

# ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Spring 2003



## President's Letter

With the New Year comes a natural time to look back over the past and look forward to the future. The past year has seen some growth in membership, the most site development we have ever had in any one year since we obtained the site, the addition of new units, the debut of a third national event, and a cooperative spirit across the lines.

These are great beginnings, but where are we going? Several issues have arisen this year which will need addressing. Opportunities have been presented—how will we proceed?

One item that has arisen again, is the conflict our schedule makes with members' affairs outside of the hobby. Last fall, owing to the Easter scheduling conflict, we voted on when the spring event would be held. Now, the fall event has come into question as members seek to accommodate our hobby and their personal lives and responsibilities. Rationalizations over what constitutes a weekday/weekend have even been bantered about in trying to bolster one view, or another, as to setting the fall event date.

As of now, the fall event is 1 and 2 November, the first weekend of November; however, this date provides a con-

flict in that many people feel a need to attend to various Halloween celebrations. As President of the GWA, I could make a schedule change decision, but with the amount of lead time available, the decision could certainly be made by the membership as a whole. While we are looking at scheduling issues, I would also like to point out that the spring schedule was decided by a very small margin, not an overwhelming mandate.

Perhaps we should take the time now to settle these issues, not just for this year, but for the future as well. Some people might say that we should keep to what we have always done in the past—to include polling the membership every time there is a conflict. Others have suggested an alternative schedule. By having the spring event on the last Saturday of April and the fall event on the second Saturday in November, we avoid most Easter\* (no disrespect to our Orthodox brethren) and all Halloween conflicts.

I have directed the editor to include a ballot on the Spring 2003 registration form. Please make your choice with due consideration of the long term effects of your choice. This vote will not effect this year's spring event date.

Turning to other matters, a number of members have approached me about the question of deducting some of their

## Spring Event Schedule April 11–13, 2003

### Friday, April 11

- 1PM–9PM** Tent open for registration
- 5:00PM** German Commander's meeting—  
Location will be posted at the  
registration tent
- 6:15PM** Safety meeting on road between  
trenches
- 6:30PM** Combat begins
- 10PM** Stand down from combat

### Saturday, April 12

- 9AM** Safety Meeting
- 9:30AM** Combat begins
- 10PM** Stand down from combat

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*\* Editor's Note: If the GWA keeps its policy of holding the spring event on the third Saturday in April, there would be a conflict with Easter in 2006 and in eight other years over the next three decades. If we hold the event on the last Saturday of April, the only conflict with Easter in the rest of the 21st century would occur in the year 2038.*

**ALL MEMBERS:**

# Make plans to attend the summer event!

**June 21-22, 2003**

Those in attendance last year felt it was one of the best events we have ever had. The weather was moderate and even cool at night. Many people from the local area, and others from as far away as Vermont, attended the event during the public time. A number of people especially came with the object of sizing us up, including several recruits (some have subsequently joined) and a documentary producer. This event is great chance to bring out your alternative Great War impression, show off what you know, get in some unit training and have a good time in general.

Great War expenses from their taxes, others have asked about fund raising and still others have asked about seeking grants for site development. All of these issues revolve around the status of a corporation. To enjoy the benefits of legally deducting personal expenses, accepting outside monies without someone paying taxes, holding various types of fund raising activities and readily accepting items as a museum or historical entity, we would need to be an educational, non-profit corporation. Such status would also increase our standing in local affairs—something which is becoming increasingly important.

It is not difficult to obtain non-profit status, it just takes time and some small outlay of funds for legal expenses. There are some guidelines that we would need to adhere to. How much these additional guidelines would effect us in practical terms is debatable. Before taking this path, we would like to explore this issue more with the membership. If you have some knowledge of non-profit groups—real knowledge, please, no hearsay—give the information to your unit commander, or directly to the Administrative Committee. As always, you may contact me directly should you wish to do so.

—John

## Site Closed:

**21 April – 16 May 2003 due to weed abatement and outside group use.**

**No site work or training during these dates.**

# Do Your Bit for the GWA!

by Randy Gaulke

One of the greatest challenges I see with this organization is the lack of individuals willing to serve on the Executive Committee. Too many of the election races in recent years have been uncontested, with no-one stepping up to assume a new challenge. The mere suggestion that an individual should run for a particular office sends that person fleeing to the furthest corner of the battlefield. “I’m not qualified,” or “I don’t have the time” are the responses most often received. “I don’t want to deal with the politics, I just want to have fun” is another popular response.

Yet consider the fact that throughout the GWA’s history, it has only been a few members of the Executive Committee, together with a small number of other active individuals, that have “delivered” the organization to this point. We may not be the world’s largest or best reenacting society, but don’t forget the many accomplishments of recent administrations. To begin with, the GWA has negotiated with Mark Anderson to convert the 30-year lease to a ten-year mortgage. It has also taken steps to ensure that the GWA has the financial discipline (i.e. expense control) to pay for the increased yearly mortgage payments (relative to the lease payments.) By the time this letter is printed, the GWA will have paid more than \$24,000 of the \$100,000 mortgage, and it will have less than eight years remaining on the mortgage! Finally, the committee has begun to make significant improvements to the site (especially the battlefield) by using a portion of dues and event fees and by asking for voluntary contributions from you, its members. (Thank you donors!)

Critics of the Executive Committee could point to numerous weaknesses and problems as well. I won’t deny that.

However, my point here is this: ANY HEALTHY AND GROWING ORGANIZATION OF 350-400 MEMBERS NEEDS TO—AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO—ATTRACT FRESH BLOOD TO ITS LEADERSHIP POSITIONS. As an organization, we need to get past the negative view that a position on the executive committee is nothing but thankless work and hours of headaches. I would also suggest that members need to think about their obligation to give back something to the organization that provides this truly enjoyable hobby.

“Is a position on the Executive Committee only a thankless task?” That depends to a very large degree on the motivation and ability of the members of the Executive Committee. It can be a true pleasure, when serving with a highly motivated group of individuals under a strong president. I would also add that the Internet and email, when used constructively, can facilitate communication among the committee.

“I have no direct experience. What talents are needed to serve effectively?” First and foremost, an ability to think critically and to analyze the organization’s strengths and weaknesses is absolutely vital. What is good? What should be modified, etc. Second, an ability to work with people, to compromise, and to see the world in “shades of grey” goes a long way in accomplishing goals—there are a lot of different viewpoints (and testosterone levels) among the membership. Finally,



a willingness to sacrifice some research and event preparation time in order to take care of “administrative” items is also needed. The GWA is just like an individual unit that needs one or more administrators to run smoothly.

Nominations for officers will be made at the Spring 2003 event, with the election of officers (serving a two-year term) taking place at the Fall 2003 event. I ask each member to seriously consider “doing your bit” for the organization by running for office. ■

## Narrative of Operations

### November 1st & 2nd, 1917

#### 1st Composite Battalion

#### Neuville-Pronville sector

**November 1st.** At 6:00PM on November 1st, the 1st CB relieved the French 268th Regiment in the Neuville-Pronville sub-sector without difficulties. Fighting patrols were sent out throughout the evening to examine the German frontline in preparation for the double raid ordered by brigade HQ on the 28th inst. for the evening of 2nd. Several sharp patrol actions resulted in the capture of five German prisoners from IR63 and IR92.

**November 2nd.** At 9:00AM, the French company and Legion Russe (Lt. Jensen, 2nd Lt. Guillemson & Lt. Poplavsky) launched a daylight raid in vicinity of the BREMEN REDOUBT. The assault was carried out with great dash. After bombing and consolidating the first two trench lines, the raiding party withdrew with three prisoners of IR92 and 5th SB. Captured enemy equipment and documents were also brought back by the raiders.

At 1:20PM, a small party of enemy bombers attacked the BEF post at the ANZAC CRATER in front of CALEDONIA TRENCH (BEF company sector). After a lengthy bomb fight, a platoon strength counterattack on both sides of the crater, forced the enemy to retire hurriedly into their frontline trench. Two bodies were brought in for identification after advanced posts were established in no man’s land. They were later identified as belonging to IR63.

The AEF company spent the greater part of the day preparing for the double raid by launching several daylight patrols. In addition to this, careful watch of the enemy position was maintained from observation posts. In the late afternoon, an audacious AEF patrol captured a light Maxim 08/15 in the vicinity of MUNICH TRENCH.

The Double Raid on Bremen Redoubt and Munich Trench sectors: At 5:20PM the AEF and BEF companies (Capt. Lowe OC) attacked on both sides of DEATH VALLEY under cover of a trench mortar & rifle grenade barrage. In addition to this, smoke candles were utilized to expedite the crossing of no man’s land.

After entering the BREMEN REDOUBT near HUSSAR FARM, the AEF Company (Lt. David & 2nd Lt. Kidd), sup-

ported by the French company in the centre, secured their right by establishing bomb stops. They then bombed to the left up the first two German lines to approximately J.14.b.23.24 & J.14. 18.17., where they were held up by the enemy who had withdrawn to the portion of BREMEN TRENCH bordering DEATH VALLEY.

The BEF company (Lt. Rall, Lt. Aleo & RSM Turfitt) crossed no man’s land from the vicinity of the WHITE HART CRATER and entered MUNICH TRENCH before the enemy could react. Advancing to the second line trench in the vicinity of the CERIZY-PRONVILLE ROAD, posts were established to engage any enemy counter-attack parties.

After dusk, intense fighting with rifle and bomb resulted, when the enemy launched severe counterattacks at several points on the right and left of the positions occupied by the raiders. Unfortunately, the signal arrangements, which were to communicate the timely withdrawal of the two raiding parties, broke down. Consequently, the raiders withdrew behind schedule with loss. Both parties had returned to our lines by 7:30PM. Following this, it was discovered that the raid commander was captured by an audacious enemy patrol, which entered our line at CALABASH TRENCH during the raid. This was confirmed when a voice was heard from the enemy frontline trench after the raid, announcing the capture of an “English Hauptmann.”

Despite the heavy casualties (47 Killed and 18 missing), 23 prisoners, a number of rifles and automatics, equipment and documents, were brought back to our lines by the two raiding parties.

The 268th French Regiment relieved the battalion by 10:00PM, after which it marched to Voyennes, arriving there at 2:00AM on the 3rd.

## GWA Executive Committee

### 2002–2003 term

*President:* **John Novicki**

*Vice President:* **Bill Baldwin**

*Secretary:* **Mark Anderson**

*Treasurer:* **Randy Gaulke**

*Allied Combat Commander:* **Mike LoCicero**

*Allied Representative:* **David Hughes**

*Central Powers Combat Commander:* **Rob Zienta**

*Central Powers Representative:* **Bill White**



### General Comments.

- a) Enemy offensive action was much reduced during this tour. When his line was breached during the double raid however, the German reaction was to launch furious counter-attacks until the withdrawal of the raiding parties.
- b) Increased enemy trench mortar activity was experienced during this tour, although the resulting fire was not coordinated effectively.
- c) The use of Strombus Horns and ACME sirens will effectively eliminate difficulties with signals for withdrawals, etc. during these small operations.
- d) Improved methods for the handling of prisoners at battalion HQ will need to be implemented.
- e) Several incidents of fraternization with the enemy occurred during this tour. All officers and NCO's have been warned that this will not be tolerated.
- f) A previously unidentified enemy 9MM automatic rifle was captured and forwarded to brigade HQ.
- g) Royal Engineers Signals. No amount of praise would be sufficient to highlight the work down by the Signal Sappers attached to this battalion. Their efforts insured efficient telephonic communication during the time the battalion was in the line. Cpl. Brown, Sapper Holder, and Sapper Ivers are to be commended for their many efforts.

Sgnd. **Capt. M. S. L. De Roi MC.**  
**Royal Dublin Fusiliers**  
**Att. 1st CB**  
**6/11/17**

## It's About Time

By Rob Zienta

Each event we reenact the Great War, striving for accuracy in our impressions. We carefully check our uniform and equipment (some even counting stitches), clean the cobwebs from our mind to speak in the correct dialect or language, but perhaps there is something else we should check as well—our knowledge about the period? For this reason I thought it might be helpful to give a thumbnail sketch about life outside of the military during the Great War.

My intent is to give everyone some general information and then focus on the impact of the war on Prussian Society (behind the lines). I would invite others to explore similar circumstances concerning each of the nationalities we represent and present them in similar articles.

### A Time for Causes

The beginning of the new century was a time for causes, women were beginning to want greater participation in political affairs, workers were beginning to assert their rights, and the nations of the world began to develop their industrial power. Nations struggled to deal with the technological and social advances of the time.

On the other side of “the pond”, America was beginning to exert a more powerful influence in international affairs. Teddy Roosevelt helped arbitrate an end to the Russo-Japanese war; after the purchase of the Panama Canal in 1904 and its successful completion in 1913, the United States could effectively dictate the affairs of the American Continent, and America exerted its influence at the second Hague Peace Conference in 1907.

France maintained her prestige as the fashion setter to the world and a leader in art. French artists taught their latest “isms” to eager American art students.

England was no longer “Victorian” as the nation mourned the loss of a great Queen. However, imperialism remained a dominating motive of government.

In 1909 Djaghilev's Russian ballet left Moscow for Paris and brought to western theatre goers a whole new world of sound, movement, and amazing barbaric color.

Germany, too, began to influence foreign affairs as it began to flex its industrial and military power.

Moving pictures improved fast during the first decade of the new century, becoming more than a nickelodeon amusement. Film was developing into a powerful medium for social commentary, particularly among German film directors.

Horses, gasoline cars, “electrics,” and motorbuses transported residents and chattering boarding-school girls about the great cities, while in 1909 the Wright brothers demonstrated the ability of the aeroplane to take man into the sky. It was a time to celebrate the development and promise of technology and invention.

### Prelude to War

However, all was not well. England fought the Boers until 1901; the Russo-Japanese war was fought; in 1911 Italy fought Turkey; in 1912 the Balkan countries fought each other. All of the world powers built dreadnaughts and piled up armaments, and made alliances and treaties. Many of the European leaders were related by marriage or blood. This was the prelude to the whole world standing on the brink of war.

The political tempo of the times became reflected in the music. A dancing mania seized the world, as irresistible as the arms race. The romping “barn-dance” had already jolted away ballroom dignity. Now new rhythms, such as those by “Alexander's Ragtime Band,” took the place of the waltz as men and women—young and old—turkey-trotted and tangoed, while nations began their march to war.

## ON THE WIRE

Newsletter of the Great War Association

*Published by the GWA Executive Committee*

Mark Graef, Editor

*Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Electronic files should be sent as e-mail attachments to: graf63@bellatlantic.net*

**Submission deadline for the next issue: May 1**  
**Next issue publication date: May 12**



The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand was the match that set fire to the tinder box. Because of an alliance with the Austrians, Germany was compelled to enter the war on their side. This may serve as an explanation why many Germans felt that the war had been “forced” upon them. Other nations honored their alliances as well and the Great War was thus assured.

The drumbeat of war replaced the syncopated rhythms of ragtime and brought about the dance of nations, alliances and loyalties. On August 4, 1914, the German Army began its march to Paris through the most expedient route, Belgium.

Germany did not have huge stockpiles of guns or ammunition and, since their economy was largely dependent on outside trade, German military and political leaders, like their counterparts in France and Britain, were not ready for a protracted war.

### Production Problems and Shortages

An allied blockade of Prussian ports began to strangle imports, creating a need to develop alternatives (ersatz) to many products. Some of the products created were margarine to replace butter, replacements for gunpowder ingredients, and synthetic rubber.

In Prussia from 1914 to 1916 economic and social policies were developed within the Prussian War Ministry. War Ministry officials labored to allocate manpower, production and distribution of munitions and food, in addition to maintaining labor relations.

In its exuberance for a short war the War Ministry failed to properly regulate manpower by sending too many men to the front. Those left behind were not placed in the most vital industries. Therefore, munitions production was inadequate and remained so throughout the war.

A goal of both military and civil authorities was to establish and maintain a sense of unity on the home front between labor and employers. This goal was never realized for the following reasons: the military was unable to act as an effective mediator in wage disputes, while the War Ministry, in order to maintain unity, would often concede to union demands. Unions saw these concessions as a way to enhance their power. This frequently put military and labor officials at odds. The War Ministry succeeded in alienating the industrialists while failing to win the loyalty of labor.

By 1916 the ineptness of the War Ministry created popular support for a military dictatorship. In August of 1916, the War Office, in response to a demand for massive increased munitions production, implemented the “Hindenburg Program.” This was an attempt by military leaders to provide a new direction for the war effort by marginalizing the War Ministry.

The Hindenburg Program was a failure—too little, too late. In fact, under this program, munitions production output actually fell. Several factors contributed to this program’s failure—profiteering by industrialists, and food, coal, and transportation crises caused by manpower shortages and the allied blockade. The battle at Jutland ended Prussia’s challenge to allied sea power and helped seal Germany’s fate.

Prussia was never able to successfully establish a balance between labor, industrialists, and the local civilian and military bureaucracies. While aggrieved by the intensification of

food, fuel, housing and clothing shortages, the mass public remained fundamentally loyal to the government until the late summer of 1918.

The war years for Prussia were marked by economic and political opportunism on the home front. Unions sought to improve their influence and power by provoking worker unrest and then taking credit for resolving it. Industrialists profited by charging huge prices for government contracts, driving rampant inflation, and then grudgingly granting wage increases that were used to justify further price increases. Agricultural interests hoarded food and shamelessly drove up prices. In spite of their suffering, the Prussian people stood faithful to the point when victory was no longer possible. ■

## A GWA Battlefield Tour?

by Randy Gaulke

Many individual members have travelled to the battlefields, but is the organization interested in putting a tour together?

Those of you who know me know that my first love of WWI is visiting the battlefields, and that I have visited the battlefields nine times over the last 15 years. Also, I was instrumental in helping to organize a tour for the USA branch of the Western Front Association in 1998. The tour was basically organized as follows: It was 8 days in length. London was the official start and end point, though members had the flexibility to meet the trip on the Continent. Individuals were responsible for booking their own travel arrangements, so they could arrive early and/or stay later. The tour concentrated on visiting the U.S. battlefields. Most of the tour was guided by Tony Noyes (of Flanders Tours), but I also researched and presented a few selected sites. Tony also received significant input from a U.S. committee (including Werner Gruhl and myself) regarding the specific sites that we wanted to visit. The tour traveled via motorcoach, and spent most of the day in the field, including eating box lunches. In the evening we ate a multi-course French dinner at the local hotel. Overall the participants provided very positive feedback, and I can share that with anyone interested. The biggest complaint from participants was the rigorous schedule and the fact that there was not enough downtime for strolling along city streets, shopping, etc. The cost for the 8-day trip in 1998 was about \$1,200 (excluding airfare and personal expenses).

Given the knowledge base of many of our members, we could have an excellent tour. I can handle the logistics and I can talk knowledgeably on certain battlefields. But I firmly believe that the success of the tour is really dependent on individuals taking an active role in presenting their units’ activities during various battles. Depending on the responses received from likely participants, I would guess we could organize a tour that would cost \$150-200 per day plus airfare.

Sound intriguing? Because this represents a major logistical task, I suggest that the organization plan a trip for 2005. This would give two years to organize and to save money for



the trip. Please take some time to think about this during the next few days and complete this survey (you can return the survey with your registration form, or at the registration table at the event).

## GWA Battlefield Tour Survey

1. Giving this some serious thought, what is the **REAL LIKELIHOOD** that you would plan to take part in the trip?

☐ 90%    ☐ 75%    ☐ 50%    ☐ < 50%

2. How long would you like the trip to be?

☐ 3-5 days    ☐ 6-8 days    ☐ 9-10 days

3. Given the GWA's main events, what month would you suggest?

☐ May    ☐ June    ☐ July    ☐ August  
☐ September    ☐ October

4. Should spouses be allowed on the trip?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

5. Should children of junior high school age or older be allowed on the trip?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

6. Should younger children be allowed on the trip?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

7. What type of accommodations would you expect?

☐ Staying in the nicest hotels in a city  
☐ Staying in standard European hotels (which don't always have a toilet and/or shower in every room.)  
☐ Staying in the cheapest hotels (similar to dorm rooms) available to keep costs low.  
☐ Roughing it in historic spots only. See next question.

8. Would you want to spend part of the overnight experience sleeping in preserved trench lines (such as at Beaumont Hamel), in restored German laggers (as in the Morolager in the Argonne), or in historic churches, where and if possible?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

9. If that were possible, would you want to do that:

☐ Every night  
☐ Every other night  
☐ Just one or two nights during the trip for the experience

10. Should spouses and children have the option of staying in nearby hotels?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

11. During the 1998 tour, we basically ate breakfast (croissants and toast) at the hotel in the morning, ate a quick box lunch in the field, and then had a nice European dinner (lasting about 90-120 minutes) once back at the hotel. **Does this sound acceptable?**

☐ Yes    ☐ No

12. As this is a broad survey tour, it is likely that we would be in a different hotel every night or two. **Should we purposefully try to plan two night stays in certain hotels, giving participants (and spouses and children) the option to stay in the city for a day?**

☐ Yes    ☐ No

13. Given the time constraints of even a ten day trip, I am assuming that the tour would focus on a brief overview of three or four of the major battles of the war. I also envision that the specific sites visited would be influenced by the participant's units. For example, if we are "heavy" on British reenactor participants, we would spend more time on their battlefields and would try to tour sites that were of significance to the units represented. **What mix would you like to see?**

☐ 75% standard battlefield museums, monuments, etc. (Lochnagar Crater, Menin Gate, etc.) and 25% unit-specific sites.

☐ 50% / 50%

☐ 25% battlefield museums, monuments, etc. and 75% oriented toward touring unit-specific sites.

14. Can you speak knowledgeably or provide information regarding the activities of your unit in one of the major campaigns? (Example: The activities of 151RL during the first week of Verdun.)

☐ I have toured my unit's battlefields in sector X, and can speak authoritatively on the unit's activities.

☐ I have never visited site X, but have sufficient resources (maps, unit histories, biographies, etc.) to prepare a discussion of it.

☐ I would not want to speak on it, but I could provide the tour guide with information in advance.

15. Would you be willing to serve on a steering committee to help organize the itinerary?

☐ Yes    ☐ No

16. Assuming we could organize them, would you want to take part in ceremonies etc. with European reenactors and/or WWI groups? (Given time constraints, we would likely do this only once or twice during the trip.)

☐ Yes    ☐ No

17. Remembering that space on the coach and the plane is limited, should reenactors:

☐ Wear their uniforms exclusively

☐ Wear modern clothes

☐ Be free to wear what they want, subject to packing limits

Where do we go from here? Let's see what kind of response you provide. If interest is sufficient, I will present a more formal proposal (and survey information) to the GWA's Executive Committee. ■



# October 8, 1918 Was a Fateful Day!

By Max Stiebritz

**O**ctober 8, 1918. There were many U.S. heroes that won the Congressional Medal of Honor on this day, including Alvin C. York. In the citations following the names below are brief descriptions why each of the recipients was given the Medal of Honor. Of course, Alvin was celebrated for his feats, but to me there were a few others who might have done him better. This is not meant to bash Corporal York for his bravery, it just points out there were others who I believe outdid him on that fateful day! Read the citations and decide for yourself. **Note:** An asterisk (\*) in the citation indicates that the award was given posthumously.

## YORK, ALVIN C.

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Army, Company G, 328th Infantry, 82nd Division. Place and date: Near Chatel-Chéhery, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Pall Mall, Tenn. Born: 13 December 1887, Fentress County, Tenn. G.O. No.: 59, W.D., 1919. Citation: After York's platoon had suffered heavy casualties and 3 other noncommissioned officers had become casualties, Cpl. York assumed command. Fearlessly leading 7 men, he charged with great daring a machinegun nest, which was pouring deadly and incessant fire upon his platoon. In this heroic feat the machinegun nest was taken, together with 4 officers and 128 men and several guns.

## WARD, CALVIN JOHN

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company D, 117th Infantry, 30th Division. Place and date: Near Estrees, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Morristown, Tenn. Born: October 1898, Green County, Tenn. G.O. No.: 16, W.D., 1919. Citation: During an advance, Pvt. Ward's company was held up by a machinegun, which was enfilading the line. Accompanied by a noncommissioned officer, he advanced against this post and succeeded in reducing the nest by killing 3 and capturing 7 of the enemy and their guns.

## TURNER, HAROLD L.

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Army, Company F, 142d Infantry, 36th Division. Place and date: Near St. Etienne, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Seminole, Okla. Born: 5 May 1898, Aurora, Mo. G.O. No.: 59, W.D., 1919. Citation: After his platoon had started the attack Cpl. Turner assisted in organizing a platoon consisting of the battalion scouts, runners, and a detachment of Signal Corps. As second in command of this platoon he fearlessly led them forward through heavy enemy fire, continually encouraging the men. Later he encountered deadly machinegun fire, which reduced the strength of his command to but 4 men, and these were obliged to take shelter. The enemy machinegun emplacement, 25 yards distant, kept up a continual fire from 4 machineguns. After the fire had shifted momentarily, Cpl. Turner rushed forward with fixed bayonet and charged the position alone capturing the strong point with a complement of 50 Germans and 1 machine-

gun. His remarkable display of courage and fearlessness was instrumental in destroying the strong point, the fire from which had blocked the advance of his company.

## \*TALBOT, RALPH

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps. Born: 6 January 1897, South Weymouth, Mass. Appointed from: Connecticut. Citation: For exceptionally meritorious service and extraordinary heroism while attached to Squadron C, 1st Marine Aviation Force, in France. 2d Lt. Talbot participated in numerous air raids into enemy territory. On 8 October 1918, while on such a raid, he was attacked by 9 enemy scouts, and in the fight that followed shot down an enemy plane. Also, on 14 October 1918, while on a raid over Pittham, Belgium, 2d Lt. Talbot and another plane became detached from the formation on account of motor trouble and were attacked by 12 enemy scouts. During the severe fight that followed, his plane shot down 1 of the enemy scouts. His observer was shot through the elbow and his gun jammed. 2d Lt. Talbot maneuvered to gain time for his observer to clear the jam with one hand, and then returned to the fight. The observer fought until shot twice, once in the stomach and once in the hip and then collapsed, 2d Lt. Talbot attacked the nearest enemy scout with his front guns and shot him down. With his observer unconscious and his motor failing, he dived to escape the balance of the enemy and crossed the German trenches at an altitude of 50 feet, landing at the nearest hospital to leave his observer, and then returning to his aerodrome.

## SLACK, CLAYTON K.

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company D, 124th Machine Gun Battalion, 33d Division. Place and date: Near Consenvoye, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Madison, Wis. Born: 23 February 1896, Plover, Wis. G.O. No.: 16, W.D., 1919. Citation: Observing German soldiers under cover 50 yards away on the left flank, Pvt. Slack, upon his own initiative, rushed them with his rifle and, single-handed, captured 10 prisoners and 2 heavy-type machineguns, thus saving his company and neighboring organizations from heavy casualties.

## SAMPLER, SAMUEL M.

Rank and organization: Corporal, U.S. Army, Company H, 142d Infantry, 36th Division. Place and date: Near St. Etienne, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Altus, Okla. Birth: Decatur, Tex. G.O. No.: 59, W.D., 1919. Citation: His Company having suffered severe casualties during an advance under machinegun fire was finally stopped. Cpl. Sampler detected the position of the enemy machineguns on an elevation. Armed with German hand grenades, which he had picked up, he left the line and rushed forward in the face of heavy fire until he was near the hostile nest, where he threw grenades into the position. His third grenade landed among the enemy, killing 2, silencing the machineguns, and causing the surrender of 28 Germans, whom he sent to the rear as prisoners. As a result of his act the company was immediately enabled to resume the advance.

**REGAN, PATRICK**

Rank and organization: Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army, 115th Infantry, 29th Division. Place and date: Bois-de-Consenvoye, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Los Angeles, Calif. Birth: Middleboro, Mass. G.O. No.: 50, W.D., 1919. Citation: While leading his platoon against a strong enemy machinegun nest which had held up the advance of 2 companies, 2d Lt. Regan divided his men into 3 groups, sending 1 group to either flank, and he himself attacking with an automatic rifle team from the front. Two of the team were killed outright, while 2d Lt. Regan and the third man were seriously wounded, the latter unable to advance. Although severely wounded, 2d Lt. Regan dashed with empty pistol into the machinegun nest, capturing 30 Austrian gunners and 4 machineguns. This gallant deed permitted the companies to advance, avoiding a terrific enemy fire. Despite his wounds, he continued to lead his platoon forward until ordered to the rear by his commanding officer.

**KARNES, JAMES E.**

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company D, 117th Infantry, 30th Division. Place and date: Near Estrees, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Knoxville, Tenn. Born: 1889, Arlington, Tenn. G.O. No.: 50, W.D., 1919. Citation: During an advance, his company was held up by a machinegun, which was enfilading the line. Accompanied by another soldier, he advanced against this position and succeeded in reducing the nest by killing 3 and capturing 7 of the enemy and their guns.

**\*HALL, THOMAS LEE**

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company G, 118th Infantry, 30th Division. Place and date: Near Montbrehain, France, on the 8th October 1918. Entered service at: Fort Mill, S.C. Birth: Fort Mill, S.C., G.O. No.: 50, W.D., 1919. Citation: Having overcome 2 machinegun nests under his skillful leadership, Sgt. Hall's platoon was stopped 800 yards from its final objective by machinegun fire of particular intensity. Ordering his men to take cover in a sunken road, he advanced alone on the enemy machinegun post and killed 5 members of the crew with his bayonet and thereby made possible the further advance of the line. While attacking another machinegun nest later in the day this gallant soldier was mortally wounded.

**GREGORY, EARL D.**

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Headquarters Company, 116th Infantry, 29th Division. Place and date: At Bois-de-Consenvoye, north of Verdun, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Chase City, Va. Birth: Chase City, Va. G.O. No.: 34, W.D., 1919. Citation: With the remark "I will get them," Sgt. Gregory seized a rifle and a trench-mortar shell, which he used as a hand grenade, left his detachment of the trench-mortar platoon, and advancing ahead of the infantry, captured a machinegun and 3 of the enemy. Advancing still farther from the machinegun nest, he captured a 7.5-centimeter mountain howitzer and, entering a dugout in the immediate vicinity, single-handedly captured 19 of the enemy.

**FOSTER, GARY EVANS**

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company F, 118th Infantry, 30th Division. Place and date: Near Montbrehain,

France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Inman, S.C. Birth: Spartanburg, S.C. G.O. No.: 16, W.D., 1919. Citation: When his company was held up by violent machinegun fire from a sunken road, Sgt. Foster with an officer went forward to attack the hostile machinegun nests. The officer was wounded, but Sgt. Foster continued on alone in the face of the heavy fire and by effective use of hand grenades and his pistol killed several of the enemy and captured 18.

**DOZIER, JAMES C.**

Rank and organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company G, 118th Infantry, 30th Division. Place and date: Near Montbrehain, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Rock Hill, S.C. Born: 17 February 1885, Gallivants Ferry, N.C. G.O. No.: 16, W.D., 1919. Citation: In command of 2 platoons, 1st Lt. Dozier was painfully wounded in the shoulder early in the attack, but he continued to lead his men displaying the highest bravery and skill. When his command was held up by heavy machinegun fire, he disposed his men in the best cover available and with a soldier continued forward to attack a machinegun nest. Creeping up to the position in the face of intense fire, he killed the entire crew with hand grenades and his pistol and a little later captured a number of Germans who had taken refuge in a dugout nearby.

**\*COSTIN, HENRY G.**

Rank and organization: Private, U.S. Army, Company H, 115th Infantry, 29th Division. Place and date: Near Bois-de-Consenvoye, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Baltimore, Md. Birth: Baltimore, Md. G.O. No.: 34, W.D., 1919. Citation: When the advance of his platoon had been held up by machinegun fire and a request was made for an automatic rifle team to charge the nest, Pvt. Costin was the first to volunteer. Advancing with his team, under terrific fire of enemy artillery, machineguns, and trench mortars, he continued after all his comrades had become casualties and he himself had been seriously wounded. He operated his rifle until he collapsed. His act resulted in the capture of about 100 prisoners and several machineguns. He succumbed from the effects of his wounds shortly after the accomplishment of his heroic deed.

**ANDERSON, JOHANNES S.**

Rank and organization: First Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company B, 132d Infantry, 33d Division. Place and date: At Consenvoye, France, 8 October 1918. Entered service at: Chicago, Ill. Birth: Finland. G.O. No.: 16, W.D., 1919. Citation: While his company was being held up by intense artillery and machinegun fire, 1st Sgt. Anderson, without aid, voluntarily left the company and worked his way to the rear of the nest that was offering the most stubborn resistance. His advance was made through an open area and under constant hostile fire, but the mission was successfully accomplished, and he not only silenced the gun and captured it, but also brought back with him 23 prisoners.

As you can see from these citations the AEF was quite busy on 8 October 1918. ■

**Source**

U.S. Army Center of Military History: <http://www.army.mil/cmhp/moh1.htm>. Duplicated/Unedited from: *Committee on Veterans' Affairs, U.S. Senate, Medal of Honor Recipients: 1863-1973*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1973. Updated and reprinted in 1979.



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

Print first letter of your last name in this box

☐ Check this box if you are a unit commander

***GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Spring Combat Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, April 11–13, 2003***

***Pre-Register and save \$15 — see below!***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Part II — Unit Affiliation**

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

**Part III — Dues and Event Fees**

A. 2003 GWA dues **\$25.00**  
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

B. Spring 2003 Event fee if pre-registered **\$25.00**

C. Optional site development donation \$

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

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

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

*All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before April 7, 2003. If your pre-registration is not received by that date, you must pay at the event—including the \$15 gate registration penalty. Your original pre-registration, if received in the mail, will be returned unopened.*

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

Send form and check to: **Randy Gaulke, GWA Treasurer**  
**584 Valley Road**  
**Gillette, NJ 07933**

(908) 626-1345 E-mail: lavarennnes@rcn.com

Be sure to cast your vote. See the GWA plebiscite ballot on the back of this form.

## GWA Plebiscite Ballot

*Please see the President's Letter*

Indicate your preferences in response to the following questions:

**Question 1.** Shall the Spring Event\* be held the last Saturday in April or retained on the 3rd Saturday in April moving for Easter as currently practiced?

☐ Keep current practice

☐ Move to last Saturday

**Question 2.** Shall the Fall Event be held the second Saturday in November or retained on the first Saturday in November?

☐ Keep current practice

☐ Move to second Saturday

*You may mail this ballot form to the Treasurer even if you are not registering for the Spring Event, but fill in your name and unit affiliation on the other side to validate your vote.*

\* Does not effect date for Spring 2003

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

### American Units

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

### British Units

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

### Commonwealth Units

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

### French Units

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

### Russian Units

RL Legion Russe

### Austrian Units

63KUK 63rd KuK

### German Units

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

### Non-Military

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

Great War Association  
584 Valley Road  
Gillette, NJ 07933

