on the Fall scenario since the Spring event and I am very satisfied that everyone will have a spectacular time with what we've designed. I have a small group of experienced reenactors designing our attacks for the fall and there's plenty of surprises all around. It is our desire to continuously add scenarios which challenge our leaders and men as well as break up the monotony where all events are relatively the same. We have a total land use attitude rather than just looking at our trench networks – how can we use areas we haven't before or rarely used to add depth to our experience?

As always, I am humbled to command the Central Powers and I sincerely hope that all that we are doing is inspiring each of you to dig deeper into the hobby. We need each of you to experiment and bring into the hobby different attributes which enrich all our experiences. Tyler taking on the Feldgeistlicher (chaplain) impression is just one example of how one person can make a tremendous impact on the hobby.

There are so many people who make our side of the hobby work well and I'm sure I missed quite a few

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FIGHTING RETREAT

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took the other Gruppe to the road. In the moment I decided Dritte Gruppe should stay in position to draw enemy attention away from Sergeant Zoellner and the other Gruppe, and to take the offensive if possible. By this point, the Gruppe consisted of myself and Musketiere Dannenhauer, Richert, Bauers, Gowin and Peak. Musketier Kirsch received a gas wound, so I assigned Musketier Ristig to take our wounded Kamerad back to the aid station. To offer more flexibility I split the Gruppe in half. Musketier Dannenhauer took Richert and Bauers, while I retained Musketiere Gowin and Peak.



Photo courtesy of G. Walters / IR92

We soon realized that our position at the northern edge of the valley offered poor visibility and

exposure to a flanking American machine gun. I ordered the men back to the destroyed farmhouse with Dannenhauer on the left. The Allied troops



Photo courtesy of G. Walters / IR92

began to advance. After a brief exchange of rifle fire, it was clear that the allies outnumbered us and our situation in Death Valley was untenable. I ordered Musketier Dannenhauer to pull back while we offered covering fire. Despite taking casualties Dannenhauer's men provided covering fire as Gowin, Peak and I scrambled back to our lines. The men deployed along our trench line and our trench blocks were deployed. The Gruppe delivered effective rifle fire and Gefreiter Diefenderfer only with Musketiere Mink and Brunner offered excellent grenade support. The enemy attack was repelled with heavy losses. We had a few moments to recover, but the enemy attacks persisted. Soon there were reports that the enemy was pushing down the road and getting in behind our lines. We held back the attack from the road, however, the enemy took our rear positions and appeared on our flank. We first attempted to hold our main trench near Der Punkt. The men threw grenades down the trench as fast as possible, killing several BEF soldiers in the process, but they soon again outnumbered us.

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FIGHTING RETREAT

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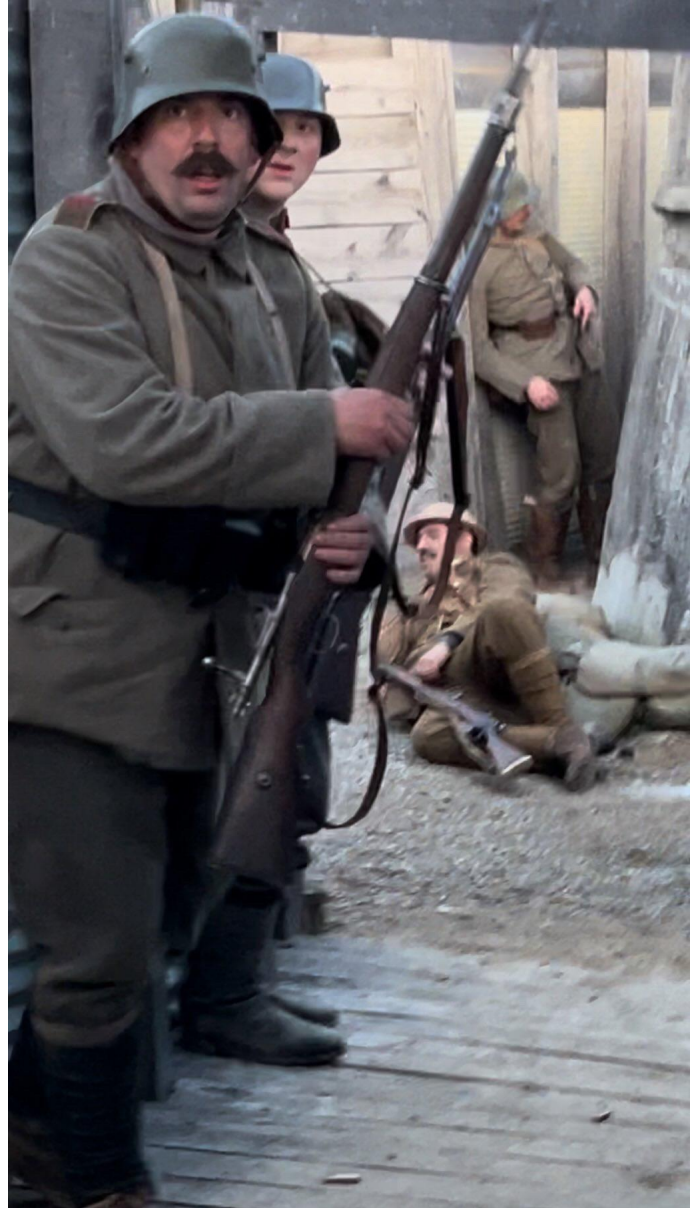
I ordered a retreat and grabbed a crate of grenades, quickly dragging it to our next fallback position. Bauers, Dannenhauer and I managed to escape. I lost Musketiere Peak and Richert in the chaos. They managed to escape or fell defending their positions. Musketier Gowin was also cut off from our retreat and was last seen taking down several Tommys with



Photo courtesy of G. Walters / IR92

well-aimed and rapid rifle fire before himself meeting the hero's fate. In these final desperate moments, we were thankful for the hard work of our pioneers and Sergeant Zoellner's instruction in fighting a tactical withdrawal. We used every corner as a defensive position, throwing grenades, pulling back, throwing grenades, pulling back. At each corner we waited, listening for the sound of hobnailed ammo boots on the duckboards, while the Highlanders in pursuit listened closely for the hiss of our grenade fuse. Our trench blocks also worked well, causing confusion and hesitation among the enemy, and offering opportunities for us to inflict casualties. We neared the 20th MG portion of the trench, and the situation quickly deteriorated. Musketier Dannenhauer fell while taking down a Tommy with his rifle. Musketier Bauers, out of grenades, drew his knife and attacked, stabbing a

Highlander who rounded the corner near our position. I fell shortly after with a rifle shot to the head, and Bauers soon followed. As combat came to a close, Dritte Gruppe had been killed to the last man while defending their position. I offer the highest praise to the men of Dritte Gruppe and IR92 for their outstanding conduct in the field. You've honored our homeland and our Duke.



That "oh shit" moment when you realize the Allies have broken into the front and rear lines and you need to get to a better position.

Photo courtesy of G. Walters / IR92

Salient News

By Carolyn Miller, VAD/AANS

Much as it did with trench art, the Great War spawned a distinctive form of communication arising from the conditions of the common soldier serving in the line: the trench press. Titles of these newspapers or magazines might be nicknames of the weapons of destruction used on a daily basis (Whizz-Bang, 6th Battalion Territorial Force, Durham Light Infantry), the daily horrors encountered behind the lines (The Dead Horse Corner Gazette, 4th Battalion, 1st Canadian Contingent BEF), or might reflect a unit's regional or ethnic origins (Te Huia, 33rd Reinforcement, New Zealand Expeditionary Force). Many publications featured satire and dark humor, a common strategy employed by soldiers across the centuries for coping with the monotony and futility of war. Frequent topics included hobbies and sport, superstitions, songs, complaints, women and traditional observances throughout the year, both religious and secular. Faux adverts were popular too. Some publications such as The Wipers Times and Aussie circulated back home, but the majority of trench periodicals were written by and for the common soldier to enjoy. Much as memes function in our culture today, the parody and satire prevalent in many of these publications resonated most with their specific intended audience; most jokes had a narrow context and could be most appreciated by the men and women serving "over there." Across Allied and CP forces, an estimated 300 distinct publications are believed to have been in circulation during 1915-1918.

To commemorate the Great War centennial in 2015, a group of history-loving graphic designers in London collaborated to replicate The Wipers Times as faithfully as possible. They utilized a period printing press, created plates from scanned original images, employed movable type and printed the final product on period-correct paper stock. You can read about their process and view the finished product here: <https://www.wemadethis.co.uk/blog/2015/12/recreating-the-wipers-times/>

This year, a few of your mates in the BEF endeavor to pay homage to the original Wipers Times, starting with the inaugural edition of The Newville Times or Salient News in April 2024. This publication featured several stories and poems from the original Wipers Times, Aussie and other Commonwealth publications. Several BEF soldiers contributed original compositions as well.

The editors of The Newville Times invite the members of all Allied forces to submit original compositions for inclusion in the upcoming November 2024 edition. Submissions can be poems, stories, cartoons, satirical commentary and send-ups...the cheekier, the better! All we ask is that no individual is maligned nor humiliated in any of the pieces. Language and subject matter must also be appropriate to the period, i.e. no modern slang, cursing or references. Maliciousness and vulgarity have no place here; this publication is intended to be a light-hearted tribute to the experience that is the Newville Great War event. Original compositions may be directed via email to Scott Rall or Carolyn Miller at thenewvilletimes1918@gmail.com You may request that your composition be attributed to "Anonymous" or some other moniker if you wish, but you must include your real name and your GWA unit affiliation with your submitted composition. To receive consideration for publication in the November 2024 issue, submissions must be received no later than September 30, 2024.

Sources: Graham Seal, "We're Here Because We're Here: Trench Culture of the Great War," Folklore, 124 (August 2013): 178-199.

Malcolm Brown & Ian Hislop (editors), Suffering From Cheerfulness: The Best Bits of The Wipers Times, Little Books Ltd, 2010.

BUILDING YOUR GERMAN IMPRESSION: TIPS FOR NEW REENACTORS

by Fritz Frising

Leute, over the years I've expanded on some basic issues as they've come up in Facebook discussions, or with looking over uniforms and gear at events, sharing the "war stories" of purchases gone wrong, or getting that great deal that ends up as a waste of money. With 40+ years as a collector, and with extensive review and discussions under my belt reenacting Bavarian Army, I hope the following can help you avoid some pitfalls.

First off, some familiarity with the original items. Barring that, seek an advisor within your unit, or the CP Authenticity reps, such as Skyler Zenisek or myself. Some vendors list WWII patterns as WWI if they think it's close enough, but these items are not acceptable to our organization. While we don't consider ourselves stitch nazis, we are driven by presenting the best impression; that means we *pay attention to details*. There are certain things that we can't afford to skimp on long-term. The best cornerstone investments you can make involve your uniform coat, cap, helmet, and boots.

Schuster's is the best choice for a uniform tunic at a great price, offering all three wartime patterns for various German states. With a bigger budget and wait time, European tailors Bekleidungsamt XIII and Jarema are top of the line. Trousers should always have red piping, fyi, as that was never eliminated when

the m1915/16 Einheitsfeldbluse was introduced without any piping. You will want to avoid Chinese eBay deals for uniforms, as the \$40 savings over a Schuster's uniform is not worth it in the end. With a Feldmütze, there are a couple of custom cap makers who will give you your money's worth. Most off-the-rack caps have a red band or Pionier black band that is almost twice as wide as it should be, or the caps are assembled with thick seams that make a knot at the back of your head--something not present on originals.

Get a real helmet. If your head size is a 56-57, you can get a size 64 shell to restore. Above that, a more costly 66 or scarcer 68 will be required. Prairie Flower Leather Co is one of the best liner makers out there. They also provide liner pins, and even chinstrap posts and air vent lugs if you require them. There can be some good eBay finds for these parts out of Ukraine and Czech Republic.

Boots can be tricky. Lederarsenal makes an outstanding product, but the wait is long. Nestof is about the only option for a fair price, made to last. Most off-the-rack boots from anywhere else have a day or couple of weekends before they start to come apart. Talk to people and see what they recently purchased, and how that run from the manufacturer is holding up.

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FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

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who worked so hard to make our event go so smoothly. However, know that I am very impressed by each of you and your dedication. We have excellent leaders and commanders at all levels and this is just the beginning of what we can all accomplish together. To the unit commanders, and especially the Zugführere, thank you for your exceptional leadership and dedication to our men.

See y'all in the Fall!

„Wir haben einen Willen; Sieg oder Todt!“
Hauptmann Otto Landrik
Mike Landree



Photos courtesy of Pete Lerro

BUILDING YOUR GERMAN IMPRESSION

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Some items are only good for show, but don't function as intended. For example, one Zeltbahn maker does not make anything usable—it soaks up water like a towel, and the grommets are weak. But at 15 feet away, it looks like it should. Many brass replica belt buckles have a modern insignia grade brass high-finish shine that most of us find frustrating to "knock down a few notches" to look right. Despite a number of poorly made items, or older replicas that have since been improved upon, used items found cheaply will also permit men to field quickly on a budget. There is leeway here to buy "junk" you plan on replacing or tweaking, but we are here to answer questions and help you avoid pitfalls--such as spending \$30 on a Swiss mess kit or Czech canteen that really are not within the right parameters to be useful. As always, with any item that you are investing in, make your money count. Boots, gas masks, helmets, rifles, bayonets, tunic, and the larger tag items should all be discussed before plunking down your cash with limited background. Similarly, just because your bayonet is original, if it looks 60 or 100 years old, better to leave it home and find a replica or replacement.

I look forward to talking about this with anyone who cares to have their ear bent. Feel free to reach out to me on Facebook or if you spot me at an event.

Fritz Frising, aka Walter Fritz Bär,
k.b.10.JR reenacted

LET'S BUILD GRENADES

By Eric Cleveland

Central Powers Representative and
O/Lt d. Pionier, (Pionier Batallion 14), 7th Zug

In his article "Fighting in the Trenches" by Louis Plack, former Leutnant of JR63, wrote that the soldier who "will deal most effectively with its enemies - is the Grenadier." He likens the attacking unit to a serpent and the Gruppe's Grenadiers to its fangs.

At Newville, we know that it can be difficult to see everyone on the battlefield and we often complain that the allies don't take hits from rifle fire. This can be attributed to the excitement of battle, unwillingness to leave the fight, as well as from simply not seeing where your shot came from. One thing we can agree on, however, is that when a grenade lands at their feet, they usually take the hit.

Many times, I've seen CP units go over the top to clear the opposing trench armed only with rifles. This creates some issues. First, there's a safety issue of engaging only with a long range weapon from very close range. We all get excited and can very easily forget to elevate the muzzle. Second, maneuvering in a confined space with a long stick can be unwieldy. In the time it takes to acquire a target, decide a course of action and bring your weapon to bear, the defensive soldier has the decided advantage and has already shot you. Third, in the trench, you're fighting around corners. You can't throw a rifle around a corner. You have to expose yourself to take your shot. By then, the defensive soldier shoots first.

The solution to this is hand grenades. Many people have the impression that burlap grenade bags were limited to SturmTruppen. They were not. Leutnant Plack details them in his article. In "Storm of Steel" there's a photograph of Ernst Junger wearing them. They were simply an expedient method to carry grenades. If I can impress one thing upon the unit commanders, it is the absolute necessity of every man carrying

grenades in the attack. We should never have an attack go forward without each man carrying at least 6 stick grenades and 10 egg grenades. During the last attack we made in April 2024, the Zugs were to attack in three directions. We quickly became bogged down and couldn't advance. From my vantage point, I was able to throw stick grenades in two directions and cleared the trenches in advance for two of the Zug's to move forward. Their movement lasted until the grenades ran out. Our attack then continued until we were stopped by the allies using.....grenades. We should never again attack without each man carrying the grenades they need to clear the trenches ahead of them.

The next point is how to light them. I've never been a fan of the "combat bic" that's ubiquitous when trying to light grenades. They're not authentic in the least. It takes time. Wind can make lighting the fuse even more difficult. The action stops while you fumble with the lighter and the grenade. Wouldn't it be great if there were a consistent method to pull light the grenades, much like the originals? Well...there is.

In my unit, we've experimented for several years to come up with a pull fuse igniter you can make at home that works consistently and we've finally come up with one. I'll detail it for you now.

First, gather your supplies. You'll need scissors, aluminum foil, black powder or substitute, powder measure, black plastic easter eggs (or paint the colored ones), slow burn cannon fuse, hot glue gun and glue, high quality wooden matches (do not use paper matches), striker paper sheets, Gorilla Tape, 1" key rings or other suitable ring for the pull. baking soda, masking tape.

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LET'S BUILD GRENADES

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Second, make the grenade. Buy black easter eggs, or paint the colored ones.

- Drill a hole in the top the right size for your waterproof cannon fuse.
- Cut aluminum foil into 2"x4" strips, fold them over, place them in the palm of your hand and stick a former in it (I use a fat sharpie) forming a cup



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LET'S BUILD GRENADES

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- Fill the cup with 30 grains of black powder or black powder substitute.
- Place a line of hot glue on the inside top of the aluminum cup

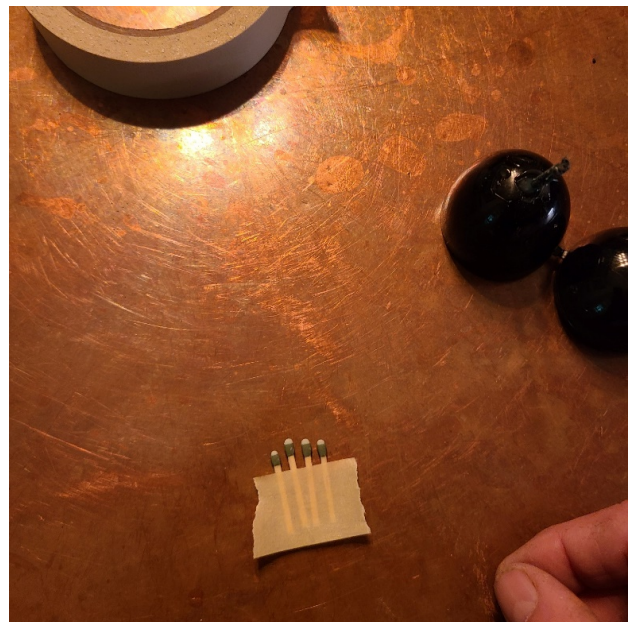


Insert a 2 ½-3" section of fuse into the cup and squeeze it tightly around the fuse. This is important. The reason is that it does two things. The first is that it holds the fuse into the cup so you don't yank it out when you pull the igniter. The second is that it provides compression on the charge making it go "pop" instead of "pffft". Insert the fuse through the hole in the top of the egg and hot glue it into the egg. This also does two things. First, it's extra insurance that you won't yank the fuse out when you pull the igniter and secondly, it holds the baking soda into the egg. Also glue the two vent holes in the egg closed.



Third, make the pull igniter.

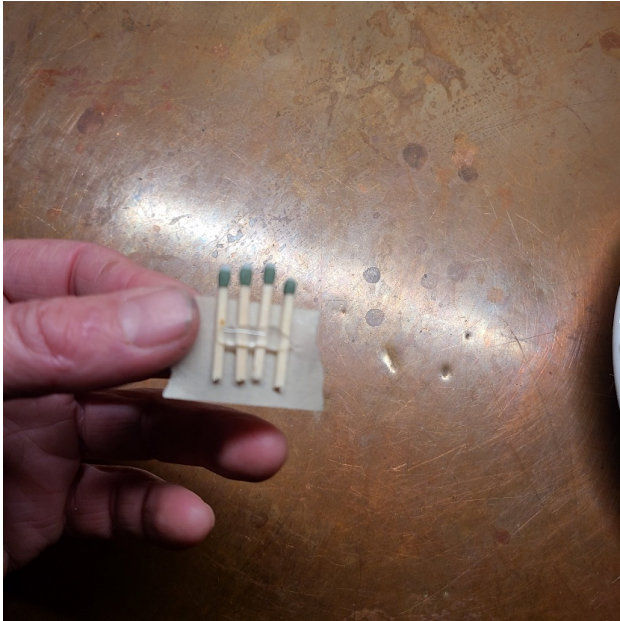
- Take 2-4 high quality wooden matches and break off half the sticks. It's important that you use high quality matches like Ohio Blue Tips, Three Stars, Diamond, etc and not paper matches. Paper matches absorb moisture and won't light after a short time exposed to the elements. Two matches will work, four works better.
- Lay them out on the counter with the heads slightly staggered and press a short piece of masking tape on them to pick them up. Place a gob of hot glue in the middle.



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LET'S BUILD GRENADES

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- Wrap the matches around the cannon fuse with the heads slightly staggered in height at the end of the fuse. The hot glue will hold them in place.
- Take a sheet of good quality red, black or brown striker paper, peel off the back and cover the back with tape. Do not use the dotted striker paper as it doesn't have as much surface area and isn't as coarse. I use gorilla tape, but duct tape should work fine. Do not use poster paper or any hard substance since you need it to flex around the fuse. Cut the striker paper into 3"x1/2" strips.



- Buy 1" key rings on Amazon (\$25 per thousand), or any other suitable ring, and put the striker paper strip through the middle of the ring.
- Fold the striker strip over the match/fuse and wrap tightly with a rubber band. I use the small ones made for wrapping a horses' mane that you can get at Tractor Supply but any small rubber band will do. Wrap them tightly and spread out the rubber band to give as much surface area as possible.



- Fill the egg with baking soda, close it and wrap masking tape around the seam. Write your unit name on the tape.



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LET'S BUILD GRENADES

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Fourth, attack the allies!

These grenades work exceptionally well in the attack because you don't have to pause to light them. Simply pull the ring, pause for the fuse to be lit by the matches and throw. At night, they give a great advantage because you're not giving your position away with a lighter before you throw the grenade. It lights quickly and you throw it, often before they see you.

My unit requires each member to bring 100 grenades to each event and we generally use them all. I encourage each unit to set similar standards and join us in the grenade fight. If you'll do so, you will see the benefit the first time you use them.



Photo courtesy of Pete Lerro

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

***On the Wire* Fall 2024 Issue Drops October 30.**

Please submit content for the Fall issue prior to October 15, including unit updates, feature stories, pictures, etc. Something you'd like to see? Please also feel free to pass along your ideas.

Send content / suggestions to GreatWarSecretary@gmail.com .