

# ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Spring 2004



## President's Letter

Dear GWA Members,

There are two important issues that the G-8 is working on; 1) whether or not to seek nonprofit status, and; 2) site construction regulations. This issue of *OtW* is focusing on the nonprofit organization question. The information that I am providing you is for you to review and consider. This information was developed as a result of discussions with several CPAs and other reenactment organizations that are nonprofit—now I present it to you.

The biggest question I had about nonprofit status was the question of autonomy; how much “control” do we give away to the government, especially membership? My concerns were relieved after talking to several organization (Rev War, Civil War and WWII) leaders about it. Basically, they had a very positive reaction and told me that they have had little or no interference running their organizations.

They were all in agreement that as long as you do not “exclude” membership because of race, religion, gender, etc, the organization is not jeopardized. We do not exclude anyone, although we have gender specific roles for those who participate—this is OK.

I tried to anticipate many of the questions you might have and get the answers to them, as well as some of the benefits of nonprofit status. As we move forward, I am interested in your opinions, especially from those of you that have experience

with nonprofit organizations. If you have a question or comment, my email address is: [rzienta@replications.com](mailto:rzienta@replications.com)

There will be some changes that we will need to make to our Bylaws—I don’t anticipate anything major—but there is some language that we need to “clean up.” Any proposed changes will be voted on by the general membership.

A draft of the site construction regulations will be posted on our Web site for your review and comments. Again, your input is important.

See you at the event,

*Rob Zienta*

*GWA President*

## Tax Exemption Requirements

To be tax-exempt as a 501(c)(3) organization, an organization must be organized and operate exclusively for one or more exempt purposes, which are: charitable, religious, educational, scientific, literary, testing for public safety, fostering national or international amateur sports competition, and the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

## Contents

Tax Exemption Requirements Checklist . . . . .	2
Questions and Answers on Tax-Exempt Status . . .	2
Allied Narrative of Operations . . . . .	4
A Raid on November 1st . . . . .	5
AEF Report on Operations . . . . .	6
An Introduction to the New Treasurer . . . . .	8
Make Plans to Attend the Summer 2004 Event . . .	8
Map to Event Site . . . . .	8
Registration Form for the Spring 2004 Event .	9-10

## Spring Event Schedule

April 16–17, 2004

### Friday, April 16

- 1PM–9PM** Registration shed open
- 3:00PM** Executive Committee meeting at the registration shed
- 5:30PM** German Commander’s meeting at the 8. Kürassier lager
- 6:30PM** Safety meeting on road between trenches
- 6:45PM** Units deploy to trenches. Combat begins at dark.
- 10PM** Stand down from combat

### Saturday, April 17

- 9AM** Safety meeting formation for all units
- 10AM** Combat begins
- 10PM** Stand down from combat



The term charitable, as it applies to a 501(c)(3) organization, includes relief of the poor, the distressed, or the underprivileged; advancement of religion; **advancement of education** or science; erection or maintenance of public buildings, **monuments, or works**; lessening the burdens of government; lessening of neighborhood tensions; elimination of prejudice and discrimination; defense of human and civil rights secured by law; and combating community deterioration and juvenile delinquency.

None of the earnings of the organization may be used to benefit any individual. In addition, it may not attempt to influence legislation as a substantial part of its activities or participate at all in campaign activity for or against political candidates. The GWA meets these criteria.

The organizations described in IRC Section 501(c)(3) are commonly referred to under the general heading of "charitable organizations" and are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

To be organized exclusively for a charitable purpose, the organization must be a **corporation**, community chest, fund, or foundation. The articles of organization must limit the organization's purposes to one or more of the exempt purposes set forth in IRC Section 501(c)(3).

The articles cannot empower the organization to engage in activities that would interfere with its stated purpose. This requirement may be met if the purposes stated in the articles of organization are limited in some way by reference to IRC Section 501(c)(3).

In addition, assets of an organization must be permanently dedicated to an exempt purpose. This means that should an organization dissolve, its assets must be distributed for an exempt purpose, or to the federal government or to a state or local government for a public purpose. The articles of organization should contain a provision insuring the distribution of funds for an exempt purpose in the event of dissolution. We have such a statement in our bylaws.

An organization will be regarded as "operated exclusively" for one or more exempt purposes only if it engages primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of the exempt purposes specified in IRC Section 501(c)(3) (*which we do as stated in our bylaws*).

—Rob Zienta

## Tax Exemption Requirements Checklist

- ☐ You must INCORPORATE.
- ☐ You must prepare and file the 20-page IRS Form 1023 and related form with the IRS accompanied by the appropriate filing fees. (*The IRS estimates this form should take the first time applicant approximately 12-20 hours to complete. I recommend that we look at paying a fee to get this done—RZ*)
- NOTE: A check for either \$150.00 or \$500.00 must be made payable to the IRS. If you receive or expect to receive monies from any source totaling in excess of \$10,000.00, you will be required to pay the \$500.00 filing fee.**
- ☐ You must be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation.
- ☐ You must adopt bylaws for your corporation.
- ☐ You must elect a Board of Directors and elect Officers. (directors and officers may be the same people) You must obtain an employer identification number
- ☐ The organization must be organized and operated for a charitable, literary, scientific, religious or **educational purpose** or in furtherance of amateur athletics.
- ☐ The organization may not be operated for the private financial benefit of any one person or for the benefit of a small class of persons.
- ☐ The organization must NOT engage in lobbying for political campaigns or similar political activity.

### WARNING!! PLEASE READ

Even if we become tax exempt under Section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code, we may still have to comply with state law to be considered tax exempt under state law. Pennsylvania requirements would need to be checked.

## Questions and Answers

### Q: What is a Federal Employer Identification Number?

If you plan on opening a bank account under your corporate name, most banks will require that your entity have a Federal Employers Identification Number. Furthermore you may need this number to file your tax return.

### Q: What is a Registered Agent?

Almost ALL jurisdictions require that the entity designate a registered agent for service of process. However, in most

## ON THE WIRE

Newsletter of the Great War Association

Published by the GWA Executive Committee

Mark Graef, Editor

Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Electronic files should be sent as e-mail attachments to: graf63@bellatlantic.net  
Photos, art or disks may be mailed to: Box 2086, Merrifield, VA 22116

Submission deadline for the next issue: May 1

Next issue publication date: May 10, 2004



cases, anyone who has a street address (NO PO BOXES) within the state of incorporation may act as a registered agent for the entity.

***Q: What are Bylaws?***

Bylaws serve as the internal operating document for the entity. Generally, Bylaws detail the responsibilities, rights, and duties of directors, shareholders and officers. Currently states generally do not require that Bylaws be filed. We have filed Articles of Incorporation and are already incorporated in Pennsylvania.

***Q: What is a Corporate Officer?***

Typically, the authority and responsibilities of each officer is described in the corporate bylaws.

**The President.** The President has the overall executive responsibility for the management of the entity and is typically responsible for entering into contracts on behalf of the organization.

**The Treasurer.** The Treasurer is the chief financial officer of the organization and is responsible for controlling and recording its finances and maintaining corporate bank accounts. Actual fiscal policy of the entity may rest with the Board of Directors and be largely controlled by the president on a day-to-day basis.

**The Secretary.** The Secretary is typically responsible for maintaining the corporate records.

In addition to these required officer positions, an organization may also have vice presidents or other officers.

***Q: What is a Corporate Director?***

The Board of Directors is essentially the management body for the entity. Our G-8 is equivalent to a Board of Directors.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors include establishing all business policies and approving major contracts and undertakings. Ordinary business practices of the organization are carried out under the directives and supervision of these Directors.

The Directors must act collectively for their votes and decisions to be valid. That's why Directors may only act at a Board of Directors meeting. This, however, requires certain formalities. One such formality is that the Directors must all be notified of a forthcoming meeting in a prescribed manner, although this can be waived or provided for in the entity's Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws.

For a Directors' meeting to be valid, there must also be a Quorum of Directors present. A Quorum is usually a majority of the Directors then serving on the Board; however, the Bylaws may specify another minimum number or percentage.

The Board of Directors must meet on a regular basis (monthly or quarterly), but in no case less than annually. These are the regular Board meetings. The Board may also call Special Meetings for matters that may arise between reg-

ular meetings. In addition, boards may call a special shareholders' meeting by adopting a resolution stating where and when the meeting is to be held and what business is to be transacted.

Board members, like officers, have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interests of the organization and cannot put their own interests ahead of the organization's. The Board must also act prudently and not negligently manage the affairs of the entity. Finally, the Board must make certain that it properly exercises its authority in managing the organization and does not abrogate its responsibilities to others.

This means that the board must be very careful to document that each Board action was reasonable, lawful and in the best interests of the organization. The record or Corporate Minutes of the meeting must include the arguments or statements to support the Board action and why must detail why the action was proper.

***Q: If I incorporate, will doing so prevent others from using my company name?***

Incorporating will not keep another business from using your name. Generally, every business must protect its own business name and the good will that it has acquired from the sale of its goods or services in a specific geographic area. Filing articles of incorporation only prevents the secretary of state from filing a document to create another corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership that has the same, a deceptively similar, or similar name as the entity already in existence.

***Q: Do I need to publish a notice of incorporation?***

While a few jurisdictions require publication of the corporate name to be published in a newspaper local to the county of the registered agent (Georgia, Arizona, Illinois, and Pennsylvania), most jurisdictions do not require publication unless an existing unincorporated business intends to incorporate without a change in its name; that business must then publish its intent to incorporate in the local newspaper for four consecutive weeks (in most jurisdictions). (*This would have to be checked. I do not know if this was ever done—RZ*)

***Q: What is a nonprofit corporation?***

This is a corporation which is formed with the purpose of benefiting the public in some religious, scientific, **educational** or charitable way. Because of this charitable purpose, most jurisdictions do not require these corporations to pay income taxes on monies it earns. In addition, nonprofit corporations may achieve tax exempt status for charitable contributions by obtaining what is known as 501(c)(3) status.

***Q: Would the Government "control" our organization?***

Absolutely not! We would still be able to set our membership requirements and standards. Being a 501(c)(3) organization does not mean we give away our rights. This has been affirmed by other nonprofit reenactment groups I have contacted who have nonprofit status. —Rob Zienta



# Narrative of Operations

## October 31–November 2, 1918

### 1st Composite Battalion, Neuville-Pronville sector

#### SECRET

**October 31.** By 7PM, the 1<sup>st</sup> CB relieved the 105<sup>th</sup> Canadian Battalion in the forward zone. The three national companies immediately dispatched patrols into no man's land. At 8:45PM, the enemy was repulsed in attempting to raid HILL 10. Another raiding party, which was equipped with assault packs, was engaged by the French company under Lt. Manchu opposite CAKE TRENCH, and practically annihilated before they could reach our frontline. At least five patrols were dispatched during the evening, the results being the gathering of much important intelligence in regard to the large raid to be launched on the following evening. In addition to this, 7 prisoners were brought in.

**November 1.** After Stand To, the enemy again attempted to raid HILL 10, but was repulsed with some loss.

At 11:24PM the previous evening, Divisional HQ ordered an advance across the Neuville–Pronville Road in order to capture a bluff that would interdict enemy traffic along the Cerizy – Pronville Road 200 yards to the rear. Zero hour was to be at 10AM. With some trepidation in regard to the haste in which this operation was to be carried out, I selected the AEF Company (Lt. J. Kidd), to carry out the main part of the assault.

The plan called for the AEF Company to advance eastward, with its right flank in touch with the BEF Company (Lt. S. Rall). Due to the configuration of the line, which was a result of a German withdrawal to the north, the AEF Company would advance across ground recently vacated by the enemy and cross the Neuville–Pronville Road. The AEF Company's right flank was to be covered by two platoons of the BEF Company. The platoons of the latter company, by advancing into no man's land, would contain any German flank attacks northward from the vicinity of the DUCK'S BILL. The left flank of the assaulting company would be protected by three platoons of the Canadian Grenadier Guards.

Zero hour was delayed until 10:30AM, due to the earlier German riposte. An error in deployment initially prevented the link between the two companies. Because of this, the two platoons of the BEF Company were drawn away northwards from their assigned task into the fight for the bluff.

Despite these setbacks, the AEF Company valiantly seized the enemy position after heavy loss. Twelve prisoners were captured, along with a machinegun. By 12PM, C Company, 67th Canadian Battalion, relieved the AEF Company.

During the remainder of the day, preparations for the large raid to be carried out by the battalion were completed (see attached Appendix for details). At 3:10PM, the enemy raided the French sector and was repulsed with the assistance of the AEF Company. At 5:26PM, a third German attempt to raid

Hill 10 was repulsed after an initial penetration of our line.

At 7:30PM, the Germans made a fourth effort to seize HILL 10. A large force of approximately 40 men led by an officer, succeeded in dispersing the hill garrison. As the battalion was in the final stages of preparing for the raid, the enemy would have to be driven from the captured position quickly. While company officers led reinforcements toward the hill, Sgt. B. Kendall with a section of the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs, succeeded in bombing the much larger enemy party out of the captured position. But for their efforts, the raid would have been delayed or possibly cancelled.

At 8:15PM, the raiding parties rushed toward the objectives. On the right, advancing eastwards, the AEF Company supported by the French/Russe Company (Lt. B. Jensen), encountered two German patrols that were quickly dispatched before entering the enemy line. The garrison was taken completely by surprise and overwhelmed before any serious resistance could be organized.

On the left, the BEF Company advancing southwards also succeeded in overrunning the enemy garrison in the DUCK'S BILL—MUNICH TRENCH positions. Patrols sent forward to investigate the WUNDERWERK found it unoccupied.

Once the objective was secured, two Minenwerfers, a number of machineguns, dugouts, supply stores, and signal posts were destroyed. In addition to this, documents, automatics, rifles, gas masks, Very Pistols, and other equipment was brought back, along with 28 prisoners. At least 42 enemy dead were counted during the action, with more perhaps perishing in bombed dugouts, shelters, etc. Our losses were 23 killed, 37 wounded, and 8 missing.

After 35 minutes, a bugle sounded the retirement. On crossing no man's land, some of the German prisoners became casualties, whereas our losses were surprisingly light. By 9PM, the raiders had returned to our lines. The garrison remained on alert with posts established in no man's land, and double sentry groups in the frontline in order to meet any enemy counter-attack.

Relief of the battalion was to begin at 11PM. Prior to this; a patrol engagement took place in DEATH VALLEY, in which the 2nd Platoon (AEF Co.) inflicted loss on the enemy. Another similar encounter took place opposite the DUCK'S BILL, where the PPCLI dispersed another German patrol with rifle fire and bombs.

A trophy was gained by the 6<sup>th</sup> Buffs prior to the BEF Company's departure from the line. An enemy flag that had been placed in his frontline during the day had reappeared following the raid. Discerning it in the moonlight, the patrol crossed no man's land without encountering any resistance, and carried it back to our line.

**November 2.** The relief by the 64<sup>th</sup> Canadian Battalion was completed by 1:45AM. The battalion reached the support lines at Neurisy le Grande by 4AM. Battalion HQ was placed at *Petit Chevaux Estaminet*. The French and AEF Companies were housed in the village and Velu Farm nearby. The BEF Company was placed under canvas at Red Lion Camp.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. T. Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lancashire Fusiliers, arrived to take up the post as adjutant at battalion HQ.





**Comments.** Despite our advance in the south, *Kampfgruppe Thielmann* defended its positions tenaciously and showed no signs of withdrawal. In addition to this, the enemy launched at least five assaults on our lines during this tour.

The raid on the evening of November 1<sup>st</sup> was a major success. The enemy incurred heavy losses in men and material. As usual, the men of the French/Russe, BEF, and AEF companies were splendid while carrying out a very difficult undertaking.

Sgnd. **Capt. M. S. Lowe**  
**2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers**  
**cmmdg. 1st C B.**

## APPENDIX 1

### Secret

#### ORDERS BY CAPT. M. S. LOWE 2nd DUBLIN FUSILIERS ATT. 1<sup>ST</sup> COMPOSITE BATTALION FOR A RAID ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 1918

**1) Intention.** Allied advances in the south require a number of raids on XXIV Corps front to be carried out in order to tie enemy reserves to this sector, inflict damage, and gather intelligence. Divisional HQ has ordered the 1st Composite Battalion to launch a major raid on the evening of November 1st in the Neuville–Pronville sector.

The BEF & AEF companies in order to gather intelligence prior to the raid will dispatch reconnaissance patrols on the evening of October 31st. Battalion HQ will designate the objective of these patrols.

Company Commanders (Lt's Jensen, Rall & Kidd), will make certain that a small force from each company remains in our vacated trenches during the assault.

The AEF Company commander will arrange for liaison with his French counterpart in regard to the latter Company being used in a support role during the raid.

**2) Object.** The raid will be launched, at a time to be designated later, with the object of seizing the enemy line from the DUCK'S BILL (I. 14. c.) to the ruin at (I. 15. a. c) the out building of HUSSAR FARM as far as the CHERIZY—PRONVILLE ROAD (see map).

**3) Strength & Composition.** Directing Officer. Capt. M. S. Lowe, Royal Dublin Fusiliers

Lt. S. Rall, RWF with BEF Company

Lt. W. J. Kidd, 109th Inf. with AEF Company

Lt. B. Jensen, 8th Chasseurs with French Company and Legion Russe att.

Signal Section RE, Sgt. S. Keller

Prisoner Processing & Intelligence,

Lt. W. David AEF.

**4) Dress.** Fatigue dress, steel helmet, equipment arranged in assault order, gas helmet in alert position, all documents and maps, private letters, etc. removed.

**5) Equipment & Arms.** Revolvers to designated men, rifles, wirecutters to designated men, bombs to designated bombers.

**6) Plan of Assault.** The AEF Company, supported by the French Company, will seize and hold BREMEN TRENCH (I. 14. d. & I. 15. c) and BREMEN SUPPORT (I. 14. b. & I. 15. a.) and its environs, as far as the CERIZY—PRONVILLE ROAD. (I. 14. b. & I. 15. a & b). Bomb stops will need to be placed at 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

The BEF Company will seize and hold the enemy line from the DUCK'S BILL to the WUNDERWERK, as far as the CERIZY—PRONVILLE ROAD (I. 14. a & b). Bomb stops will need to be placed at 6 7 8 9 10. (see map).

Following the sounding of retire by bugle and the discharge of the ACME sirens by the BEF & AEF Company Commanders, the raiding parties will withdraw. A covering force will remain in place on the enemy parapet until the remainder of the force withdraws across no man's land.

**7) Rifle Grenades & Trench Mortars.** Arrangements will be made by BEF & AEF company officers to engage the necessary targets.

**8) Smoke.** Provided that proper meteorological conditions occur, smoke candles will be utilized to assist the crossing of no man's land. Battalion HQ will make arrangements for this.

**9) Communication Paradigm.** Two runners from RE Signal Section will be attached to OC AEF & BEF Company. Army form C2121, will be issued to these runners. Runners will deliver all messages from the captured enemy line to advanced HQ. The remainder of RE Signal section will be with DO raid at advanced HQ (see below). Advanced HQ. will be located in CALABASH TRENCH at HILL 10 (I. 14. a).

**10) Zero hour** will be designated on Z Day. The raiding parties will remain in the enemy lines no longer than thirty-five minutes. They will return to our lines on the bugle sounding retire, from advanced HQ in CALABASH TRENCH. Following this, the Company officers of the BEF & AEF raiding parties will utilize their issued ACME sirens to signal the withdrawal.

**11) Sign/Countersign:** Banger/Beans

**12) Prisoners and documents** will be dispatched to the prisoner collection point at CALABASH TRENCH (I. 14. c. 1). This post will be under the command of Lt. David. Three men from the AEF Company will be assigned to this officer to assist in the guarding of prisoners.

**13) Reports.** All reports will be submitted at HQ Gunga Den dugout (I. 8. b. 2) following the raid.

**14) Information:** *Kampfgruppe Thielmann* holds the line opposite with approximately 125 men in the forward area. Enemy reserves are located 800 yards to the rear at Bolanger Farm (I. 23. a. 1. 2).



Several machine gun positions are believed to be located in the vicinity of the CRASSIER (I.14.b).

#### 15) Meteorological Conditions.

October 31st. H 67 / L 49. Overcast. Sunset will be at 5:09PM. The Moon will be in its first quarter.

November 1st. H 71 / L 47. Overcast. Sunrise at 6:39AM. Sunset At 5:08PM. The Moon will be in its first quarter, with 56% of its visible disc illuminated.

16. Zero Hour will be at \_\_\_\_\_.

17. Officers will synchronize watches prior to Zero.

*Issued 12MN*

*Verbally & dictated to all concerned  
8cc.*

## APPENDIX 2

# Report on Operations October 31–November 2, 1918

AEF Company

1<sup>st</sup> Composite Battalion

Neuville-Pronville Sector, France

November 7, 1918

Sir,

Shortly before 7PM October 31, 1918, my company (Co. A, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion) moved into the front lines relieving elements of 3rd Battalion. My company was assigned a six-fire-bay section, approximately 120 yds of front, for which my two available platoons were quite under strength (my third platoon was detailed elsewhere and we had not received replacements since our last engagement). At the time of taking to the trenches, I had a nominal strength 75 men, including the company kitchen, which finally caught up with us, allowing them men to have hot chow for the first time in two weeks.

The enemy must have realized some movement had taken place for soon after settling into our positions, the Hun began probing my sector quite heavily. This was to continue all night. Each probe was turned back, with minimal loss to ourselves, and minor loss to the enemy. Several prisoners were taken and sent back to the Lt David, acting battalion intelligence officer, who had moved up to my company PC to more quickly access any prisoners.

Early in the morning of 1 Nov, my company was detailed to be part of an advance on the far left of the battalion. Our positions were temporarily assumed by elements of the Russian unit on our right, and we marched to the specified jump off point.

Intelligence gained from prisoners the night before indicated that the Germans were attempting to evacuate a salient extending several miles to the north, created by an Allied breakthrough of the German main line. The Neuville-Pronville Road, immediately to my front, was to be the primary artery of this movement, and interdicting this road would place the Hun at a severe disadvantage. A large bluff

in the vicinity of a stone quarry, which dominated the road, was our objective. Possession of the bluff would render the road useless to the enemy. If practicable, I also had the option of seizing the road, though I would not have had the strength to hold it.

Shortly after 10:30 AM we moved forward. Initially the terrain provided a greater obstacle than the enemy. Heavy second growth made concerted movement impossible. My 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, under Sgt Johnson, had the difficult movement on the right. 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon, under Lt Werner, split with half moving through the woods, and the other moving up a road which bordered the objective area on the left.

We advanced nearly 1/4 mile before encountering the enemy, who fell back rapidly. As we advanced my right linked up with elements of a British company immediately on my right who supported that flank. As we continued to press towards the objective enemy resistance stiffened. The Hun fought and retreated in small groups, apparently trying to buy time to complete his withdrawal. Sensing this, we pressed harder, though we began to take casualties.

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Crane brought ambulances up as close as possible to attend the wounded, but as losses mounted, the assault began to bog down. We regrouped, and with help from a Scottish Lewis gun team (from where they came I don't know), burst upon the objective, seizing the bluff and laying down a base of fire on the road.

German MGs firing down the road had by this time pin down my left wing element, advancing down the road. This left my right and center elements exposed when they seized the objective. A Hun unit, seeing this, attempted to flank us from the road, forcing my center group to refuse its left, but the German movement was itself flanked by 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon and decimated. The dead from this desperate German push were apparently from a unit designated 459.

At this point, by our having seized the promontory, the Hun traffic on the road ceased, and we had Forward Observers range in the road with artillery. With little else to be gained by staying, we were withdrawn, and resumed our place in the trench sector.

My losses during this action were 12 killed, 16 wounded. Enemy bodies were counted at 26 killed, and 2 prisoners.

Hoping for some quiet, we were disappointed, as the German probes continued unabated throughout the day. Most were turned back with loss, though one probe around 1 PM succeeded in piercing my 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon front (in a squad which sustained heavy loss in the morning action) and slipped into my reserve trenches. This assault was quickly limited by the elements on either flank, and was promptly withdrawn, though they inflicted casualties, including the elimination of 4<sup>th</sup> squad, 1<sup>st</sup> platoon.

Shortly after 2:30 PM, Sgt Johnson observed a German push against the French on his right and took the opportunity to throw elements of his 1<sup>st</sup> platoon at the exposed left flank of the German advance. Faced with fire from front and flank the assault was quickly repulsed.

One other raid of note by the enemy occurred just prior to dusk, during a time when portions of my unit had been sent back to bring up food from the kitchen section. This raid was



also repulsed, though they managed to grab two prisoners before retiring. Sgt Johnson was also severely wounded, and command of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon devolved on Sgt Petty.

The only other item of note throughout the afternoon was the heavy use of Hun mortars. For several hours the German mortars kept a steady fire, but all their rounds flew far past the front lines, so we let them expend their rounds harmlessly to the rear. In the late afternoon, they began to drop on our lines, so we undertook counter battery fire with mortars and rifle grenadiers. My gunners quickly found their range, and silenced the offending tubes, and by observing the commotion we caused, allowed my gunners to continue to shell their supporting infantry. We were well supplied with both gas & HE rounds and the men let the Hun have it for quite a while.

The remainder of the company stood fast until after dusk, when we were to participate in the major Allied raid. We were to cooperate with the French unit on our right in seizing the enemy trench system opposite the French. I consulted with the French officers, Lts Jensen & Manchu, about the best plan of attack. They both suggested that their units, knowing well the wire configuration to their front, lead the assault, with my US unit exploiting the breach. This was agreed upon. I brought my unit up from behind the French line in an open area to on the French right, and awaited their movement. Just as the French were ready to jump off, a German patrol appeared on their flank. I hesitated to fire on it, as I didn't wish to give away my position or numbers (which could compromise the operation), and waited to see the French reaction. Not long after, I noticed a second German unit, apparently a covering patrol for the first. Realizing that the enemy unit in our target sector likely had much of his force out front and in the open, and I was on his flank, unnoticed, I decided it would be better to beat him in No Man's land and walk into his line.

I attacked his patrols with my 2nd platoon, while pushing my first towards his line, the French moving at the same time. The Hun patrols were destroyed, with little quarter given (we took one prisoner, and while he was sent back under guard, I fear he never arrived, as his guards returned quite quickly). We gained the enemy line with little difficulty, though the ensuing movement thoroughly mixed Yank & Poilu alike. All involved went about their business professionally, and the French went and held their assigned trench juncture while the US troops began to clear the trenches to the left of the breach, simultaneously clearing both the front line and support trenches.

The Germans in this sector seemed quite surprised at our presence. I surmise that, with the initial contact with the Hun being in No man's land and on the far right, they never realized we had actually penetrated their lines until we took them prisoner. I was even able to pick a locked trench block apart with a German squad at ease 10 ft away. They were killed or captured where they stood. Other groups of Germans attempted to slow us down, but were eliminated where we found them. We cleared both lines northward to the edge of Death Valley, and held our blocks, awaiting the withdrawal signal. At this time we began receiving sniper fire from Death Valley itself, and the Germans, in desperation, began

dropping gas and smoke rounds on their lines, which we now held. It had small effect on us, but killed a number of Hun wounded, who were unable to get their masks on.

We began retiring when the losses from snipers began to tell, and the withdrawal signal came. We went out as we came, bringing out our own dead and wounded, and 14 German prisoners (we would have had more but for the German gas). Our losses were surprisingly light, 4 killed, 17 wounded. Catching the Germans out in the open, and surprising their neighbors in the lines, had much to do with the low casualty rate.

We also destroyed 4 MG positions and several communications bunkers.

We returned to our sector, tired but pleased with the damage we inflicted. The German command must not have been pleased, as for the rest of the evening launched a number of useless probes at us, which were cut down repeatedly. A large number of disheartened Hun prisoners were taken that evening, some 28 in all according to Lt David. Most just wanted the war over it would seem, and were happy to be out of it.

The last significant clash that evening occurred when a heavy patrol from 2nd platoon pushed out into Death Valley and encountered a like number of Huns in a meeting engagement. My men believe they got the better of it; though in the confused darkness, it can be hard to tell.

We were relieved shortly before midnight by elements of 2nd Battalion, and moved back to the reserve area.

Company A fought well, particularly for an under strength rifle company. Officers and NCOs did their jobs with cool professionalism, and having lost so many officers and NCOs in the Argonne campaign, many of my NCOs were new to the job. The experience of all the men, dearly bought in the Argonne, played well here.

Respectfully,

*LT J. A. Kidd*

*OC, Co. A 1st Battn AEF*

## GWA Executive Committee

### 2004–2005 term

*President: Rob Zienta*

*Vice President: Jim Kidd*

*Secretary: Alan Crane*

*Treasurer: Randall Chapman*

*Allied Combat Commander: Mike LoCicero*

*Allied Representative: David Hughes*

*Central Powers Combat Commander: Lou Brown*

*Central Powers Representative: Bill White*



## An Introduction to the New Treasurer

Greetings,

My name is Randall Chapman. Many of you probably do not know that I am the new treasurer for the GWA. When Pat Hernandez could not accept the position, I felt obliged to step up. At that point it was too late to run for the position and Randy Gaulke was no longer going to continue in the job. I was appointed by the president (I was the only volunteer).

I have not been reenacting long, only since 2002, my first event being the 2002 GWA Fall event. I am a member of IR459, and I have endeavored to attend every event that there has been since joining. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences thus far in WWI reenacting, and I look forward to many more years in the GWA. To that end, I will do my best to carry on where Randy has left off, and I even hope to maybe improve things if that is possible. I look forward to serving the membership of the GWA and in helping make the GWA continue to be the best of reenacting organizations. I welcome any comments or to addressing any concerns you may have.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Randy for his years of service as treasurer. Having only had the position for a few months, I am very aware of the time and effort Randy put into the job, and he definitely deserves all our gratitude.

Sincerely,

*Randall Chapman*

*Musketier Fritz Hoffmann*

*8.Kompagnie, Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 459*

## Make plans to attend the summer event!

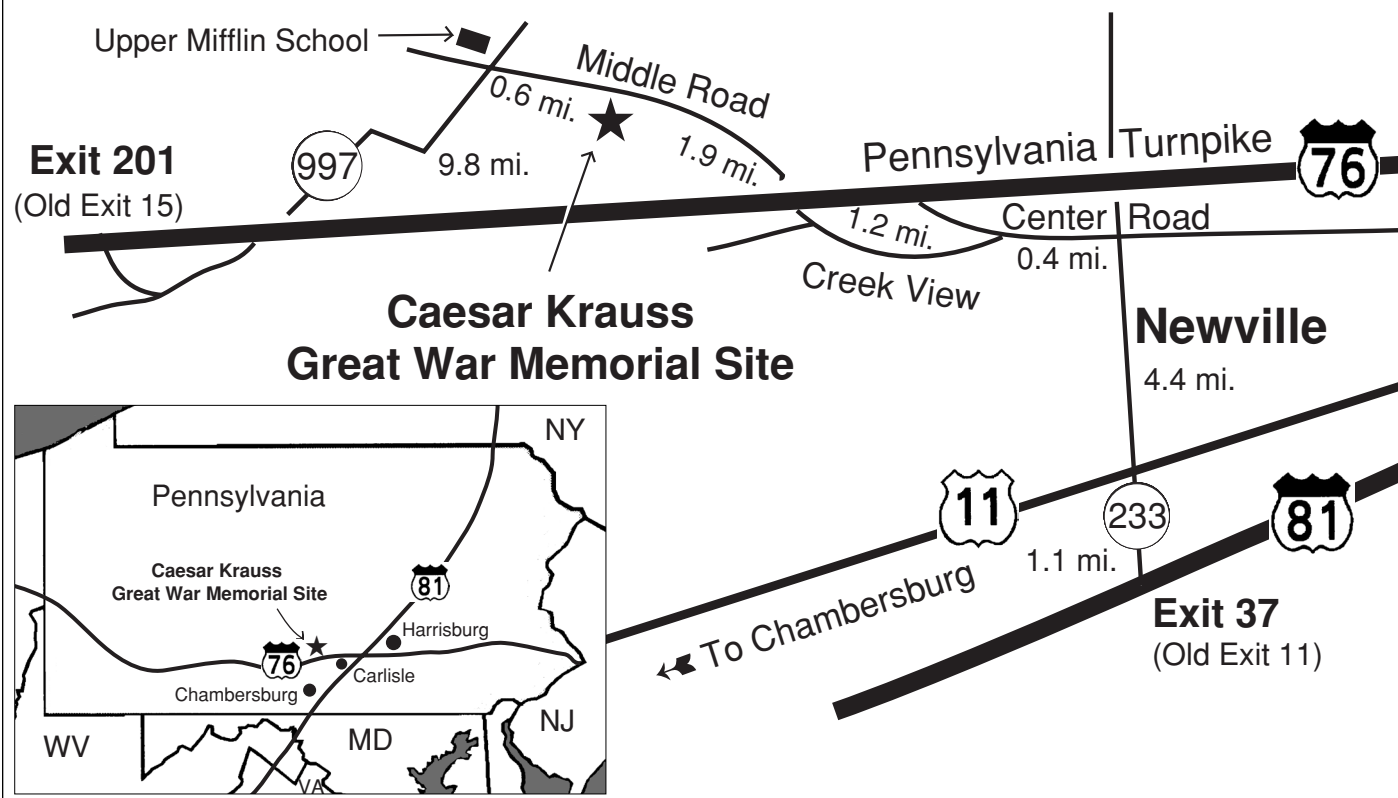
**June 18-20, 2004**

Those in attendance at the last two summer events felt they were among the best events we have ever had. Even though they were both held in June, the weather at both was actually moderate and even cool at night. Many people from the local area, and others from out of state attended these events during the public time. A number of people came with the object of sizing us up, including a documentary producer and several recruits who have subsequently joined the GWA. This event is great chance to bring out your alternative Great War impression, show off what you know, get in some unit training and have a good time in general.

*Mark your calendars:*

**GWA Fall Combat Event at Newville, PA  
November 5-7, 2004**

## Map to Event Site





☐ Check this box if you have changed your address since the last event or this is your first event

Print first letter of your last name in this box

☐ Check this box if you are a unit commander

☐ Check here if you want to stop receiving a paper copy of *On the Wire* via regular mail and instead download the newsletter and registration forms from the Web site ([www.great-war-assoc.org](http://www.great-war-assoc.org))

***GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Spring Combat Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, April 16–18, 2004  
Pre-Register and save \$15 — see below!***

**Part I — Member Information — Please Print Legibly**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Commander: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older \_\_\_\_\_  
(sign here)

**Part II — Unit Affiliation**

This box must be filled out, using the units and abbreviations on the back of this form. If you do not belong to one of these units, you are an independent.

**Part III — Dues and Event Fees**

A. 2004 dues **\$25.00**  
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

B. Spring 2004 Event fee if pre-registered **\$25.00**

C. Optional site development donation \$

D. Pre-registration subtotal (A+B+C as applicable) \$

E. Gate registration fee **\$15.00**

F. Gate registration total (D+E) \$

*All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before April 12, 2004. If your pre-registration is not received by that date, you must pay at the event —including the \$15 gate registration fee. Your original pre-registration, if received in the mail, will be returned unopened.*

*Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register to save the gate fee. If you pre-register but are unable to attend the event, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks after the event.*

Send form and check to: **Randall Chapman, GWA Treasurer**  
**7925 Jahnke Road**  
**Richmond, VA 23235**

Phone: (804) 323-7159

E-mail: [randall@cavtel.net](mailto:randall@cavtel.net)

# GWA Unit List (use abbreviations only when filling out registration form)

## American Units

1AEF 1st Div., 28th Inf. Co. E., AEF  
26AEF 26th Div. (Yankee Div.), AEF  
27AEF 27th Div., AEF  
L109AEF 28 Div., 109th Inf. Co. L., AEF  
M109AEF 28th Div., 109th Inf. Co. M., AEF  
BTTYC 28th Div., 107th Field Arty. Btty. C (*probationary*)  
116AEF 29th Div., 116th Inf., Hdqtrs. Co., AEF  
30AEF 30th Div., AEF  
33AEF 33rd Div. (Prairie Div.), AEF  
80AEF 80th ID, AEF  
372AEF 93rd Div., 372nd Inf, AEF  
49CO 5th Marines, 49th Co., AEF  
67CO 5th Marines, 67th Co., AEF

## British Units

6BWBEF 6th Btn., Black Watch, BEF  
7RIR 7th Royal Irish Rifles, BEF  
BRBEF The Border Regiment, BEF  
BUFF 6th Buffs Rgt., BEF  
IRISHGD Irish Guards No. 3 Co., 1st Btn.  
MGCBEF Machine Gun Corps, BEF  
ROYENG Royal Engineers  
RWF Royal Welsh Fusiliers

## Commonwealth Units

5AIF 5th Btn. Australia/New Zealand Army Corps  
27CEF 27th Btn., CEF  
PPCLI Princess Pat's Canadian Light Infantry

## French Units

8BCP 8 Btn. Chasseurs a Pied  
151RL 151er Regiment d'Infanterie

## Russian Units

RL Legion Russe

## Austrian Units

63KUK 63rd KuK

## German Units

1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment  
5SB 5. Sturm Battalion (Rohr)  
8KUR 3. Feldesk., Kürassier Regt. Nr 8  
12MWK 12. Minenwerfer Komp. 12 Division  
20MG 20. MG Scharfschützen Komp.  
23JR J.R. 23 (2. Oberschlesisches)  
63JR J.R. 63 (4. Oberschlesisches)  
73FR F.R. 73 (*probationary*)  
90FR F.R. 90 (*probationary*)  
92JR J.R. 92 ( 1. Braunschweigisches)  
111JR J.R. 111 (3. Badisches)  
120JR J.R. 120 (2. Württembergisches)  
124JR J.R. 124 (Württembergisches)  
459JR J.R. 459 (Rhein. Westf.)

## Non-Military

DRK Deutsches Rotes Kreuz  
INDP Independent (non-combat only)  
SA Salvation Army

Great War Association  
7925 Jahnke Road  
Richmond, VA 23235

