

# ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Fall 2007



## GWA President's Letter

Dear Members,

I have just returned from attending the Dayton Air Show. It was an excellent experience and I had the opportunity to meet many former GWA members and invite them to return to the fields. Some had not attended an event since Shimpstown! We also had a number of inquiries from prospective members. Whether or not they join, they at least are aware of what we do.

I also want to thank members of the 92<sup>nd</sup> (Keith, Earl, Rick, Eileen and Eric), members of the 8<sup>th</sup> Kur (Jim and Merlin) and Steve and Kate Murphy for attending and helping to build public interest by displaying personal collection items, working with the pilots and interacting with the public. These individuals did a great job representing the GWA.

On Saturday evening, I had the opportunity to address the WWI pilots attending the show to talk about our organization and events and to present a special recognition to the GWAA President, Fred Muir. Fred was involved in a near fatal crash several weeks ago; therefore, in recognition of his injuries on behalf of the Fatherland and the Kaiser, we

awarded him a wound badge. The response from the members was outstanding and very positive.

As a result of our efforts, I believe that we will see more participation of WWI aircraft at our events. A great deal of interest was shown by several Canadian flyers in participating at our events.

It is important to recognize that the WWI aircraft flying above our heads with guns blazing helps to enhance our combat experience on the ground. We got to see a trailer for a special that will be airing on the history channel about a missing American WWI ace. The host and announcer for the series, Stephen Skinner, made a comment that without the stories of WWI aviation, the history of WW I is incomplete—I agree.

It is also important for us to recognize the investment that these individuals have made in creating their flying machines, and the cost in traveling to our site and flying them for everyone's enjoyment and benefit. Many of the pilots who demonstrated an interest in what we do were impressed with our dedication to authenticity and our commitment. I felt their commitment as well in wanting to participate and help enrich and complete our battlefield experience. I look for a strong and positive relationship with the GWAA in the future.

This is my last letter to you as GWA President. I have been proud to serve you for the past several years and appreciate much of the support I have received from the G-8 Administration Board and the members. The organization is in excellent financial shape at this point and in approximately four years—or less—we will own our land free and clear; something to be celebrated.

As your president, I have attempted to be fair to all and make decisions in the best interest of this organization. Some have agreed and others have not. That is the way that organizations work. Regardless of whether or not you see the glass half empty or half full, the organization is in good order.

The G-8 Board has functioned more and more as a board of directors for this organization. Yes, the president still has the final say, but someone MUST have the power to make a final decision for arbitration purposes. The president of this organization is sometimes called to act quickly and decisively on issues and needs some freedom to do this.

I believe that Jim Kidd will provide positive leadership for this organization and do a great job representing you and accepting the challenges that we will face. Again, my congratulations to Jim and my thanks to all of you for the opportunity to work with and represent you,

Respectfully,

*Rob Zienta*

GWA President

## Fall Combat Event Schedule

November 2-4, 2007

### Friday, November 2

**1:00–6:00pm** Registration shed open

**5:30pm** Modern vehicles must be moved from all areas beyond the registration shed gate (including the battlefield, roads, rear areas, camps) before 5:30pm and parked in the parking lots. The registration shed gate will be locked until 6am Sunday

**6:00pm** Safety meeting on road between trenches

**6:30 to 6:45pm** Stand To.

**6:45 to 10:00pm** Night combat

### Saturday, November 3

**8:00–8:55am** Registration shed open

**9:00 to 10:00am** Safety meeting formation for all units (mandatory attendance)

**10am to 10pm** Combat

### Sunday, November 4

**6:00am** Gate at registration shed opened. Modern vehicles may access roads to battlefield.

**7:00–8:30am** Battlefield cleanup

**8:00–9:00am** Executive Committee meeting



## Letter from the Allied Combat Commander

Pursuit of an advanced degree in the United Kingdom precludes my attendance at the GWA fall 2007 event. Acting Captain Jon Kulaga will act as Battalion OC in my absence. Please continue to afford him the respect and cooperation graciously provided during past events.

I will be present at the spring 2008 event next year. Feel free to contact me by e-mail with any inquiries or just to say hello.

Best of luck to all during the forthcoming Neuville sector tour!

*Michael LoCicero  
a.k.a. Captain Lowe*

## GWA Elections Uncontested Candidates

*For President: Jim Kidd*

*For Vice President: Jeff Redrup*

*For Treasurer: Randy Gaulke*

*For Secretary: Tim Kuntz*

*For Allied Combat Commander: Michael LoCicero*

*For Allied Representative: Jon Kulaga*

## Contested Positions

Ballots will be cast in person at the Fall 2007 Event as part of the event registration process. Absentee voters must fill out the ballot form below and send it to the GWA Secretary by regular mail. Ballots must be received by Oct. 31, 2007.

### Absentee Ballot for 2007 GWA Election

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

#### Central Powers Combat Commander

NOTE: **Members of Central Powers only** may vote for Central Powers Combat Commander.

☐ Lou Brown ☐ Robert Zienta

#### Central Powers Representative

NOTE: **Members of Central Powers units only** may vote for Central Powers Representative.

☐ Merlin Hanson ☐ Frank James

**Mail ballot to:** Tim Kuntz

109 Hawthorn Cir.  
Lancaster PA 17602

Your yearly membership dues (\$25) must be paid up or included with this form. Ballot must be received by **October 31, 2007**.

## Candidates for Central Powers Representative

### Merlin Hanson

Hi folks,

I am running for CP Rep. So far I feel that I have made sure our views have been represented to the G8. I have also worked hard to make sure our growing CP community has the space to play in. I want to commend everyone on our side for their flexibility as units have moved around, and for their work as units have maintained and upgraded trenches, mowed grass and more. I think the CP side will continue to grow and improve and would love to continue serving if folks still want me.

Have fun out there,  
*Merlin*

### Frank James

Gentlemen,

My name is Frank James (many of you may already know me as Max Stiebritz) and I am running for the position of Central Powers Representative (CP Rep). I have been reenacting one time period or another since 1979, and for the last twelve years I have been reenacting the Great War.

Now, why should you elect me? Mainly, because I care about this hobby and with the 100th anniversary of the Great War, I wish to see our hobby grow and truly become the "Reenactor's Reenactment."

I would like to open a line of communication between the Central Powers membership and the G-8. Not knowing what is going on each year has been one of the shortcomings of the GWA. I would like to change this and provide more communication to the membership.

In my opinion, the CP Rep is a very important job. It should be the voice of the Central Powers units. My intentions is to bring this voice out and make the suggestions and ideas of the CP side known!

Thank you,

*Frank James  
(aka Max Stiebritz)*

## 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: graf.ir63@verizon.net*

**Submission deadline for the Spring 2008 issue: March 11**  
**Spring 2008 publication date: March 20**



## Candidates for Central Powers Combat Commander

### Lou Brown

I have been the Central Powers Combat Commander for the last four years. During that time, the Central Powers has—despite being consistently outnumbered, often as much as two to one—given as good as we have gotten. We have done this by adopting more flexible tactics, and planning our operations against Allied weaknesses vice conducting endless “smash and grab” raids with no other purpose than to capture prisoners to provide entertainment for interrogators in the rear. In short, we have carried out operations against an opponent with superior numbers and consistently done well, often denying our opponent any success.

In executing the position of commander, I have tried to accurately portray the historical way German officers led—from the front, vice sequestering myself in a bunker and issuing orders over a telephone. You have seen me in your positions, assaulting with you at the run across no-man’s-land, urging you forward, and in the Allies’ trenches with you, driving our efforts home. I have conveyed orders as is done in an army, down the chain of command, permitting the company commanders to execute at the lowest levels and offering them the freedom to accomplish tasks as they see fit, just as German commanders actually did in the Great War.

If you have enjoyed our successes during the past four years and wish to continue these without disruption, I respectfully request your support in the coming election.

### Robert Zienta

I am asking for your vote for German Combat Commander. I feel that some things can be improved and that is why I chose to run. Following are some the issues that I would address as your Combat Commander:

- Utilizing the various resources of units on the German side of the line by looking to specialized units to perform the duties expected of them, i.e., Pionier units functioning as Pionier units historically functioned in WWI.
- Improve communications among units and up and down the line to respond to Allied threats or attacks by establishing ops and phone connections. I see an important part of the job of Combat Commander as tactical and strategic coordination of forces, which cannot be done without proper communications, which we have not effectively used to this point.
- Tracking the status of units from a command center to know where units are during combat, what their strength is and how they can respond as needed. I would like to set clear rally points to coordinate counteroffensives, as well as establish a ready reserve.
- Having visited the national archives and reading U.S.

period reports and reviewing captured German documents, I feel that we can do a better job of creating and using period documents for communication and other administrative functions (i.e. leave) similar to what was historically used.

- Establish an effective command staff to work with unit commanders to ensure coordinated efforts for offensive and defensive actions.
- Review with the unit commanders the Rules of Engagement for possible revision and/or clarification.
- Resolve combat issues between Allied and German Forces
- Encourage and promote membership and unit growth.
- Work to establish solidarity of German units. We need to strengthen the relationship between units on our side of the line. This can be accomplished with the cooperation and leadership of unit commanders.
- Propose improvements to the German side of the line by developing comprehensive improvement plans with unit commander input, look at what resources are needed to accomplish the task and prioritize the improvements to get them accomplished.
- Be open to combat scenario suggestions.

I believe in helping units succeed; not causing them to fail. I have served as previously served as German Combat Commander and was responsible for developing prisoner interrogation, the Authenticity Guidelines for Uniform and Equipment, and many other positive goals for German units.

I ask for your support and vote for German Combat Commander.

Sincerely,  
Rob

## WW1 Books for Sale

I am selling a large number of WW1 and WW1 aviation books in my collection in order to make room for new books.

Please e-mail me to obtain a copy of the booklist at:  
lavarenes@patmedia.net.

You can also call or write:

**Randy Gaulke**  
584 Valley Road  
Gillette, NJ 07933.  
908-626-1345



# World War 1 American Battlefield Tour

Featuring a Small Group Size and Extensive Walking (at a Moderate Pace)

11-15 August 2008

## Introduction

At 2:30 a.m. on September 26, 1918, 3,980 French and American guns opened fire in the Meuse-Argonne. Just a few hours later nine U.S. divisions, many of them green, would jump off in the greatest American offensive of the First World War. Now—90 years later—you can walk in their footsteps, and in their opponents' footsteps.

## The Tour in General

Explore the American offensives of World War 1 in a five-day, small-group, walking-oriented tour led by German tour guide Markus Klauer and American tour guide Randy Gaulke. Through their multi-cultural approach, participants will experience both the American and German sides of the conflict.

Tourists will spend three days on the Meuse-Argonne battlefield, one day in the St. Mihiel salient and one day touring the Verdun battlefields of 1916. The short duration of the tour will allow the independent traveler time to visit other sites in Europe.

By limiting the tour to 12 people, each person will have more hands-on time with the tour guides and the other guests. This will facilitate better discussions, easier exchange of information and sources, and the opportunity to learn new skills, such as working with the French IGN 1:25,000 scale maps. With advance notice, the tour can be modified to cover areas of significance to individual participants.

A very important feature of the tour will be the amount of time spent walking the battlefields. The pace will be moderate; and most walks will be one to three hours in duration and two to four kilometers (1.2-2.4 miles) in length. One day in the Argonne Forest will include a significantly longer walk, but it will be split into two sections, with a lunch break in the forest. With a little preparation, most participants in good health should have little difficulty participating.



*1st Division Troops Advancing Through Exermont*

The tour guides have also tried to attach a personal story to many of the sites that will be visited; using period photographs and postcards as well as individual accounts. Each tour member will receive a well-prepared booklet loaded with maps and other information.

## About the Tour Guides: An International Approach



**Markus Klauer** (left) is a Captain in the Bundeswehr who has been visiting the battlefields of the Great War since 1983. In addition to leading tours, he has written four books on World War I, ranging from a German-language battlefield guide to a family's personal letters during the war. ([www.weltkriegsbuch.de](http://www.weltkriegsbuch.de)) Through his activities in the Deutsches Erinnerungskomitee Argonnerwald (DEA, [www.argonnerwald.de](http://www.argonnerwald.de)), Markus has also taken a lead role in researching the tunnels and other vestiges of the German Army in the Argonne Sector. He speaks fluent German, English and French.

**Randy Gaulke** (right), a financial analyst in his day job, has been touring the battlefields almost annually since his first trip in 1986. In 2005, he organized a tour for members of his reenacting unit. In 2007, he led the second half of the Western Front Association—USA Branch's battlefield tour, which covered the Meuse-Argonne and St. Mihiel salient. In recent years his interest has focused on the Meuse-Argonne. ([www.meuse-argonne.com](http://www.meuse-argonne.com)) Randy speaks fluent English and German.

**The Two Tour Guides** first met in 1994, when Randy participated in a work weekend held by the DEA. Since then the two have met periodically on the battlefield, and they have



continued to exchange correspondence and information. **Both share a common philosophy that the battlefield student has to study and understand both sides of any battle, and both share a respect for the quality of the soldiers on both sides. It is this multi-cultural element that the battlefield visitor will find lacking in many other tour offerings.**

### Tour Logistics—Overall

This tour has been designed for the independent traveler. Each participant is responsible for booking their own airfare, car rental, and hotel accommodations. Also, each participant will be responsible for their own meals and other costs.

Markus and Randy are responsible only for guiding the tour: They are not responsible for reservations of any kind. However, they will be more than happy to use their strong knowledge of the area and French culture to assist guests in planning their trip. (The travel tips section of Randy's website, [www.meuse-argonne.com](http://www.meuse-argonne.com), is a good starting point.)

Participants are strongly encouraged to book rooms in the "base hotels" because this will facilitate discussions and the exchange of information. Exceptions can be made for individuals choosing to stay in another hotel. However, those choosing this option must understand that the tour will not be held up, on any day, by their failure to arrive at the "base hotels" on time.

### Tour Logistics—The Daily Routine

The day will start at 8:00am with breakfast and a morning briefing at the "base hotel." Following the briefing, each person will have the opportunity to buy food (bread, meat, cheese, etc.) for lunch in the field.

Participants are encouraged to car-pool, as this will reduce the number of vehicles in the caravan: Four to five cars is certainly manageable on the country roads that make up the bulk of the tour. Each driver is expected to take his turn driving the other participants. **While this concept might be "foreign" to the American tourist, the multi-national members of the DEA have been using this meeting point and car-pool system for more than 20 years.**

Guests should expect to be in the field from approximately 9:00am until 5:00pm, with lunch eaten in the field.

Dinner will generally be at 7:00pm, either in the "base hotel's" restaurant or at a nearby venue.

There will be some time allowed in Verdun (or perhaps another city) for shopping.

### Base Hotels

Base hotels will be selected by late November/early December 2007.

It is anticipated that the base hotel for the first three days of the tour will be the Hotel du Commerce in Aubréville and that the base hotel for the last two days will be in or around Verdun.

### Physical Requirements

Tour participants should be in good physical condition and able to walk several miles per day at a moderate pace.

Most of the scheduled walks will be one to three hours in duration and two to four kilometers (1.2-2.4 miles) in length. The longest walk will be in the Argonne Forest. It will approximate six to eight kilometers (3.6 to 4.8 miles), but will be split in half by lunch.

The tour guides strongly recommend that guests make preparatory hikes at state parks, or similar trails. Individuals who are unable to walk this distance will find that they might miss key portions of the trip. (See the itinerary, below.)

### Weather and Clothing

August generally is a month of relatively favorable weather in Northeastern France; with average highs of 75 and average lows of 57 degrees Fahrenheit, and relatively limited precipitation. However, the tour includes daily waking trips, and these will continue except under extreme circumstances, such as thunderstorms.

Members are encouraged to pack a lightweight waterproof coat (and pants) for inclement weather. Long sleeve shirts and a sweater for the evenings are also practical.

Hikers should wear good quality hiking boots that provide ankle support. These might be uncomfortable in small European cars, but a twisted ankle will ruin the trip.

### Payment and Deposit Terms

The price for this five-day tour is \$600. (?400 at an assumed exchange rate of ?1 = \$1.50). The tour guides reserve the right to increase the price if the exchange rate climbs above ?1 = \$1.60.)

A \$300 deposit is due to Randy Gaulke by 1 June 2008. Reservations will not be held until the deposit is in hand. The \$300 balance is due on the first day of the tour.

Deposits are NOT refundable, UNLESS the tour guides can find a replacement participant. A waiting list will be maintained by Randy Gaulke for that reason.

### Disclaimers

As mentioned in the tour logistics: Each participant is responsible for booking their own airfare, car rental, and hotel accommodations. They are also responsible for their own meals and other costs.

Markus and Randy are responsible only for guiding the tour; not for reservations and travel plans.

As cautioned by the Western Front Association: "Wartime relics, such as shells, grenades etc. are usually in a highly dangerous condition and still cause death and injury. Any such object found during visits to the battlefields should be left strictly alone. Also, most of the land is private property and must be respected as such. Strict laws (which are being enforced) apply in respect of the collection and export of battlefield detritus." The best way to "document" the find of potentially dangerous debris is to photograph it and mark it so others do not stumble over it.

Tour participants should also be in good physical condition and able to walk in the countryside several miles a day at a moderate pace.

Finally, tour enrollees will be asked to sign a waiver, stating that they have reviewed these disclaimers.





## Contacts

Do not hesitate to contact your guides with any questions or concerns.

### Primary Contact:

Randy Gaulke  
584 Valley Road  
Gillette, NJ 07933  
USA  
908-626-1345  
[lavarennas@patmedia.net](mailto:lavarennas@patmedia.net)

### Secondary Contact:

Markus Klauer  
30d, rue de la Patrie  
F-67300 Schiltigheim  
France  
011-33-3-88 62 07 42  
(France is 6 hours ahead.)  
[Markus.Klauer@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Markus.Klauer@wanadoo.fr)  
(Best option)

## The Itinerary

(Subject to Modification)

### Day 1: Monday, 11 August; Meuse-Argonne—Focus on the German Army's Installations

Meuse-Argonne walk—Part I

#### Lunch break in the Argonne Forest

Meuse-Argonne walk—part II

*This will be the most rigorous walking day of the trip, with a 6-8 kilometer (3.6–4.8 mile) trip through the Argonne Forest, starting from the Abri du Kronprinz and ending at the Military Cemetery at La Harazée*

*Time and energy permitting, the tour could visit the Morolager (a restored German camp) and/or Varennes in the afternoon.*

### Day 2: Tuesday, 12 August; Meuse-Argonne—I Corps and the Race to Sedan

Neuvilly (Salvation Army Canteen and Hospital)  
Boureuilles (Wrecked bridge then and now)  
Initial jump-off lines in Aire Valley. Drive from Varennes through the Aire Valley  
Exermont (35<sup>th</sup> Div. failure and 1<sup>st</sup> Div. enters the line.)  
Le Chêne Tendu and German Cemetery (28<sup>th</sup> Division efforts)

Lost Battalion walk (77th Div.)

#### Lunch break—TBD. Explanation of I Corps flank attack on 7 Oct. (82<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Divs.)

Sgt. York walk (82nd Div.)

Grandpré (breaking the Hindenburg Line)  
Buzancy (then and now opportunity)  
Noyers-Pont-Maugis (German cemetery and the race to Sedan)

### Day 3: Wednesday, 13 August; Meuse-Argonne—V Corps, III Corps and East of the Meuse

Montfaucon (37<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Divs. advance, Meuse-Argonne American Memorial, Alms House)  
Madeleine Farm and vicinity (German cemetery, Hindenburg Line)  
Romagne Heights (32<sup>nd</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Divs.)  
Romagne (Musee 14-18, German Cemetery, Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery)  
Charny (U.S. Naval Railway Guns)  
Forges (33<sup>rd</sup> Div. initial advance)  
Brieulles and Brieulles German Cemetery (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Divs., Graves of German aviators)

#### Lunch TBD

Focus on East Bank of Meuse  
Consenvoye, Richene Hill, Borne de Cornouiller  
Dun-sur-Meuse (5th Div. Meuse River crossings)  
Murvaux (Crash site of Frank Luke)

### Day 4: Thursday, 14 August; St. Mihiel

Tranchee de Calonne (Yankee Division advance)  
Hattonchâtel and Vigneulles (26<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> Division meeting)  
Woinville walk (Two to three km walk through remains of German camps, etc.)  
**Montsec American Memorial. Lunch break at the memorial.**  
Richecourt, Seicheprey (Yankee Division disaster early 1918)  
Flirey and 89<sup>th</sup> Division jump-off lines  
Pont-à-Mousson (American Field Service Fountain)  
Regnieville  
Thiacourt (St. Mihiel American Cemetery)

### Day 5: Friday, 15 August, Verdun 1916

Fights of the German XVI. Armee Korps at the Bois de Caures, 22 February  
German advance towards Fort de Douaumont on 25 February  
Fort de Douaumont in German hands (February to 16 October) (Tour inside fort)  
Walk from Fort de Douaumont to Fort de Vaux  
Lunch at Abri des Pelerins (TBD)  
German last offensive operations towards Verdun : Froide Terre and the attempt to take the Fort Froide Terre.  
French National Cemetery and the Ossuaire de Douaumont.

**Please note:** With prior notice, the tour can be modified to follow in the footsteps of family members, etc.

**Also note:** The itinerary is subject to minor modification by the tour guides. ■



# English Like What She is Spoke

by Tom May

## Introduction

As I'm sure most of the readers of these articles will realise, the British army of the Great War spoke a different language to the general population of the homeland.

Due to the nature of service throughout the Empire, Mr. Atkins overlaid his native dialect with a mixture of "Hindustani" (the military lingua-franca of India), Afrikaans (picked up during the wars in South Africa), and Arabic (also picked up on foreign service), sometimes with a smattering of one or more of the Chinese languages thrown in for good measure, and the whole mess seasoned with a liberal helping of military expressions and military technical jargon. When the speakers of this composite tongue were dropped into a country with a francophone civilian population, it is only to be expected that a large number of anglicised French words would enter the soldier's vocabulary.

To begin this series, it seems logical to start with what was essentially a civilian slang with one or two military variants added later as the need (or the will) arose.

I should add that there is a distinct London/South-Eastern England bias to this work, if only from a lack of knowledge of other British dialects.

## Rhyming Slang

To start this work, a brief review of a largely civilian based language.

Although often called "Cockney Rhyming Slang," whether or not this was truly restricted to within earshot of Bow bells before 1914, by the end of the War it is likely that it would be widely understood and possibly (if unknowingly) used. (It is possible to use phrases like "Use your loaf" without being aware of their origins).

It should be noted that a form of rhyming slang, using a number of the same or similar phrases was noted among both the "hobos" and underworld of America's West Coast in the 1930's.

Although it may have begun as a "disguise" slang, it is probable that in the regions it was spoken the majority of the population would have used, or at least understood, much of the language, thus downgrading it from "cant" to common jargon<sup>1</sup>.

As John Brophy<sup>2</sup> points out, the rhymes chosen often indicate a religious influence, the memory of nursery rhymes or sporting references (for example, Cain and Abel; Buckle-My-Shoe and Todd Sloane)<sup>3</sup>

The rhymed form normally consists of two or three words (seldom more), the last of which rhymes (or nearly rhymes) with the word in question, i.e: Trouble and Strife—Wife; Burnt Cinder—Window ("ow" in this case pronounced "er").

When the "rhyme" is abbreviated, it is almost always the ("non-rhyming") first word (or occasionally, the first two words) which are retained, for example, "China-Plate" (a mate) becomes "China", while a "Tit-for-Tat" (a hat) becomes a "Titfer". For further reading, I would recommend "SLANG" by Eric Partridge.<sup>4</sup>

It should be noted that, unlike many other forms of slang which have died out, rhyming slang is alive and well and (probably) living in a vocabulary somewhere near you.

The following review of terms used is far from exhaustive.

\* \* \*

It seems that the logical place to start this section is with the human anatomy.

The head had a number of alternatives: "STRIKE ME DEAD," "BALL OF LEAD" (ie; a musket ball), "RUBY RED," "LOAF OF BREAD." The most common of these (as far as I can tell) was "loaf of bread" usually shortened to "loaf"—still in use today.

The head is usually topped off by the "BARNET FAIR" (hair) named for the site of the annual fair—usually abbreviated to "BARNET."

The face was the "JEM (or Jim) MACE" (from the 19th century boxer) or the "BOAT RACE" from the annual University boat race along the Thames.

The features, of course were named, the eyes were the "MINCE PIES" (often shortened to "mincers"), the nose was the "SALMON AND TROUT" (to rhyme for the snout)—the same rhyme was used for stout (the drink not the build); the cheek was the "ONCE A WEEK"; the mouth, the "NORTH AND SOUTH" and the teeth, the "HAMPSTED HEATH" named, of course for the area of the metropolis.

The head sat on the "BUSHEL AND PECK" (neck) which, in turn sat, (of course) on the "ROCK AND BOULDERS" (shoulders). The "CHALK FARM" (from the area of London) or "FIRE ALARM" (arm) provides support for the "GERMAN BAND" (from the "German" or "oompah" bands which were a common sight in pre-great war British cities and towns). The fingers, the "DUKES" derive their name from "DUKE OF YORK" (fork), thereby, finger (Also, by extension, hand, as in "put up your dukes" i.e.—raise your fists).

The heart was the "JAM TART" and the stomach (or more commonly the whole abdomen) was the "DERBY KELLY" (belly). The origin of this is unknown to me (but possibly the "Derby" of "Derby and Joan"?). "DERBY KELLY"<sup>5</sup> was often shortened to "DERBY" (pronounced "darby"). The whole body, of course, stands upon "SCOTCH (or CLOTHES) PEGS" (legs) ending, not unnaturally, in "PLATES-OF-MEAT" (feet).

Of the genitalia, the penis was either the "HAMPTON WICK" (after an area by the Thames), often shortened to "HAMPTON," or the "ROLLING STOCK" (obviously a reference with its roots firmly in the railway); and the testicles were the "COBBLER'S AWLS" or the "ORCHESTRA STALLS," these more often abbreviated to the "Cobblers" or "Orchestras." The female pudendum was the "BERKELEY HUNT," shortened to "BERKELEY" (pronounced "bar-clay"). Strangely enough, an insult based on this phrase—"BERK" (pronounced to rhyme with turk)—and still in use today, is considered to be much milder than its direct translation. The female breasts were the "BRISTOLS" or "BRISTOL CITIES" (from Bristol City—an English football league club) or THREEPENNY BITS (pronounced Threp'ny or Threp'ny) after the coin.



The body must be fed and clothed:

The “Dickie Dirt” (the shirt) worn on occasion with a “HALF-A-DOLLAR” (2/6 not 50c) or “OLLER BOYS” and “PECKHAM RYE” (collar and tie) was worn over the “LITTLE-GREY-HOME-IN-THE-WEST” (vest<sup>6</sup> from a pre-war song). The “ROUND-THE-HOUSES” (trousers, note: trousers pronounced to rhyme with houses and not vice-versa) were possibly held up by “EPSOM RACES” (braces—an obvious reference to Epsom race course, home of the Derby). However, if the trousers formed part of a “WHISTLE-AND-FLUTE” (a suit), they would be accompanied by a “STEAM PACKET” (jacket—“steam packets” were steam-powered “packet-ships”) and probably a “CHARLEY PRESCOTT” (waistcoat—origin unknown). Those who could afford one would also own a “WEASEL-AND-STOAT” or “WEASEL” (an overcoat—hence “pop-goes-the-weasel”—the overcoat goes to the pawnbroker). The feet, clad in “ARMY (or BRIGHTON or ALMOND) ROCKS” (socks) were thrust into “DAISY ROOTS” (boots) or, for the more affluent, “P’s-AND-Q’s” (shoes). The whole being topped off with the obligatory “BALL-AND-BAT” or “TIT-FOR-TAT”(hat); more rarely, some men, short of “BARNET” (see entry) would resort to an “IRISH-JIG” (wig).

I regret I can find very few examples of rhyming slang for food and drink, however, doubtless the “BABBLING BROOK” or “BABBLER” (the cook) may set a “HARRY TATE” (plate—from the name of a famous music-hall entertainer) of “IRON HOOP” (soup) on the “CAIN AND ABEL” (table—a biblical reference), or perhaps, some “FLYING TRAPEZE” (from a song title) or “STAND-AT-EASE” (military reference; both terms for cheese), some “BEEF HEARTS” (beans, a rhyme on “farts”) or perhaps some “ROSEBUDS” (potatoes—from “spuds”) maybe even deep fried as “BOMBARDIER FRITZ” (chips—from pommes-de-terre frites); seasoning would be provided by “SQUAD-HALT” (salt) and “HIGH STEPPER” (pepper).

If one acquires a “THERE FIRST” (thirst), this may be simply quenched with “ROSY LEE” (tea) or “EVERTON TOFFEE” (from “everton toffees” a famous confectionery), but then again, it may require some form of “RIVER OUSE” (alcoholic beverages—from “booze”—the rhyme derives from the number of British rivers with the name “Ouse,” “Usk” etc.<sup>7</sup>).

If one has the necessary “BEES AND HONEY” (money), one may take a “TUMBLE-DOWN-THE-SINK” (drink), either some form of “PIG’S EAR” (beer), perhaps “LAUGH AND TITTER” (bitter) or “SALMON AND TROUT” (stout) or maybe one would prefer spirits, perhaps a little “NEEDLE AND PIN” or “NOSE AND CHIN” (gin); some “GOLD WATCH” (scotch whisky); some “JACK DANDY” (brandy) or “FINGER AND THUMB” (for the services’ stand-by—rum).

Of course, if serving in France, one may sample the local “POINT BLANK” of “PLINKY-PLONK” (white wine—from vin blanc), so, draw up a “STOP-AND-STARE” (chair), strike a “WIDOW’S MITE” (light—biblical reference), light your “CHERRY-RIPE” (pipe—another song title) or “OILY-RAG” (“fag” ie: cigarette) and relax.

A short additional glossary of rhyming slang is attached.

## BRIEF GLOSSARY

This brief list contains word and phrases most of which were not used in the article.

<b>Apples and Pairs</b>	Stairs
<b>Bird Lime</b>	Time
<b>Bread and Jam</b>	a Tram
<b>Bride and Groom</b>	a Broom
<b>Buckle my Shoe,</b>	a Jew—the former carries echoes of the nursery, while the latter has more obvious military origins.
<b>Four by Two</b>	
<b>Butcher’s Hook</b>	a Look
<b>Cape of Good Hope</b>	Soap
<b>Captain Cook</b>	a Book
<b>Charing Cross</b>	Horse (note “Cross” rhymed with “Horse” and not vice-versa)
<b>China Plate</b>	a Mate, ie: friend
<b>Duke of Fife</b>	a Knife
<b>Duke of York</b>	a Fork—and by extension finger and hand (see text).
<b>Flounder and Dab</b>	a (taxi) Cab
<b>Frog and Toad</b>	a Road
<b>God (or Gawd) Forbid</b>	a Kid, ie: a child
<b>Half Inch</b>	to Pinch, ie: steal
<b>Joanna</b>	Piano (note this time the subject is pronounced as the rhyme: “pianna” the Army)
<b>Kate Karny</b>	a Church
<b>Lean and Lurch</b>	a (news) Paper
<b>Linen Draper</b>	a Shovel
<b>Lord Lovel</b>	to Swear, ie: to curse
<b>Lord Mayor</b>	Deaf (from pre-war comic paper characters)
<b>Mutt and Jeff</b>	a Tailor (rhyme derives from Maidstone Prison (Gaol))
<b>Maidstone Gaoler</b>	a Bar
<b>Near and Far</b>	a House
<b>Rat and Mouse</b>	a Train
<b>Struggle and Strain</b>	a Glove
<b>Turtle Dove</b>	a Bed
<b>Uncle Ned</b>	Wife
<b>War and Strife</b>	a Pillow
<b>Weeping Willow</b>	Flowers
<b>Yours and Ours</b>	and one additional military reference
<b>Put in the Boot</b>	to Shoot

## References

1. It is commonly claimed that rhyming slang had criminal origins, however, it is possible that it’s origins lie more with the ‘cheap-jacks’ and ‘patters’ of the street market.
2. Brophy, John and Partridge, Eric. “The Long Trail”—What the British Soldier Sang and Said in 1914-1918. (Andre Deutsch Ltd., London, 1965) No ISBN—a major source for this work.
3. “Cain and Abel”—Table; “Buckle-My-Shoe”—Jew; “Todd Sloane”—own (as in “on your todd”)
4. Partridge, Eric “Slang Today and Yesterday” (Rutledge & Kegan Paul Ltd, London, 1933 (last reprint 1979)) ISBN (1979 edition) 0 7100 6922 7.
5. As the song “Boild Beef & Carrots” puts it, “That’s the stuff for your Derby Kell; Makes you fat and it keeps you well....”
6. Vest, in this case is what the americans may refer to as an “under-shirt,” and not a waistcoat.
7. The name derives from the celtic word for water and is a root for the words whisky or whiskey.



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☐ 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

**GWA Membership and Registration Form for the Fall Combat Event, November 2-4, 2007  
Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

*You must be at least 18 to register. You may be asked for proof of age. (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. 2007 dues if not already paid  
(Call/email the Treasurer if uncertain)

**\$25.00**

B. Fall 2007 Event fee if pre-registered (see below)

**\$25.00**

C. Optional site development donation

\$

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

\$

E. Gate registration fee  
(PAY ONLY IF NOT PRE-REGISTERING)

**\$15.00**

F. Gate registration total (D+E)

\$

*Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register to save the gate fee. If you pre-register but are unable to attend, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks. All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before **October 29, 2007**. If your pre-registration is not received by this date, you must pay at the event — including the \$15 gate fee. Your original mail pre-registration will be returned unopened.*

Make checks to "Great War Association." Send form and check to:

**Randy Gaulke, GWA Treasurer  
584 Valley Road  
Gillette, NJ 07933**

(908) 626-1345 e-mail: [Lavarennnes@patmedia.net](mailto:Lavarennnes@patmedia.net)

**Register Online with PayPal**

You can now register and pay online by using PayPal ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)). Dues and the event fee are \$26 each (\$52 if paying both) to cover the costs of this service. Payments should be sent to the GWA Treasurer at [GWAtreas@patmedia.net](mailto:GWAtreas@patmedia.net). Please include all information normally entered in Part I & II of this form in the notes box of the PayPal form. Registration payments without this information included will not be accepted.

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

## American

26AEF 26th Div. (Yankee Div.), AEF  
27AEF 27th Div., AEF  
L109AEF 28 Div., 109th Inf. Co. L., AEF  
116AEF 29th Div., 116th Inf., Hdqtrs. Co., 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

2SRFC No. 2 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps (*probationary*)  
6BWBEF 6th Btn., Black Watch, BEF  
BRBEF The Border Regiment, BEF  
BUFF 6th Buffs Rgt., BEF  
IRISHGD Irish Guards No. 3 Co., 1st Btn.  
ROYENG Royal Engineers  
RWF Royal Welsh Fusiliers

## Commonwealth

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

## French

8BCP 8 Btn. Chasseurs à Pied  
18RL 18ème Régiment d'Infanterie (Régiment de Gâtinais)  
151RL 151ème Régiment d'Infanterie de Ligne

## Russian

RL Légion Russe

## Non-Military

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

## Austrian

63KUK 63rd KuK

## German

1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment  
5SB 5. Sturm-Pionier-Bataillon "Rohr"  
8KUR 3. Feldesk., Kürassier Regt. Nr. 8 (Rheinisches)  
12MWK 12. Minenwerfer Komp. 12 Division  
13PB 13. Pionierbataillon  
20MG 20. Maschinengewehr-Scharfschützen-Bataillon  
63JR 3. Komp., Infanterie-Regt. Nr. 63 (4. Oberschlesisches)  
73FR Füsilier-Regiment Nr. 73 (Hanoversches)  
90FR 10. Komp., Füsilier-Regiment Nr. 90 (Mecklenburgisches)  
92JR Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 92 (1. Braunschweigisches)  
120JR 5. Komp., Infanterie-Regt. Nr. 120 (2. Württembergisches)  
124JR 3. Komp., Infanterie-Regt. Nr. 124 (6. Württembergisches)  
459JR 8. Komp., Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 459 (Rhein. Westf.)

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