

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Spring 2002



President's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope you have all had a pleasant and restful winter and look forward to the coming living history season as much as I do. This year we will begin many improvements to our national site in Newville, Pa. and undertake new activities. I also hope to see the continued growth of our member units.

National Site Improvements

The GWA Executive Committee met at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site to walk the property and discuss the many ideas that you, the membership, passed on to us.

It was agreed that the growing Allied numbers required an extension of the Allied left, and provisions were made to dig the new trench by the Spring event. Various elements of the Central Powers side were examined and it has been moved that we make certain improvements to better mask CP movement along the road, clear the choked labyrinth on the CP right and join the CP flanks. Many of the CP improvements will be in place by the Spring event.

To address concerns about maintaining a greater level of authenticity within the gate, a new modern camping area will be cleared adjacent to the parking area. Furthermore, a new camping area will be established behind the Allied lines to distance the Allied Period Biouvac from the entrance road (and dust), passing Central Powers troops, and the expanded tactical area. Barring any unforeseen problem, this area will have a well.

In the coming year, we will be spending far more than we usually do. As every property owner knows there comes a time when improvements have to be made for the overall benefit of all. We are fortunate that the GWA can afford these improvements—it would be nice to maintain this higher level of improvement but that will take additional money. Randy Gaulke suggested a voluntary donation designated for site improvements. I support and encourage each member to join in. These additional funds will be added to those which the organization has traditionally allocated to site improvement each year.

Of course, another way of increasing our treasury is to increase our membership—this would also add to the overall experience we all share in this great hobby. (Especially if Central Powers membership increased—it's no fun being overrun every scenario.)

Recruiting

Perhaps it would be useful to look at what we are doing in the area of recruiting:

- An outstanding recruiting video has been produced. I understand that every unit was to get one. If you have not seen it, ask your unit CO for a copy. Show it to anyone you think might be interested.
- Some of our members attend events that the public is actually present to see them. With this public exposure, a few units are doing rather well in recruiting.
- The GWA has a Website. It is presentable. It is informative. It can provide a basic explanation of who we are to any potential recruit.

Now, what can we ALL do to build upon what we do have?

- Publicize the GWA in a positive light . . . perhaps a human-interest story, or the vanishing memory of the Great War in a local paper. Be careful you don't get trapped by some left wing reporter looking for an angle to show that we are some public menace or something evil/crazy.
- Support bringing a recruit out and loaning him a kit to participate.
- Set up a display at militaria shows, gunshows, recreational shows, etc. You do not have to always display something in person. You could put together some photographs and articles from your kit (or collection) and show them at the local historical museum or library. They are almost always looking for something . . .
- When you want to catch fish, you go where the fish are biting . . . go to a Civil War reenactment and set up a recruiting display . . . if you have ever been to one, you know how many times guys just seem to wander over to the sutlers and look around at the same stuff they have seen for the last five events. This would be something

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new — many of them might be looking to do another impression that wouldn't conflict with their Civil War unit.

- Attend a multi-time period event. Most of these living history events are screaming for participants. You would be visible to both established reenactors and the general crowd.
- (As a unit) Sponsor a local event in your area to rub elbows with the public.
- Attend the GWA Summer event in June and show the tourists (locals from Newville and the surrounding area) what WWI reenacting is all about . . .

Some of these suggestions may seem very different from what we always done. Well, I would say that what we are doing now is not getting us the results we want. How can we attract people if they do not know we are here? To use the old saying: "If we keep doing what we have always done in the past, how can we expect things to change in the future?"

Retention

A new recruit (or "wizedened" veteran) will remain if they feel they are part of the GWA, can take pride in what the GWA as a whole is doing, are respected for their own personal contributions and most importantly, they have fun. This is a hobby and hobbies are fun . . .

Many really significant improvements have been planned by the organization and the respective sides, but the future health, and growth, of the Great War Association is up to you, the membership. It can not continue to depend on the efforts of a tiny minority. Please get involved.

Yours,
John Novicki

Spring Event Schedule

April 19–21, 2002

Friday, April 19

- 1PM–9PM** Tent open for registration
- 4:30PM** German Commander's meeting—
Location will be posted at the registration tent
- 6:15PM** Safety meeting on road between lines
- 6:30PM** Combat begins
- 10PM** Stand down

Saturday, November 3

- 6AM** Possible action
- 8AM** Stand down to prepare for Safety Meeting
- 9AM** Safety Meeting
- 9:30AM** Combat begins
- 10PM** Stand down (unit meetings, etc.)

Narrative of Operations

1st Allied Composite Battalion

Neuville-Pronville Sector

2–4th November, 1918

On the evening of November 2nd, the 1st Composite Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion in the Neuville–Pronville sub sector. This relief was carried off without incident.

Prior to the battalion's arrival in this sector, orders were given to plan for a number of raids in order to obtain identification of enemy formations opposite. With this in mind, two small, and one large raid were planned by battalion HQ.

The information given in regard to the enemy opposite was, that elements of IR121 would be reinforcing IR63 in the LABYRINTH in the vicinity of ALE TRENCH, DUCK'S BILL, & MUNICH SUPPORT TRENCH. In addition to this, a sled mounted MG08 was believed to have been placed in the DUCK'S BILL. It was also reported that elements of the 5th Storm Battalion had been deployed opposite the right of our line.

Narrative of Operations

2/11. At 7PM on the evening of November 2nd, the battalion completed the relief of the 2nd Battalion. At 8PM, two raids were carried out by the BEF on the left, and Legion Russe on the right. The former raid carried out with great dash by the 5th ANZACS (Sgt. J. Kaluga), was successful in obtaining one prisoner of IR63. On the left Legion Russe engaged the enemy in heavy fighting in the area of the CRUCIFORM. During this engagement in no man's land, a number of identifications were made.

In the centre sector, the AEF company, sent out a number of patrols to obtain intelligence as to the state of the enemy defenses in the area of the ELBOW and the BERM. Important information was gained as a result of these patrols.

3/11. No incident of importance is to be recorded until after 11AM, when information was received that an enemy officer was seen observing the trenches on our right with field glasses. Immediate action was taken to place reserves in the threatened sector by the AEF OC. (Lt. W. David), and an enemy raid on CAKE TRENCH was repulsed with some loss.



**Make plans to attend the GWA
Living History/Combat Event at Newville, PA on**

June 14-16, 2002



During the afternoon, two assaults were made on our left at CALEDONIA TRENCH by the enemy. Although the enemy was successful in entering our frontline, necessary reserves were brought up and the enemy ejected from the position. It should be added that excellent work was done by our observers in reporting enemy concentrations, movements, etc. In addition to this the mutual support provided by the BEF, French, and AEF companies was exemplary. Special mention should be made of Lt. C. Sems (Semancik), for implementing an excellent defensive scheme.

The AEF company carried out a continuous operation against HOOK TRENCH and the BERM. Although this trench was held for a time, it was eventually lost to an enemy counterattack before the LABYRINTH raid in the evening.

Lt. B. Jensen (Johnson) of the 151st Infanterie Arme Francais, is also to be commended for support provided to the BEF company following the expulsion of the second enemy raiding party on CALEDONIA TRENCH. Lt. W. David AEF, was also instrumental in preventing a third raid on CALEDONIA TRENCH by launching a preventive attack on MUNICH SUPPORT TRENCH.



Labyrinth Raid. A large raid was scheduled with the objective of securing the trenches of the LABYRINTH from ALE TRENCH to BEER ALLEY. Both the BEF & AEF companies would be utilized, while diversions would be carried out by the French company and Legion Russe. Zero hour would be 5:10PM. Arrangements were made for the raid to be supported by rifle bombs and trench mortars. In addition to this, a smoke barrage would be released at 5PM (see operational orders attached).

Unfortunately, at 5PM as the AEF company was about to deploy on the left, an NCO in a BEF platoon led his men into no man's land. Lt. S. Rall had no choice but to order the remainder of the BEF company to follow. Despite the raid



being launched 10 minutes prior to zero it was an unqualified success.

Under cover of a 29th Division AEF trench mortar, rifle bombs, and smoke, the BEF companies entered MUNICH SUPPORT TRENCH and the DUCK'S BILL. They were followed on the left by the AEF company (Lt. J. Kidd). The enemy offered little resistance and eighteen prisoners from IR63 and IR111, including an officer candidate, were sent on to brigade

along with captured documents, automatics, rifles and equipment. The enemy collapse, however, was so complete, that some elements of both raiding parties bombed down the German trenches beyond the set objective of BEER ALLEY to DEATH VALLEY and in some cases, as far as EAGLE REDOUBT.

The signal for the withdrawal of the raiding parties was to be at 5:45PM. The OC raid (Capt. M.S. Lowe), however, decided that due to the general situation, the signal for retirement would be set into motion ten minutes early. All of the raiding parties had returned to our lines by 5:40PM.

The diversion carried out by Legion Russe (Lt. E. Poplavsky), was successful in clearing the enemy trenches in the vicinity of the ELBOW and linking up with elements of both raiding parties which had pushed beyond their objectives. The French company was also able to tie down the enemy in front of EAGLE REDOUBT.

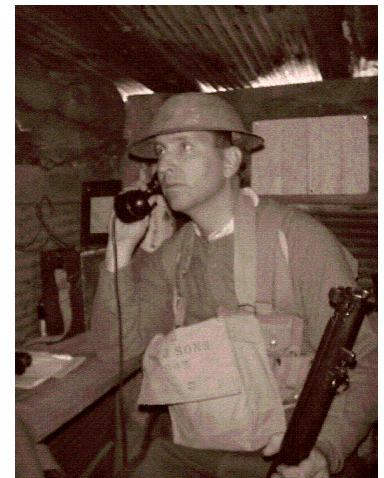
During the remainder of the evening, hostile patrols from both sides engaged in no man's land. The culminating event before the battalion relief by the 11th Dublin Fusiliers, was an enemy raid at the junction of CALEDONIA & CALABASH trench which was repulsed by elements of both the BEF and AEF companies.

The battalion relief was completed by 10PM.

General Comments

Observation. Special mention must be made of the ANZAC MGC for providing valuable information of enemy activity during the duration of the battalions spell in the Neuville – Pronville sector. In addition to this, an excellent OP was constructed by this unit.

Royal Engineer Signals. Outstanding service was provided by the RE Signal section attached to HQ. Sgt. S. Keller, Cpl. K. Brown, Cpl. J. Holder, and Sapper J. Ivers are to be commended for keeping the switchboard operational. In addition to this, the phones lines were kept functional in





our lines by constant repair of breaks etc. Also, telephonic communications with our frontline from the enemy trench during the raid on the LABYRINTH were successfully maintained during the operation.

Intelligence. Despite low numbers and heavy losses, the enemy remained aggressive. The constant activity of raid and counter-raid was unexpected given the previous reputation of this sector.

It was discovered from a prisoner interrogation, that IR121 was to have been sent to support IR63. These orders, however, were cancelled. No sled mounted MG08 was located in the DUCK'S BILL. The 5th Storm Battalion was identified opposite the French company on the evening of November 2nd.

Mentioned in Dispatches

The following officers and men should be recognized for the good work done during the period covered by this report.

Lt. C. Sems (Semancik) 2nd Hampshire Rgt.
 Lt. S. Rall – 1st RWF
 Lt. W. David - AEF
 2nd Lt. J. Kidd – AEF
 Lt. B. Jensen (Johnson) – 151 Inf. Armee Francais
 Lt. E. Poplavsky – Legion Russe
 RSM. R. Turfitt
 Sgt. D. Steighan - AEF
 Sgt. D. Hughes - Irish Guards
 Pvt. Horton – Irish Guards
 Cpl. E. Goldstein – 2nd RWF
 Pvt. S. Pridgon – Gloucester Regt.
 L/Cpl. B. Kendall – 6th Buffs
 Cpl. J. Griffith – 7th RIR
 Sgt. J. Kaluga - AIF
 Cpl. G. Gormley – AIF
 L/Cpl. T. Price - MGC AIF
 Pvt. K. McCabe – AIF
 Pvt. P. Shrierer - AIF
 Pvt. G. Chapman – AIF
 Sgt. C. Williams - PPCLI
 Cpl. C. Simmons - PPCLI

Sgt. S. Keller - RE
 Cpl. K. Brown – RE
 Cpl. J. Holder – RE
 Sapper J. Ivers – RE
 Pvt. T. Shackelton - (Kuntz) Hants. Regt.
 Pvt. B. Bush – AEF
 Sgt. A. Satillero – AEF HQ.
 Sgt. M. Feldbin – 107th Inf. AEF att. BEF
 Cpl. W. Baldwin – 107th Inf. AEF att. BEF
 Sgt. D. Zajieck 49th Co. USMC
 MP section – 49th Co. USMC
 Sgt. M. Chadab – 116 Inf. AEF TM Battery
 Trench Mortar – 116th Inf. AEF
 Pvt. E. Woodall - AEF

*Sgnd. Capt. M. S. Lowe (LoCicero)
 South Lancashire Rgt.
 cmmdg. 1st Composite Batt.
 11/11/18*

GWA Executive Committee

2002–2003 term

President: **John Novicki**

Vice President: **Bill Baldwin**

Secretary: **Mark Anderson**

Treasurer: **Randy Gaulke**

Allied Combat Commander: **Mike LoCicero**

Allied Representative: **David Hughes**

Central Powers Combat Commander: **Rob Zienta**

Central Powers Representative: **Bill White**



Action Report

Abteilung Neuville z.b.V. 2-4 November, 1918

General Conditions

The weather was good to us and offered excellent visibility of enemy movement and placement of troops. We had been in the sector for quite some time and had received word that an aggressive British commander was sent with reinforcements and supplies to take charge of the allied offensive.

Our units have suffered many casualties and our ranks are thin. The German soldier has handled hardship with resolve and discipline. Courage is not in short supply in our trenchline. We fought against superior numbers and prevailed.

Combat Begins

Over a period of several days we observed the allied numbers swell. In the narrow trenches, it was times like these that made our artillery effective and they suffered many casualties.

Given the number of resources and material, we braced for a full assault on our line, however, we needed information in order to confirm our suspicions. Therefore, I ordered raiding parties forward immediately after sunset. The objective of these raids was to capture documents and prisoners.

As we moved into the Cruciform area, we encountered light resistance. Several 08-15s were brought forward to reinforce our attack and offer support by suppressing allied gunfire.

Our Sturm unit, 5th Sturmpionieren, led the attacks and responsible for cutting wire and opening the allied lines for our infantry to move through. The bulk of our resources was put toward this effort and exceeded expectations.

The unit commanders performed their orders flawlessly and we were overwhelmed with both prisoners and information. All German units are commended for their effort.

The Allies achieved some penetration of our line, but were not as successful as we had been.

The Assault

The information we received confirmed our suspicion of an impending attack on our line.

I had received orders from Hauptmann Plack to plan an assault early in the morning on the right side of the allied lines against the French and the Russians.

We struck first. The French and Russians fought like madmen—running from the trenches and hurling themselves at our guns. The amount of firepower coming from their trench was incredible. Our attack faltered and it looked as though it would be repulsed. I attempted to rally the men, but many were exhausted. As hope began to fade, I looked to my right and noticed the commander of the 5th Sturm leaping from foxhole to foxhole encouraging his men to

move forward and breach the line. In one major effort, they renewed the attack with ferocity and the enemy withdrew—the line was breached.

The 63rd and 92nd poured through the opening and began rolling up the flanks. The Allies countered with a valiant attack and drove us back to our own lines. The High Command had sent information that we would be facing raw recruits. Instead, these Allies were battle-hardened troops!

Outcome

The Allies continued to make significant gains throughout the battle. Each side took ground and lost it. This was the stalemate that has punctuated the fighting since the war's outbreak. It is a tragedy to think of the men who have died for a few feet of ground one way or the other. The basic futility is that it makes neither country richer or poorer, bigger or smaller, more or less powerful, but it does diminish the future for all.

We managed to hold our sector. The Allies are good soldiers and obey the rules of engagement. We know they are on their side of the lines waiting for the next move and we will make it.

*Herr Zienta
Oberleutnant, 8th Kurassier
Abteilung Kommandeur*

Where do WE go from here, Boys?

Over the last five years the GWA has improved its financial position, completed the land purchase, and paid the first year of its ten-year mortgage. And we're beginning 2002 with about \$12,000 in our bank account.

Given our financial position, President Novicki has requested that we put some of these funds to use in order to make significant site improvements. (See the budget summary on the following page) We're going to be spending \$6,000 on site development and defoliation this year. That's about two to three times more than usual. Even with this extra amount, the treasury is still projected to have a year-end cash balance surplus of about \$7,800.

But we want to go further! Read on...

Beginning with the April 2002 reenactment's registration form, there will be a new box for you to fill in, asking for you to donate an additional amount (\$5 or \$10 is suggested) when you send in your registration form. These funds will be put into a segregated account, and all the donations received will be used for site development. We will continue to allocate a portion of funds from our general budget (\$2,000–\$4,000 in a typical year) but this will allow us to develop the site even faster—without raising dues!

Consider this: If 200 members donate an additional \$5 per event—just \$10 per year—the GWA will raise an additional \$2,000 that will be used directly for site development. We hope that you will be supportive of this new initiative!

—Randy Gaulke



Summary of Projected 2002 Revenues and Expenses

Budgeted Revenues	\$27,500
Budgeted Expenses	
Administrative	-\$4,350
Communication	-\$1,332
Site Purchase	-\$12,400
Event & Site	-\$8,262
Site Development	-\$6,000
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$4,844

Adjusted Cash Balance, 12/31/01

Cash Balance as of 12/31/01	\$12,388.00
Less 2001 Expenses Paid in 2002	-\$784.97
Add Back Refund due from Orion Safety	\$461.70
Add Back Amount due from BBC	\$500.00
Adjusted Cash Balance, 12/31/01	\$12,564.73
Projected 2002 Deficit	-\$4,844.00

Projected Cash Balance, 12/31/02 \$7,720

Treasurer's Comment: We are projected to run a \$4,844 deficit in 2002. The main reason for this is that we will be spending \$5,000 on site improvements. Even after this deficit, the GWA is still projected to have a cash balance in excess of \$7,700, because we are starting the year with more than \$12,000 in cash.

Randall S. Gaulke
Treasurer

Projected 2002 Budget Details

Budgeted Revenues

Membership Dues (425 x \$25)	\$10,625	
Spring Reenactment (325 x \$25)	\$8,125	
Fall Reenactment (350 x \$25)	\$8,750	
Total Revenues	\$27,500	100.0%

Note: Not budgeted (conservative) — Gate Reg. Fees, Site Usage Fees, Interest Income

Budgeted Administrative Expenses

Misc./Legal Expenses	\$0	0.0%
Postage/Printing/Other	\$500	1.8%
Liability Insurance	\$1,800	6.5%
Medical Coverage Insurance	\$650	2.4%
Officers & Directors Insurance	\$1,400	5.1%
Total Administrative Expenses	\$4,350	15.8%

Note: Insurance premiums industry-wide are rising sharply this year.

Budgeted Communication Expenses

	Per Event		
Website and Software Costs		\$150	0.5%
Registration Form Printing & Mailing (650 copies)	\$351	\$702	2.6%
Newsletter Printing—two 12-page newsletters			
6 sheets paper @ \$0.05 x 200 copies	\$60	\$120	0.4%
Printing/Folding/Stapling @ \$0.10 x 200 copies	\$20	\$40	0.1%
Postage @ \$0.80 x 200 copies	\$160	\$320	1.2%
Total	\$591	\$1,332	4.8%

Site Purchase

Monthly Mortgage	\$9,500	34.5%
\$1,000 Mortgage Payments (#3 and #4 of 5)	\$2,000	7.3%
Estimated Taxes	\$900	3.3%

Total Site Purchase Expenses \$12,400 45.1%

Budgeted Event & Site Expenses

	Per Event		
Ambulance (\$200 + \$10 x 30 staff hours)	\$500	\$1,000	3.6%
Other First Aid Supplies	\$50	\$100	0.4%
Road Maintenance	\$250	\$500	1.8%
Period Transportation	\$300	\$600	2.2%
Tent/Table/Chair Rental	\$335	\$670	2.4%
Toilets—1 on site permanently @ \$63.60/month		\$763	2.8%
Toilets—5 extra during event @ \$58.30/each	\$292	\$583	2.1%
Dumpster on site (\$15/month + 4 p/u @ \$128)		\$692	2.5%
Site clean-up	\$100	\$200	0.7%
Printing of Passes/Membership Cards/Etc.	\$100	\$200	0.7%
Trench Supplies			
Flares (288 @ \$1.70 per event)	\$490	\$979	3.6%
Sandbags (1,500 @ \$0.475 each)	\$713	\$1,425	5.2%
Smoke	\$100	\$200	0.7%
Wire (5 rolls @ \$35 each)	\$175	\$350	1.3%
Screw Pickets	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Total Event & Site Expenses	\$3,404	\$8,262	30.0%

Budgeted Site Development Expenses

New Craters, etc.	\$5,000	18.2%
Defoliation and Mowing	\$1,000	3.6%
Total Site Development	\$6,000	21.8%

Treasurer's Comment: If you're still concerned about the GWA running a deficit this year, please take a look at the Association's year-end cash balance over the last five years. Land purchase costs (not operating expenses) account for the decline of cash in 2000 and 2001. In 2001, for example, the \$7,789 decline in cash was largely the result of closing-related payments made in 2001.

—RSG

Actual Cash Balance

as of 12/31/97	\$5,646
as of 12/31/98	\$17,822
as of 12/31/99	\$23,263
as of 12/31/00	\$20,127
as of 12/31/01	\$12,338

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, documents or disks may be mailed to: Box 2086, Merrifield, VA 22116

**Deadline for submission of material
for the next issue: April 26**

Next issue publication date: May 1

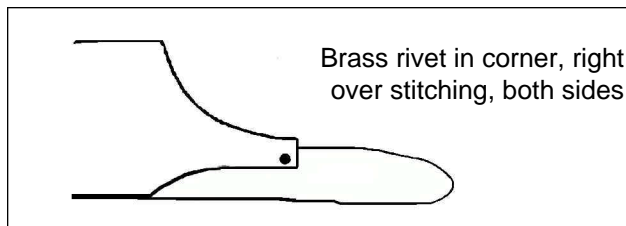
Improving Your Impression

How to Make a Better Shoe

An article originally published in The Prairie Spotlight (Newsletter of the 33rd Division) in January 1991

Submitted for re-publication by Kenny Boice

To make a fairly correct parade shoe for the WWI Doughboy, start with the standard style Farm & Fleet work shoe (This is a ankle style work shoe with a plain toes that is sold around N. Ill./S. Wis.) already similar to the WWI parade shoe. Next cut off the Am. flag tag from the leather under the laces. Take said shoes to a good shoe-maker/cobbler and have the hook things (for lack of better term) removed (the 3 at the top of each side lace holes), and replace with brass eyelets. Also have brass rivets put where the leather upper is attached to the lower body of the shoe. Which is directly below each first eyelet, bottom part of lace hole line (see poorly drawn figure below).



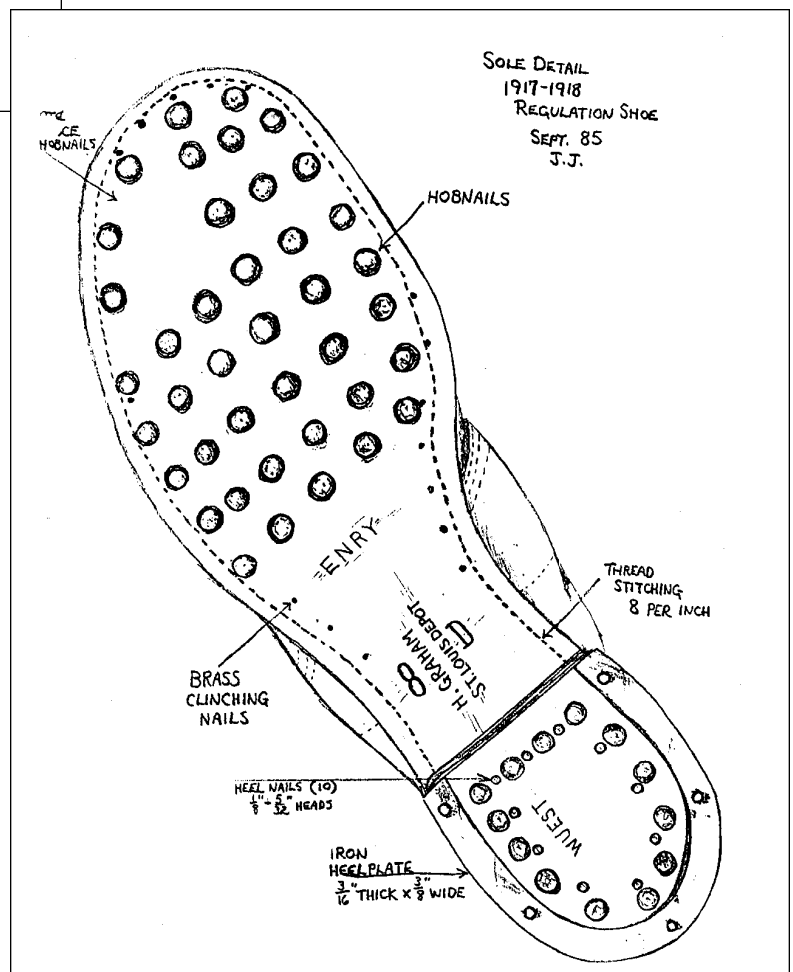
There were some shoes that had no rivets, but those I've seen did have the rivets on them. The whole affair so far costs about \$10.00 at the cobbler's shop. (ED. If you have the soles redone to leather it will cost more).

Next pick up a can of Magic Shoe Color Spray in a blue and white 4 1/2 oz. can, showing a lady's hand spraying a high heel shoe. I've also seen black and yellow cans of the same stuff. Get the #302 Rich Brown color. Clean the entire shoe by rubbing well with acetone (found at any hardware store) using a soft cloth, I rubbed each shoe about 5 minutes, hard! I then rinsed them off to remove any trace of Acetone, but not enough to wet the leather. Then take the Magix Rich Brown and with an old sock over the left hand and forearm, hold from inside and spray till the shoe has a good coat. Do not over do it. When it is evenly applied and covered, stop. Let dry in an area with a breeze. It appears that they dry in about 1/2 hour but I did not wear mine for 24 hrs. to be sure. The color is holding very well so far, and I've worn these shoes plenty to break them in. You'll use only about half of the can, but save the rest for periodic touch up for scratches, etc. Make sure you do this cleaning/spraying process in a very well ventilated area as the Acetone fumes are extremely potent and the spray fumes also could burn brain cells. Hire a Hun to do it, as there's no danger then! Lastly, for parade shoes, I have seen dark brown cloth metal tipped shoe laces and rawhide leather dark brown

shoe laces on originals. Field shoes used the O.D. cloth laces and rawhide leather laces. I have an original WWI pair in my collection with rawhide laces. Actually I am sure the doughboys used whatever was at hand, esp. for the field shoes. For the campaign hat, manufactured leather hat straps were issued but in very limited quantities. Also used (documented in *Rookie Days of a Soldier*, Fred A. Sasse) were shoelaces purchased at the post canteen. I have an original campaign hat with a very old and brittle leather shoelace, dark brown, looped through and tied in a knot.

Dave Zajicek

(ed. *Great War Militaria* sells repro generic shoes for about \$160.00. AEF Supply (Alan Crane) has AEF boots now and Replications (John Novicki) will have German and British boots soon)



A drawing of the hobnail pattern used on U.S. Shoes. The shoes are the pattern that came out just before the Pershing Shoes. The drawing is by Jeff Jordan from a pair of originals owned by Pete Tuttle.



History of IR459 and the 236th Infantry Division

By Frank James

The 236th Division was formed at the Senne Camp between the end of December 1916 and the beginning of January 1917. Its regiments were composed of men belonging to the 1918 class (40 percent) and returning wounded. The 457th and 458th Infantry Regiments were recruited from the 7th Corps District, known also as Westphalia. The 459th Infantry Regiment was recruited from the 16th Corps District, known also as Lorraine. The 459th Regiment was formed in Saarlouis; it was soon transferred to Lippspringe. The entire division trained in the Senne Training Area (Übungsplatz Senne), and during that time, the 459th remained quartered in Lippspringe; in many cases, soldiers were quartered with area families. The Regiment's first formation, with the Division Commanding General in attendance, was in the town, on "Main Street."

The 459th did not have a Kaserne in some Garnisonstadt, as did the regiments that had existed before the war; apparently, they "adopted" Lippspringe as their equivalent, considering it (along with Saarlouis) their garrison.

"So the regiment left Lippspringe and its environs with feeling of gratitude and attachment to a beautiful piece of German soil that had become a dear home in a short while. The name "Regiment Lippspringe" was later carried before the enemy with pride by the 459th, from time to time as a trench cover name."

Cambrai

The 236th Division was entrained at the Senne Camp and Paderborn Campon April 11, 1917, and went to Cambrai by way of Dusseldorf–Aix la Chapelle–Liege–Mamur–Charleroi–Valenciennes. Detraining at Caudry on April 13, it went into line southwest of Cambrai (Trestault-Gouzeaucourt) on the 18th. On April 24th it was attacked by British troops, lost the village of Villers Plouich, and suffered heavily (340 prisoners). On May 9th it was sent to rest in the vicinity of Cambrai.

Artois

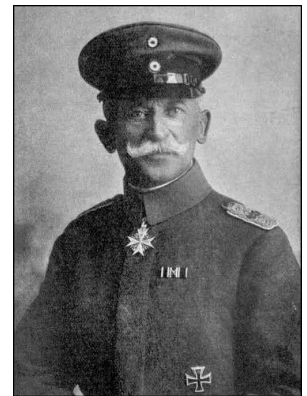
The division occupied the sector of Cherisy (southeast of Arras) from June 4th to September 2nd, and did not get into any serious action during this period.

Flanders

The division left Artois at the beginning of September, was sent to rest at Courtrai until the 17th, went to Iseghem by railroad, and then marched to Roulers. Until September 20 it remained in reserve as a counterattacking division. Between the 20th and the 26th, it was in a violent battle opposing the British advance east of Ypres, between the Polygon Wood and Zonnebeke. Before going into line on September 20th, the 2nd Battalion of the 459th Infantry Regiment had lost more than 200 men from artillery fire; on the 22nd, the 8th Company had only 15 men left.

They were withdrawn from the Flanders front during the night of September 28-29, and the 236th Division was sent to rest in the vicinity of Douai.

On October 6th it went into line north of the Scarpe, between the Roeux and the Gavrelle; it enlarged its sector toward the north at the beginning of November. It was filled up by replacements taken from the Russian Front; 400 men coming from the 32nd Landwehrregiment (197th Division) arrived in November.



Major Friedrich von Pirscher, IR459's only commander.

1918

The division was engaged from March 21st to April 3rd. In March, they fought in the Somme Offensive, first at Cherizy and later at Heninel. It was relieved south of Arras on the night of April 3rd-4th and moved to Passchendaele by way of Aubigny au Bac, Iseghem, and Meulebeke.

Ypres

It entered line at Passchendaele on April 6th and held a sector in this vicinity until June 22nd. Once again the division was relieved, this time by the 31st Division. During July the division rested at Deynze. It again it held the sector southwest of Ypres from August 10th to September 13th.

Lorraine

The division moved from Flanders to Strasburg. It did not detain there, but was suddenly ordered to Metz, where it arrived on September 24th in the afternoon. The division marched to Loringen, stayed one night and marched to Mars la Tour on September 26th. The next morning marched to Jarney and entrained there, going to Dun sur Meuse (via Longuyon and Montmedy). From Dun it marched through Doullon to Villers, then to Cunel, and then forward into position.

The division was heavily engaged from September 29th to its retirement on October 17th. It distinguished itself particularly, fighting stubbornly and successfully for many days in succession, casualties were very heavy, estimated at 3000. On November 4th the division was reengaged south of Beaumont and continued in line until the armistice.

Rating according to the BEF Command

"The 236th Division had serious losses while fighting at Ypres and its morale was weakened in consequence. It may be considered a mediocre division (February, 1918). According to one deserter's statement (Jan. 23rd, 1918) the 236th Division was a shock division in 1917."

Sources

Histories of Two Hundred and Fifty One Divisions of the German Army, Which Participated in the War (1914-1918). London Stamp Exchange LTD. 1989 Re-print in Great Britain by Anthony Rowe Ltd. (ISBN 0 948130 87 3) pp. 727-728

Das (Rhein.Westf.) Infanterie Regt. Nr. 459, F.v. Pirscher, 1926.

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

Print first letter of your last name in this box

☐ Check this box if you are a unit commander

GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Spring Combat Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, April 19–21, 2002

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. 2002 dues **\$25.00**
(Annual dues are due at the Spring event each year)

B. Spring 2002 event fee if pre-registered **\$25.00**

C. Optional site development donation \$

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

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

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

All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before April 15, 2002. If your pre-registration is not received by that date, you must pay at the event — including the \$15 gate registration penalty. 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 penalty. 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: **Randy Gaulke, GWA Treasurer**
584 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933

Phone: (908) 626-1345

E-mail: lavarennnes@rcn.com

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 (*probationary*)
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
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
17BEF 17th Lancers, BEF
BUFF 6th Buffs Rgt., BEF
IRISHGD Irish Guards No. 3 Co., 1st Btn.
MGCBEF Machine Gun Corps, BEF
ROYENG Royal Engineers (*probationary*)
RWF Royal Welsh Fusiliers (*probationary*)

Commonwealth Units

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

French Units

151RL 151er Regiment d'Infanterie

Russian Units

RL Legion Russe

Austrian Units

63KUK 63rd KuK

German Units

23JR J.R. 23 (2. Oberschlesisches)
63JR J.R. 63 (4. Oberschlesisches)
92JR J.R. 92 (1. Braunschweigisches)
111JR J.R. 111 (3. Badisches)
120JR J.R. 120 (2. Württembergisches)
124JR J.R. 124 (Württembergisches) (*probationary*)
459JR J.R. 459 (Rhein. Westf.) (*probationary*)
8KUR 3. Feldesk., Kürassier Regt. Nr 8 (*probationary*)
13LJB Landwehr Infanterie-Battalion 13
25LJR Landwehr Infanterie-Regiment 25 (1. Rhenisches)
1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment
23/12 12. Minenwerfer Komp. 12 Inf. Div., J.R. 23
20MG 20. MG Scharfschützen Komp.
5SP 5. Sturm-Pionier Battalion (Rohr)

Non-Military

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

Great War Association
584 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933

