

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Spring 2008



Spring has Sprung

By Jim Kidd, GWA President

As we ramp towards our Spring National Event and Great War reenactors begin to emerge from their Winter hibernation, we of course begin to hear about what will or won't happen in the GWA, with our Fall elections having altered the administration somewhat.

So I figured I'd take a few lines here and let you know what has been going on, what will go on and what we hope to see in the coming year and beyond. Our Fall election shuffled a few jobs and added a few new players to the GWA administration. I went from VP to President, Jeff Redrup became VP, Randy Gaulke remained Treasurer. Our Reps remained the same; Jon Kulaga on the Allied Side and Merlin Hanson on the CP side. Mike LoCicero will continue as Allied Combat Commander and Rob Zienta will assume the role of CP Combat Commander. Tim Kuntz, the elected Secretary, resigned for personal reasons. Brad Busch was appointed to fulfill Tim's term.

We had a successful year last year. We had good events, saw a number of new recruits and units come on line. We also had a number of GWA Unit Sponsored events, which went off well and brought revenue as well as exposure for recruiting to the GWA. The end result was more members and the GWA ended the year in a strong financial position, which Randy will detail in this edition of OTW.

In 2008 we've already had two GWA unit sponsored events which brought in over \$2000. This money will be added to our budget to address GWA member priorities including site expenditures and event enhancements such as the ground charge simulations we had demonstrations of at the Fall event. We'll be dealing with site issues ranging from preserving the cannon to dealing with the parking lot. Jeff Redrup, as new Chairman of the Site Committee, will be detailing site goals in a separate article.

We'll be working to improve the communicative processes in the GWA. Communicative paths from leadership to membership and back need work and we'll be doing what we can to make those links stronger. We'll be working on a new website design that increasingly meets member needs and desires; we'll be emphasizing improving the pathways of information flow. A key waypoint in this is the Unit COs. Unit COs are GWA officers per our bylaws. They are responsible to their unit members and the G-8 as a key part of the information and responsibility chain. Critical information goes out to the Unit COs Yahoo group and every unit needs to ensure their unit CO (or at least an appointed POC) is part of that group. Another key and underutilized communication

element are the elected Representatives. The Allied and CP Reps are there to represent any and all membership issues to the G-8, which they can only do effectively if membership communicates their wants, needs and concerns to them. Too often GWA members go straight to the President or VP. While any G-8 officer is willing to hear and help out with any concerns members have and will always remain approachable, bypassing the Reps undermines their abilities to do their jobs effectively. They are there to represent you, the GWA members. Use them!

Site improvements are another issue near and dear to the GWA membership. This includes development that the GWA as an organization does and that which individual units undertake locally. Each side, Allied and CP, will have a Trenchmaster team of three men; a Trenchmaster and two assistant TMs. There is also a universal process that must be followed by units wishing to build up their positions. A crucial and often lacking aspect of site development is GWA membership input and ownership. The GWA administration needs to hear from membership what they would like to see in terms of site development, either to correct flaws to enhance strengths. Key players in this are the TM teams, the Allied and CP Reps (who the TMs work for directly) and the

Spring Combat Event Schedule April 18-20, 2008

Friday, April 18

- 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
- 6:30pm** Safety meeting on road between trenches
- 7:30 to 7:55pm** Stand To.
- 7:55 to 11:00pm** Night combat

Saturday, April 19

- 8:00-8:55am** Registration shed open
- 9:00 to 10:00am** Safety meeting formation for all units (mandatory attendance)
- 10am to TBA** Combat

Sunday, April 20

- 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



GWA VP who chairs the Site Committee (which is comprised of the VP, Reps, TMs and CCs). Unit commanders are also key respondents in communicating the wants and needs of their men.

We also need membership to take more physical ownership of the site. Despite what many seem to believe, GWA members are not merely tourists who come to Neville to be entertained. You are actually part owners of the site, and need to take an active hand in its maintenance and development. You'll hear throughout the year of the need for membership to put some sweat equity in our site. Fixing, building, defoliating are all labor intensive efforts that need membership to lend their time to address.

Lastly, we'll begin looking at Regulations and Bylaws revision. This is always a somewhat difficult and somewhat contentious process, but one which must be periodically undertaken to ensure our processes and organization stay current and continue to meet the needs of the membership.

There are a few things units may wish to consider as well. As mentioned earlier, we hope to roll out a larger effects program along the lines of the demonstration we had last Fall. We may not have it this Spring due to schedule conflicts, but we'll be planning ahead anyway. The number of charges per event is still TBD and cost will be a major driver there, but we may allow units to add to the total. The GWA is considering getting the mortar pots built, but also allow units to get in on the order to have pots placed in their own area. Then units can also add to the charge totals by augmenting the GWA funded amounts by paying for their pots to be used. Much is still up in the air on this, so stay tuned, but if your unit would be interested in having more charges in your area, it may be possible.

There'll be more on the planning table as this year goes on, and beyond. We're nearing the end of the mortgage, which means in a very few years, we'll have more funding available for further improvements; now is the time to make your input count.

But for now grab your figurative cup of coffee, ersatz or otherwise, and get ready for Spring. ■

Site Committee Report March 2008

By Jeff Redrup, GWA VP

The following projects have been agreed upon by the Site Committee and will be in the work this year. There is no order of precedence and all are important and we will try our darndest to be completed this year. If you have any inputs or ideas to make these go smooth, please feel free to see your Reps or VP.

GENERAL

1. Cannon preservation

We have a spot to put it and are trying to put it in place before the event, but we're waiting on price quotes. Either

way the cannon is being moved off the mound and put over by where the new slab is going.

2. Fix farmhouse for GWA use

Steve Wiser said he is going to shore up the 1st floor for free. We can proceed to shore up the 2nd floor and get the windows covered. One of the ways to cover the windows is to build wood shutters. We have decided to do this to protect a GWA asset and to have shelter to any unit if needed in inclement weather. If needed it would be used for CP and Allied. It can be used for what ever else we could need. No existing unit will be kicked out.

3. Wire for phones on both sides.

This way command on both sides could keep in touch with their units. The funds are coming out of the Allied & CP reps discretionary funds but in case of an overrun, funds will be available to cover. EST. COST: \$600.00

4. Parking lot improvements needed, need to establish order in the lots

Logs or wire rope to denote parking/ driving lanes. Move vendors to far end of the parking lot if they are going to take up more than one space. We are going to use tape this event to get it started. More to come, we will keep you posted.

5. Speeding on the road.

Steve Wiser is going to add 2 speed bumps. Signs will also be added to warn drivers. EST. COST: \$0.00

CP SIDE

1. Two frontline area trenches to be dug out.

EST. COST: \$300.00

2. Move the Port-a-John and wood structure on the CP North side

We are moving this to the other side of the road. Units on the Allied side can see it from their sector. EST. COST: Possibly use GWA volunteers to accomplish this. Some lumber might be needed.

ALLIED SIDE

1. Port-a-John on Allied side wood is coming off.

Could be fixed before the week of the event. If not, it will be fixed the Thursday before the event. EST. COST \$0.00

2. Small fence around the baby's grave.

We feel this should be protected and preserved. Period style wrought iron will be used. EST. COST \$200.00

3. Dig funk holes in No Man's Land by the French sector.

Add a few more for some fun. Est. COST \$60.00 a hole, with a cap of \$300.00

LONG TERM

There could be more projects in the wind but we are trying to fix and maintain GWA assets and have a reasonable goal. Something in the wind is a solution for Death Valley. ■



Summary of Projected 2008 Revenues and Expenses

Budgeted Revenues	\$31,000	Projected Surplus (Deficit)	-\$1,359
Budgeted Expenses		Beginning of Year Cash Balance (All Sources)	\$20,675
Administrative	-\$2,899	Projected Surplus (Deficit)	-\$1,359
Communication	-\$90	Projected Ending Cash Balance	\$19,316
Site Purchase	-\$12,200	Divided as Follows	
Event & Site	-\$11,170	Emergency Fund (Kept in checking account)	\$3,000
Site Development	-\$6,000	Available Balance	\$16,316

Projected Revenues	Spring 2008	Fall 2008		
Membership dues @ \$25/Person	(300@\$25) \$7,500	(125@\$25) \$3,125		
Event fees @ \$25/Person (\$15 Summer)	(275@\$25) \$6,875	(300@\$25) \$7,500		
Late fees (\$15 at the gate)	(70@\$15) \$1,050	(70@\$15) \$1,050		
Site donations	\$200	\$200		
Subtotals	\$15,625	\$11,875	\$27,500	88.7%
Usage fees & Other (est. 6 extra events. Already received \$1,500 from Gross Deutschland Feb. event.)			\$3,500	11.3%
Total Revenues			\$31,000	100.0%

Budgeted Administrative Expenses				
Misc./Legal Expenses			\$400	1.3%
Insurance (Liability, Accident, D&O — Assumes 5% increase over 2007.)			\$2,499	8.1%
Total Administrative Expenses			\$2,899	9.4%

Budgeted Communication Expenses	Spring	Fall		
Website (Pd. In '07 thru 11/1/08. 2 mos x \$30.00 in '08.)			\$60	0.2%
Newsletter Production (Going electronic)	\$15	\$15	\$30	0.7%
Total Communication Expenses	\$15	\$15	\$90	0.3%

Budgeted Site Purchase Expenses				
Annual Mortgage (paid monthly)			\$9,500	30.6%
Taxes (Real Estate and School District)			\$2,700	8.7%
Total Site Purchase Expenses			\$12,200	39.4%

Budgeted Event & Site Expenses	Spring	Fall		
Ambulance (\$200 + \$30/hr for staffing for 18 hours)	\$740	\$740	\$1,480	4.8%
Period Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Toilets — 1 on site permanently @ \$68.50/month			\$822	2.7%
Toilets — 6 extra @ \$70 each	\$420	\$420	\$840	2.7%
Toilets — Extra cleaning, 7 @ \$25 each	\$175	\$175	\$350	1.1%
Dumpster on site permanently @ \$65.00/month			\$780	2.5%
Dumpster — 4 p/u @ \$175	\$350	\$350	\$700	2.3%
Site clean-up (Only if necessary)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Printing of Passes/Membership Cards/Etc.	\$25	\$25	\$50	0.2%
Trench Supplies				
Flares (Red only: 576 (4 gross) @ \$2.75 ea + \$100 ship)	\$1,694	\$1,684	\$3,378	10.9%
Sandbags (1,000 bags & freight; est. together at \$0.64 per bag.)	\$640	\$640	\$1,280	4.1%
Smoke (Inventory???)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Barbed Wire (Lots of rolls on site)	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Pyro for events	\$750	\$750	\$1,500	4.7%
Total Event & Site Expenses	\$4,784	\$4,784	\$11,170	36.0%

Note: Flare prices spiked in 2006 and Orion discontinued white flares.

Budgeted Site Development Expenses				
Defoliation and Mowing			\$800	2.6%
Road Maintenance			\$600	1.9%
\$300 per side — Trench Masters and Combat Commanders			\$600	1.9%
Budgeted Site committee costs			\$2,500	8.1%
Total Site Development			\$6,000	19.4%

Notes: The proposed budget shows us running a slight deficit, but this is after considering our very strong treasury. We ended 2007 with a cash balance of \$20,675. Revenues were greater than expected and some of the anticipated site development expenses were not made in 2007. The 2008 budget includes funds for pyrotechnics at each event and funds for the restoration of the cannon. GWA leadership and members should note that our 10-year mortgage will be paid-in-full in February 2011, just a little less than three years from now. With the mortgage paid off, that's \$9,500 per year that could be used for site development or a reduction in dues.

Treasurer Randal Gaulke will NOT run for re-election again. He has served enough terms. Therefore, it is imperative that somebody with budgeting and financial common sense step forward to take over at the November 2009 election.

Submitted on March 7, 2008. **Randal S. Gaulke**, Treasurer



Vehicle Issues

We're not talking about 1918 vehicles here (although I wish we were; we have a few but could use more!) but members use of their own vehicles on site. We have had numerous issues, both during events and in between.

First of note the speed limit on site is 15 MPH! Don't come flying into the site, even if you think no one is there. You'll see signs and eventually speed bumps to remind you, but be conscious of the speed limit.

Next, during events be aware that personal vehicles are prohibited from being beyond the gate by the registration shed from 5:30 PM Friday night until 5:30 AM Sunday morning. Too often we'll see members bringing their POVs in at night to bring their gear in after hours or get their gear out. This is problematic on several levels. For one, GWA members attend events to recreate history, which is blown when headlights come driving down the road in the combat area. This ruins things for members trying to enjoy their event. The event does not end when the shooting stops. Respect other members' period experience. It has also been a safety issue. Driving down dark roads at night has had some near misses for pedestrian accidents. Darkness, narrow roads, tired reenactors, and vehicles are a recipe for trouble.

So don't even consider bringing your vehicle into the camp or combat areas until dawn on Sunday. If for some reason there is a bona fide dire emergency that justifies getting your car down to the trench area, you can seek a written Presidential Pass. You need to come find me, explain your emergency and if it warrants it a pass can be issued. Convenience for leaving early does NOT constitute a bona fide need. Get your squad mates to help you carry gear. We can try to line up our period vehicle owners to help out. We can see about carts to help haul stuff. We're looking into finding a horse cart guy (with liability insurance) to help out. But you can't take your car down there during prohibited hours.

Also, we have been getting complaints from the neighbors about the use of Memorial Lane to access the CP rear. This road is not a public thoroughfare, is not on our property and is not to be used. Access to the GWA site from it will be blocked during events. You are to enter the site only at the yellow gate. Anyone caught using Memorial Lane will be ejected from the event.

Lastly, the parking lot has become a Chinese fire drill in recent years. Some of our people are truly parking-challenged. We'll be attempting this year to impose some order to the lot, but use some common sense in parking to allow for as many cars as we can in the lot. By the Fall event, the lot will have barriers to follow, parking and driving lanes to respect and set aside areas for large setups at the flea market. Until such time use common sense and be courteous in how much space you take up in the parking lot.

We have two member parking lots. The main lot is obvious; the other authorized lot is the overflow lot near the site entry point (we'll be clearing out the crap out of the overflow lot).

Many members have taken to parking along the road approaching the registration shed and in the registration area. This is a development in recent years we are going to

reverse. The area along that part of the road is the area for those who choose modern camping to setup tents. No cars belong there (even if you set up a modern tent there, your car belongs in the main or overflow parking lots). The only cars that may park outside of the main or overflow lots are G-8 officials who may park behind the registration shed, as they use their cars for GWA business prior to or during the event.

So to summarize:

- No cars beyond the registration shed from 5:30 PM Friday until 5:30 AM Sunday
- Park only in the main lot or the overflow lot out by the main gate
- Memorial Lane is off limits to GWA members and must not be used
- The site speed limit is 15 MPH

No doubt this will cause grouching by people who don't want to walk an extra 50 yards, but these are the rules and they will be respected. —*Jim Kidd*

Over There!*

*Meaning North of the Turnpike

This is to give you a heads up for those planning trips to the GWA site who come through the town of Newville to get there. PENNDOT will be closing three bridges over the PA Turnpike for a Turnpike repair project starting in mid-March. These overpasses are the ones on Middle Road, Center Rd. and Doubling Gap Rd. (233). It is expected to be December before they open again.

Most GWA members who come through Newville do so via 233 to Center Rd. and Creekview Rd., and turning right onto Middle Rd. at the bridge. For those coming in through Newville, your best available detour is via Whiskey Run Rd. For those who find themselves on Creekview but unable to turn on to Middle Rd. due to the Bridge closing, continue straight on Creekview to Whiskey Run Rd; turn right, go under the PA Turnpike and turn right on Subdivision Rd. Turn left on Middle Rd. and proceed to the site.

From the town of Newville itself, you can turn left on Steelstown Rd., which runs into Whiskey Run Rd.

If anyone misses the turn for Subdivision Rd., you can continue on to Rte 997, turn right, and then turn right on Middle by the school. The route in from the west via 997 is not impacted by the construction.

The aerial views on mapquest show the routes pretty clearly. The site address is adjacent to 516 Middle Rd.

The detour is an annoyance, but not too severe. The main thing is to ensure that everyone who comes in that way is aware of the need to detour and the available routes. It'll will be a nasty surprise trying to come in the normal way in the dark and having to find your way on your own. Pass the word to your people for April & beyond.

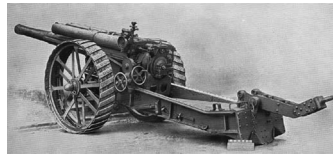
Late Update: It appears that PENNDOT may not close the Center Rd Turnpike bridge until the Fall, making for a less out of the way detour than Whiskey Run Rd. Just in case, use mapquest to plan multiple routes, but count on the Middle Rd overpass being closed.



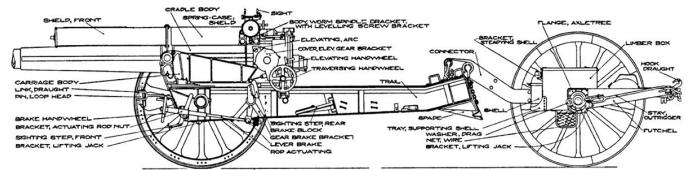
Our British 60 Pounder

I want more people to know about the cannon we have sitting at our site, as I consider this subject to be important. We are now beginning to preserve it — it really is a rare piece and we should consider ourselves very lucky and privileged to have it.

First, we will be putting it in the Memorial Garden where it was originally envisioned. It will be a non-working piece, as is not structurally sound to be fired. At the time this was written we were awaiting bids on the slab. Hopefully, it will be poured by the Spring Event, weather and contractor permitting. We have a guaranteed \$1000 donation from the Great War Foundation and more from coming in from other places. Please thank the members when you see them. There will be a donation can at the registration shed. I am asking for you help. We are planning to sand blast the



British 60 Pounder Mark I



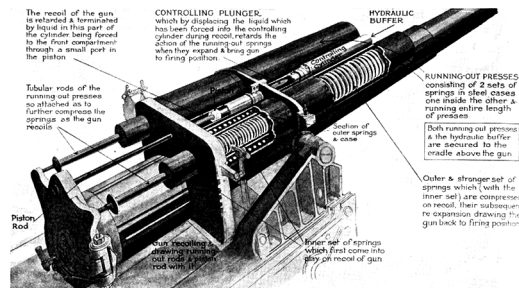
60 pounder Gun Mk I, on Carriage Mk II, with Limber Mk II, traveling position. Left elevation.

Schematic of a MkI with a MkII carriage and MkII limber

Second, I couldn't find a lot of information but tried the best I could. The British artillery piece we own was designed in 1904 and is called a 60-pounder, weighing in at 4.4 tons. The variation we have is a MkI barrel on a MkII carriage which was manufactured in 1916 by Elswick Ordnance. There was a total of 1,756 pieces made. It required a crew of 10 and used a high explosive "HE" round. The rate of fire was 2 rounds/min. and originally had an effective range of 10,300 yds, but with a modified shell shape, that increased to 12,300 yards. The action

used to fire the shell is actually from a Martini Rifle. Take a look and you will be amazed as our cannon still has the Martini receiver as the firing mechanism. I guess the British tried to recycle everything!

Wartime manufacturing of the carriage was simplified in the MkII by removing the provision for moving the gun rearwards for traveling. This moved most of the weight when traveling



60 Pounder recoil mechanism

whole piece and seal it with a coating called POR 15. This will protect the metal and prevent it from rusting again. Before it is painted with the final paint coat, various pieces will be taken off and repaired. This is not a one man effort. If there is anyone out there who has a sandblaster or paint guns, or can weld or do metal work or anything else the 60 Pounder could benefit from, PLEASE contact me. The piecing will be on the slab this year and sealed. The final paint will depend on the metal work to be done on it.



60 Pounder MkI being pulled by horses during the 1918 Kaiserschlacht Offensive.

away from the limber onto the carriage's own wheels — most weight was on the gun carriage wheels rather than the limber wheels. 5 ft diameter x 1 ft wide steel traction engine wheels replaced the wooden wheels to cope with the added weight. These modifications pushed towing capability beyond horse capacity and a Holt's caterpillar steam tractor was required to move the piece. The information I found states this but I still found a photo showing a 60 Pounder still being pulled by horses during the 1918 Kaiserschlacht Offensive (see photo).

U.S. Service

The United States procured a number of batteries of 5-inch 60 Pounder guns with the necessary accompanying vehicles from Great Britain. The materiel was of British design and manufacture throughout, and the units ceded to the United States include Mark I guns — mounted on Mark II carriages; Mark II gun carriage limbers, Mark II ammunition wagons, and Mark II ammunition wagon limbers. I would assume we have one of those U.S. procured pieces.

— Jeff Redrup



A 60 Pounder and crew in action at Cape Helles, June 1915



English Like What She is Spoke (Part II)

by Tom May

IMPERIAL BAT

This section is intended, briefly, to indicate one or two aspects of the foreign languages adopted by the British soldier, either through direct contact with the native speakers (ie: through foreign service) or by contact with those who had served abroad.

As with many “closed” societies, oddities of language prevail, words and phrases picked up abroad were sprinkled into the conversational vocabulary, initially because of shared experience, necessity, or convenience (it is easier to refer to the “nappy” or “nappy-wallah” than to the native barber as opposed to the regimental — ie. European — barber).

Once these terms were accepted as common currency, then any newcomer quickly (if not eagerly) latches on to them, firstly—because it gives a sense of belonging to speak the same “restricted” language (it reinforces the “group identity”); secondly—it gives a (somewhat tenuous) sense of superiority over those even newer than oneself (“*I know what it means, so I’m not as green as him.*”); thirdly—not speaking the language can lead to missed opportunities or advantage.

It should be noted that Mr. Atkins liked to think himself as a linguist, however, if accounts are to be believed, most of his attempts to “sling the bat”¹ ended with the message passed, if at all, by a combination of a few key words and liberal use of signs and gestures. Unfortunately for the average British soldier, the communication was complicated by a matter of attitude; in the mind of the soldier, he (and most of his countrymen) spoke ENGLISH; the officers and gentry spoke “POSH” and the rest of the world spoke either one of these two or “FOREIGN” (meaning that army patois which T.A. thought was the local tongue, whether it bore any resemblance or not²).

English, it is said, has the largest vocabulary of any language in the world. This is very easily explained—it is achieved by “acquiring” words from other languages. Not surprisingly, British military service on the Indian sub-continent since the early eighteenth century added many words to this stock, words such as “DINGY” for a specific type of small boat; “PAJAMA,” originally the loose fitting trousers of the northern regions and “BUNGALOW,” a type of house in (I believe) the Punjab.

In addition to those words which passed into common currency, the pre-Great War British soldier, through common usage, (his own or among his comrades) adopted many other words and phrases, some of which have passed into main stream—if low—English. Most, however, did not.

Any man with a job, passion or habit which could be named (or summarized) in one or two words, often had the word “WALLAH” (man or fellow) added after said job or appellation (as with Richards’ “Prayer-wallah”). Thus the

“NAPPY-WALLAH” was the “NAPPY” or local native barber, the native who sold tea (or “CHAR”—from the Hindi word “chai”) was the “CHAR-WALLAH,” and the laundryman was the “DHOBI-WALLAH” (indeed, such was this worthy’s influence, I understand, that even today, in the British army 50 years after quitting India; washing powder is still “Dhobi-dust”). Originally the term for a native rifle thief, the term “LOOSE (or LOOS or LUS)-WALLAH” became the generic term for any thief. The term wallah followed the army back to Europe and, during the war, was applied to other men with jobs, such as “Lewis-gun wallah”, or, in the case of a man who never came near the danger zone “base-wallah.”

The soldier stationed in India lived within a fixed hierarchy. The private soldier was regarded as the lowest form of European life (with the possible exception of those Europeans who “went native”). However, the humblest private rated above the native population, from the highest “BRAHMIN” (priest class), to the lowly “MEHTA” (untouchable — pronounced “meter” by the soldiers) who cleaned the latrines. It is not surprising then, that the soldier tended to order the native servants and workers, rather than cajole, and that such directions as passed into the vocabulary were exclusively in the imperative, “JAO” (go, or go away); “ILDERAO” (come, or come here); “PANI LAO” (bring water); “JILDI” (quickly); “ARSTY” (slowly); “AK DUM” or “EK DUM” (at once, immediately — lit., one breath) and “CHUBBARROW” or “CHUB” (shut-up, be quiet, hold your tongue). Neither is it strange that there existed a range of insults and invective in Hindustani learned by some and known as the “CRAB-BAT” (origin unknown).

In food and drink, mostly standard English words were used, although some native terms appeared; “PANI” or “PAHNI” for water, for example. “CHAR” for tea is still commonly used, while many ex-India hands will recognise “CHINNY” for sugar and “ROOTY” (from “ROTI”) for bread and “CURRY,” basically a spiced stew (in any one of many forms) is universally known, even appearing in the Manual of Field Cooking ... (and incidentally becoming the generic name for most Indian food).

As formerly stated, many words have passed into common usage: “KHAKI,” the drab colour of service dress uniforms (from the Persian for “dust”); “TOPEE,” the sun or pith helmet worn overseas (ie: East of Suez); or “CHIT” for any hand written message, list or permit. “CUSHY” meant anything soft, comfortable or easy (such as a cushy job or a cushy billet); and a place, far from cushy, was the “CHOKEY,” a prison or guardroom. But surely the most famous of these terms was “BLIGHTY.” Whatever its origins—Hindi, Persian or Urdu—Blighty was home, a return to normality that, in the midst of the war, to the soldier, seemed so abnormal, an almost half remembered paradise.

Of course, many words did not make this move into the general vocabulary, but achieved some local currency, “BURRAH” or “BARROW” meaning large and its opposite “CHOTA” for example, as in “burrah-wallah”—a big man, and “chota-peg”—a “short” drink. “PUKKA” is still in use today, to mean real, superior, genuine or high quality.



ty, while its opposite “CUTCH” (or “KUTCH”) meaning poor quality or inferior, never gained such popularity; “DEKKO” (to watch or look) is still heard in the phrase “Take a dekkoo” (look for yourself), as occasionally is the phrase “DOOLALLY” meaning mad or not normal (more literally—suffering from sunstroke), the name coming from DEOLALIE, a sanatorium near Bombay³. “FANTLI,” another Hindustani word meaning mad or insane has, meanwhile, dropped out of sight.

There were two other terms which are worth of mention; one is “BUCKSHEE” (from Baksheesh—alms, gifts or donations), meaning free, surplus, or easily obtained goods, a welcome addition to the ration or supplies. The second word also means something obtained freely, and most definitely unwelcome, “CHAT(T),” the human body louse, a continuing pest for soldiers on both sides of the wire.

Again, this list is a mere taste of the input from the sub-continent and almost any memoirs of wartime or pre-war service will add to this meagre collection.

Although service in India added much to the soldiers’ language, it was not the only source of additional words by any means. Service in the Middle East, dating back to the Egyptian campaign against Napoleon, the campaigns of the 1880s and service in the war all added words and phrases from Arabic; some also appeared in India, in a similar form, due to their common Persian and Sanskrit roots, words such as “BOOKRI” (crooked or wrong) and “MALUM” (to understand), but some were particular to Arabic, such as “IMSHI”—Go or go away! or its more emphatic “YALLAH”—be gone, be off with you, or “TI-IB” and “QUAIES KATEAH,” both of which mean very good, the latter very common with troops serving (or having served) in Egypt.

In France, it would be possible to hear these terms alongside both their normal English and “franglais” equivalents, thus the terms “Y’IBN”⁴ and “BADMASH” (Arabic and Hindustani respectively) could be heard equated with the English terms scoundrel or rogue (although in their own language these terms relate more to criminal or villain), while words like “MA’ALISH” and “MAFEESH” were interchangeable with their anglicised French equivalents “SAN FAIRY ANN” and “NAPOO” (meaning, “it doesn’t matter” and “there is none” respectively).

It should be remembered that the language mixture changed throughout the war as the background of the men forming the army changed. Hindustani would have been heard extensively (along with some Afrikaans and even Chinese) in 1914 diminishing somewhat as the old B.E.F. were replaced by the Territorial Force and “New Armies” who would have added the slang of the workshop, the office and school to the mixture. By the middle of the war, service in Gallipoli and in the Middle East re-introduced Arabic into the language, while, in the early days of the “New Armies”, the influence of the old soldiers (many of them Boer War veterans) responsible for training introduce a sprinkling of Afrikaans into their vocabularies: All this overlaid by the rise of an anglicised French argot.

Again, a short additional glossary is attached.

GLOSSARY

HINDUSTANI / URDU / PERSIAN

BANDOOK/ BUNDOOK	Rifle—originally any gun (more accurately a shotgun.)
BINT	A young female, a girl(?), a woman as distinct from a lady (BIBI)
BUJI/BAGI	Time (lit. hour)
BOBBERY	Row, noisy quarrel.
BURGUE/BURGOO	Oatmeal porridge.
CHUPRASSY	an Indian orderly (from “CHAPRA-SAI,” wearer of a “CHAPRAS”—an official badge)
DARZI	tailor
GUP	News or rumour
HOOKUM	A rule or regulation, “the right thing”
KHAKI	Dust coloured
MAIDAN	(pronounced “Mydahn”) A plain, space or parade ground.
PUTTEES	Leg wrappings (from the Hindustani for bandages)
TAMASMA	A display or show.
UCKEYE	O.K. (possibly originally a translation or acquisition from the English?)

ARABIC

ESMA	Listen!
IGGRI	Hurry up
IMSHI	Go-away! Be off!
MAGHNOON	Idiot, fool, dolt.
SAIDA	Good Day, Greetings
VALOOSE	Money
YALLAH	Be off!

AFRIKAANS

KOP/KOPJE	(Pron “kopie”) A hill or rocky outcrop.
TREK	A march, or to march.
STELLENBOSCHED, TO BE	To be superseded, sent home, “Bowler hatted” (but not cashiered), from the name of a camp during the Boer War ⁵

CHINESE

GOODIE-LA	Good, the opposite became “NO GOODIE-LA” (obviously pidgin as opposed to true language.)
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Notes

1. To speak a foreign language—“Bat” is a language and one “slings” but never “talks” the “bat.”
2. See “Old Soldier Sahib” and “Old Soldiers Never Die” both by Frank Richards—formerly of the Royal Welsh (Welch?) Fusiliers.
3. “DOOLALLY”—the full term is “DOOLALLY TAP.” Sunstroke victims were sent to Deolalie sanatorium to convalesce. Upon entering the gates, the sufferer would have his kitbag stamped by a bearer placed there for that purpose, often the sufferer was so weakened by his illness (or the bearer so enthusiastic) that the victim was literally “staggered.” This stamping gave rise the term “doolally tap” and hence to “doolally”
4. “Y’IBN” is a contraction of “Y’IBN ELKALB” (lit: “son of a dog”) and was considered a deadly insult by Arabs.
5. See also the poem “STELLENBOSCH” by R.KIPLING.

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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 Spring Combat Event, April 18-20, 2008
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. 2008 dues
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year) **\$25.00**

B. Spring 2008 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
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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 **April 14, 2008**. 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.*

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584 Valley Road
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You can now register and pay online by using PayPal (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. 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. Feldeesk., 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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