

On the Wire



A note from der Editor

Kameraden, probably, you are wondering *where-for-art* be *your* copy of OtW. Well, we were stymied in our efforts to put out an issue over the summer. This was due to the fact that the GWA mailing list had not been updated after the Spring Event. We had also received very little in the way of articles, and in fact, *are* still waiting on some stuff. We do have ads, but I figure that if we're going to go to the trouble to put this out *and* pay to print it, there better be something worthwhile there to read!

The reason this packet is coming out at all, is that the membership needs to know about the event info and **that** is the primary concern (at least in my opinion) of OtW. In an ideal world, you would go up the "chain of command" for info. First asking your unit commander, who would then ask the appropriate Rep, who would then call the GWA VP and if he didn't know, the GWA President. Realistically, if you have a question, I would suggest that you call either your Rep or the VP, Rick Blair at (301) 432-2924.

As of now, we have received only **two (2)** articles from the G-7; an article from the **Central Powers Combat Commander** (Tim Goodwin) and one from the **GWA VP** (Rick Blair). Hopefully, we will have something from the rest of our leadership before we go to press with OtW. Speaking of which, the plan is to hand out OtW when you register at the event. I know, this sounds cheesy, but what else can we do, our publishing "on schedule" depends on others doing their "jobs" first! During the last issue, both **Sue Fisher** and **Mark Graef** had to take time off from work and I had to stay up for 25 hours straight to get the issue done on time. ***This will not happen again!*** If stuff comes in by the deadline, putting OtW together is really not too hard, but... when it comes in two days before we're supposed to go to press, there's just no way to get it done without a major *pain-in-the-ass* effort. I ask you to remember that we don't get paid for this and if we were simply to take all the stuff to a printer to do the work, it would cost in excess of **\$50+ per page!** This reminds me of something—Brett Johnson, the French commander, believes that we are spending too much money on OtW and wants to go back to the simple "old-style" newsletter we had before. What do you think? We do this magazine to provide not only GWA info for the membership but also to try and teach said membership nifty and enlightening stuff about WWI. If you like OtW in our normal magazine format, let us know; conversely, if you want to go back to the old "bare-bones" WordPerfect-type newsletter, then speak up.

One more thing, we were up at the site over Labor Day to do trench and bunker work and found it (the site) to be totally overgrown! This would be fine for doing a reenactment of Vietnam, but the site sort of needs to be denuded of foliage for a WWI event. You should plan on bringing stuff to cut down the brush and weeds with.

Anyway, that's what we has fo' now!

Bis unsere der Sieg ist...

Marsh Wise

Editor, *On the Wire*

From the Central Powers Combat Commander

Grüße Soldaten!

Earlier this summer, I was appointed by the President of the GWA to serve out Mike Gonzales' remaining term as Central Powers Combat Commander. My selection was based upon the results of the Spring Plebiscite and input from the unit commanders. Let me say, that I appreciate this opportunity to lead the Central Powers line against the ravages of the Allied forces and *I pledge to do my best* in fulfilling the duties of the Central Powers Combat Commander.

My top priorities for the remainder of this term are threefold. First and foremost, is to ensure Safety on the field. With the move to the Newville site, our hobby is beginning to grow at a rapid pace. We now have alot of new members on the field who are not familiar with WWI/WWII reenacting. I am asking everyone to keep alert for any potentially hazardous situations as the combat scenarios develop and immediately inform your unit commander, should you observe anything amiss. The GWA Safety Guidelines will be strictly adhered to during all tactical evolutions. Second, my staff and I will stress the concept of "teamwork" among the Abteilungen and individual units. Our goal is to see the Central Powers line function as a well-oiled machine, as it did in real life! Third, in order to get maximum enjoyment from this hobby, we must foster an atmosphere of "realism" from the moment you set foot on the field. This involves not only an individual's personal appearance, but also how you act on the field, your camp life behind the Central Powers lines, a proper knowledge of basic drill and at least an attempt to know some German words and key phrases.

Mike LoCicero (Allied Combat Commander) and I have an excellent working relationship. We are already in regular contact working on guidelines for the upcoming Fall Event. I want you to know that our main focus is to *make every event as enjoyable as possible for all participants!* Both Mike and I will strive to achieve this!!! Should anyone have any recommendations, complaints or concerns (of a tactical nature) that you feel should be addressed, please forward them to me using the chain-of-command. If it is something of a personal nature, you can call me at (614) 427-3544. I welcome all suggestions!

One last item. **Mike Gonzales**, my predecessor, has been the Central Powers Combat Commander for the last *four* years. This job, like all the GWA Elected Positions, is very demanding on one's time and finances. I would like to thank Mike for his strenuous efforts on behalf of the GWA and wish him well, as he again assumes the role of a Musketier.



Tim Goodwin
(aka Hauptmann August Hein)

Vice President's Brief

by Rick Blair
GWA Vice President

1. The 1996 Fall Combat Event will be held the first weekend in November (1-3 Nov.) at the **Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site** near Newville, PA. The site should be open for work parties the week before the event, but it is best to contact **Rick Keller** at Great War Militaria, (717) 264-6834, if you plan to arrive before Thursday, October 31st. You must have already paid your 1996 GWA Dues to get onto the site.
2. **Parking** - If you are not driving a 4-wheel drive vehicle, please park in the front parking lot. The rear parking lot is for larger 4-wheel drive vehicles that can negotiate difficult terrain. If you take your Pinto back to the rear lot and get it stuck, it will be towed at your own expense. Other reenactors with 4-wheel drive vehicles will not be amused by the resulting traffic jam. If you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle, you may unload supplies on the Combat Site any time before the start of the event or during the event on Saturday between the hours of 7:00 hrs and 8:30 hrs. Only "period" vehicles will be permitted on the Combat Site after combat has begun. To access the Combat Site, you will need a "vehicle pass." Vehicle passes may be obtained at the Registration Tent. When entering the Combat Site, use the access road behind your respective trench line. Do not block the access roads—instead, find a place to pull off. Unload as *quickly* as possible. You will have **one (1) hour** to unload, this goes for **everyone!** Return your vehicle to one of the designated parking lots and return your vehicle pass to the Registration Tent immediately. Only "period" vehicles will be permitted to drive across no-man's land. Non-period vehicles on or immediately behind the combat site at the start of combat Saturday morning they will be towed at the **owner's expense**.
3. **Registration** - All reenactors and sutlers must register at the Registration Tent located to the rear of the front parking lot. Registration will be open from 1:00 hrs to 9:00 hrs Friday, November 1st, and from 7:00 hrs to 8:30 hrs Saturday, November 2nd. Reenactors must pay 1996 GWA Dues (\$20) if they do not already have a valid 1996 GWA membership card and purchase a Trench Pass (\$15). Sutlers will be required to pay 1996 GWA Dues and the event fee (\$15). Please pay by check—this speeds up the registration process. *No bills larger than \$50 will be accepted.* We simply don't have that much cash on hand to make change.

All reenactors must receive and sign for a copy of the current **Safety Guidelines** and a **Waiver of Liability**. If you have *already* received and signed for these documents, you will not have to do so again (until such time as they are revised). Copies of the **GWA By-Laws** and a **Treasurer's Report** will be available upon request. Registration will be the responsibility of the Allies for this event and Allied Unit Commanders have been made aware of their responsibilities to have assigned people at the tent on time. Volunteers from the Central Powers and other Allied units not assigned will, of course, also be most welcome.

If you are not an NRA member, *please join!* Our insurance depends on *your* NRA membership. Without NRA memberships within the GWA, we have **no insurance** and no insurance means **no events!** Do it for the hobby!

Also keep in mind that this is a good opportunity to pay your 1997 GWA Dues. Your 1996 Dues are only good until December 31st of this year and the treasury needs the money to help pay for the event.
4. **Guests**—Guests, except those specifically invited for the dedication ceremony, will be required to pay a gate fee of **three dollar(\$3)** per person, sign our **Waiver of Liability** and receive a Trench Pass marked "Guest." They must also be accompanied by a GWA member while on the property. Lastly, guests will need to leave the name of the GWA member who invited them at the Registration Tent. This does not mean the event is open to the general public and guests should be approved by the Vice-President prior to the event. Guests may not be taken into the Combat area of the site during combat.
5. **Services**—If you are a "non-period" camper, you may set up in the camping area immediately behind the front parking lot. The "period" camping area is located closer to the combat site. If you are a "period" camper, you may camp on, or immediately behind, your trench system. Local motels may still have rooms available.

~Local lodging—For those of you who do not wish to camp, the following is a list of area hotels and motels:

- Shippensburg Inn—(717) 530-1234—Shippensburg
- University Lodge Motel (717) 532-7311—Shippensburg
- Hot Point Inn—(717) 530-8993—Shippensburg
- Theo's Inn—(717) 532-5551—Shippensburg
- Kenmar Motel—(717) 423-5915—Exit 15/PA Turnpike

~These motels are approximately 18 miles from the site. You may also try motels in Chambersburg or Carlisle. These would be even further away, but still within an hour's drive of the site.

~Drinking water, toilets, and trash receptacles will be available on-site.

~**Combat Caterers** will be serving meals at a cost of \$4 per meal, with the exception of Saturday supper which will cost \$8. Bring your own mess kit, cup, and utensils. The Salvation Army's mobile canteen should again be available to serve coffee and light meals. You may cook for yourself if you wish, but remember, fires/stoves must be attended at all times. Please bag all trash and place it in the nearest can.

~We hope to have an ambulance and trained emergency medical personnel on site during the hours of combat and well as a cellular phone and hand-held radios for communications. The State Police in Carlisle, Pa. have been notified about the event and will have our cellular phone number on hand in case someone has to be contacted. The cellular phone will be located at the Registration Tent and will be manned during the hours of open registration. During the hours when the phone is not being monitored, the State Police can send a trooper to the site to relay messages if necessary.

6. Event Schedule—The Fall Event will officially begin at 1300 hrs Friday, 1 November, and will end at 1200 hrs on Sunday, 3 November. The daily schedule of events is listed below:

Friday

1300 hrs to 2100 hrs—Registration opens!
1300 hrs to 1800 hrs—Work parties
1600 hrs to 1700 hrs—G-7 Meeting @ registration Area
1700 hrs to 1800 hrs—Supper
1800 hrs to 1830 hrs—Safety Briefing @ Assembly Area
1830 hrs to 0000 hrs—Late War Combat @ Combat Site

Saturday

0700 hrs to 0830 hrs—Open Registration
0700 hrs to 0830 hrs—Work Parties
0700 hrs to 0800 hrs—Breakfast
0800 hrs to 0900 hrs—Unit Commanders Meeting @ Assembly Area
0900 to 1100 hrs—Site Dedication @ Assembly Area Safety Meeting @ Assembly Area
1200 hrs to 0000 hrs—Late War Combat/Combat Site

Sunday

0700 hrs to 0800 hrs—Breakfast
0800 hrs to 1200 hrs—Site Clean-up

Note that there are no lunch or supper breaks on Saturday. Unit Commanders will need to rotate their men in and out of the trenches for meals. Combat will be **continuous!

7. Safety Issues—Combat will be **Late War ONLY** and all rules that apply to Late War scenarios will be enforced. Steel helmets are required!

~All participants must have a **Trench Pass** on their person when on the combat site and a signed acknowledgement form on file for receipt of the **Safety Guidelines**. All participants must have a signed, dated, and witnessed **Waiver of Liability** form on file. You may be asked to show your **Trench Pass** at any time during the combat scenarios. If you don't have your **Trench Pass** on your person when asked to show it, you will be required to leave the combat site immediately and return only when you have your pass in your possession. **If ANY attempt to circumvent the registration process is discovered, YOU WILL BE LEAVING THE EVENT and QUITE POSSIBLY THE GWA.** Passes will be checked from time to time during the combat scenarios by designated persons under the authority of the GWA Vice President. At this event, there will be a Central Powers MP unit under **Dan Murphy** of IR63. We will need one man from each unit to serve on this (not all week end). If you are interested in helping with this, call Dan at (410) 228-1642. Also, violations of the Safety Guidelines will be regarded very seriously. The days of threatening to take action against unsafe and careless members without actually doing it are over!

8. Past Voting Issues—The membership voted to have a third event in September (which does not necessarily have to be an "aircraft" event). An actual fly-in for a September event will occur as soon as arrangements can be made.
- ~The Membership voted to keep the Fall Combat Event on the first weekend in November.
 - ~In the future, **only** Central Powers members will be able to vote for Central Powers Combat Commanders and Representatives and **only** Allied Forces members will be able to vote for Allied Combat Commanders and Representatives.
 - ~The result of the President's Plebiscite—Tim Goodwin has been named as the Central Powers Combat Commander replacing Mike Gonzales. Welcome back to the G-7, Tim.
 - ~There are no voting issues this Fall.
9. Site Issues—Remember that bunker construction and significant alterations to the existing trench-works must be approved by the Site Committee *before* you start. Record rainfall and warm temperatures along the East Coast have contributed greatly to the re-foliation of the site. [this means it looks like Vietnam—MW] The problem was anticipated, but not to the present extent. The GWA may remove some of the brush from no-man's land by mechanical means and may use herbicides on site, if practical. However, every unit commander should be prepared to remove the brush in and around their trench sectors with hand tools. Clearing out the brush in the barbed wire entanglements and the area directly in front of each unit sector will also be a unit responsibility. Unit commanders should allot time for the work and see that their men bring the appropriate tools.
- All Unit Commanders will assign at least two of their men to stay until noon on Sunday to help clean-up the Combat Site. Unit Commanders, this is your responsibility—**Make it happen!** All trash, pyro, flares, etc. must be removed from the site.

Central Powers Rep Corner

With the coming Fall event the Central Powers have been working hard to prepare a warm reception at the Newville site for the French and their allies. Much is left to do. There is a great deal of vegetation overgrowing the trench area which needs removal. The G-7 has discussed a biodegradable, non-toxic herbicide, but as of this article, nothing has been decided. On other notes, I am pleased to report that the Central Powers have had no issues of dissension requiring the attention of the G-7 since the last event. As you prepare yourself for the Fall Event there are some things to know:

- * The G-7 will be providing sandbags (our forces will receive up to 500).
- * The G-7 will not be providing barbed wire. However, we have local suppliers identified and if you will call me with an order, I'll pick up wire for your regiment. You can pay me at the event.
- * Two bunkers have been started (IR63 & MW12). I encourage you to see these two bunkers for ideas and encouragement. As your regiment examines its own needs and resources, remember that when ready you **MUST** get approval. Contact Mark Graef, the CP Trench Master, to submit plans. (call 703-448-0831 or write Box 3106, Falls Church, VA 22043)
- * The Allied Rep, Jeff Holder has purchased a backhoe and will dig for any regiment with approval at a rate of \$30/ hour. We should all thank Jeff for his willingness to risk the purchase of the backhoe and the great rate he is offering to us.
- * Unit Commanders—Please help out our new Combat Commander August Hein (Tim Goodwin) by letting him know expected attendance numbers.

Friends, I would like to comment on the idea of uniform regulations for the Central Powers. With all the dissension in the past couple years, I am of the opinion that we need things to mellow out and get back to the business of having FUN! I have therefore tabled the controversial uniform and equipment regulations for the time being. We must have a good set of regulations that the entire Central Powers can adopt, but many have felt that a firm set of regs is being rammed into law. I will be holding an open forum at Newville to allow any interested Central Powers member to air their opinions. We will then proceed from that point. Remember, our main goal is to enjoy our time together as brothers, as comrades and as historians. See you all at Newville!

Craig Nordquist
(a.k.a. Ernst Deksheimer)

Local map to Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site

Map ©1995 Marek Wisc

