

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Fall 2001



President's Message

Dear GWA Members:

Thank you for allowing me to serve as president of the GWA. It has been an honor and privilege. I also want to express my appreciation for the support and assistance from the other members of the G-8.

Our organization has made significant progress. The purchase of our own site has made us unique among other reenacting organizations. This would not have been possible without the cooperation and genuine interest of **Mark Anderson**. After a lot of negotiation, we were able to reach an agreement that addressed his concerns while protecting the GWA's autonomy. I wish to recognize our treasurer, **Randy Gaulke**, for his help in reaching an agreement with Mark.

I also want to recognize the work done by **Jon Kulaga**, communication committee chairman, and Mark Anderson, membership committee chairman. The two new committees were groups that I thought would benefit the organization.

Jon served as the organization's liaison with the media and film industry. He developed guidelines that have been used to deal with any media seeking access to the site. One of the more significant results of these efforts was a professionally produced recruiting video done at no cost to the organization. Jon also worked with media interested in covering our events.

As membership committee chairman, **Mark Anderson** personally paid to upgrade our Web site. We developed a logo, put together recruiting suggestions, and printed a membership brochure, designed by **Sue Fisher**. Sue also did an outstanding job of editing *On the Wire* and getting it out on time.

No one could have had a better vice president than **John Torkos**. As VP and safety officer, he performed his duties flawlessly.

Mike LoCicero and **Lou Brown**, the Allied and Central Powers Combat Commanders, did an outstanding job in providing great combat scenarios and making each event a terrific experience.

I appreciate **Bill White** stepping forward to fill the German Representative position after **Mark Dubno** had to resign for health reasons. **Phil Schrier** did a good job representing the Allies. I am confident that the reps of the next administration will continue to actively work with and represent unit commanders.

One of the best decisions I made was to ask **John Novicki** to serve as secretary. John has been a good friend and supporter. After relocating to Oklahoma City, I asked John to supervise many on-site projects that brought extra income to the organization. He never refused. In my opinion, the membership made a great decision in nominating him to serve as your next president.

Some of our other achievements have been to continually improve the battlefield, limit the safety meeting to 15 minutes, implementing the 24 hr. scenario, and leaving the organization with a positive balance in the treasury.

I see great prospects for the future of this organization and the hobby. Again, I offer my sincerest thanks for allowing me to lead this organization.

Best regards,
Rob Zienta

Bylaw Change

Petition to Change GWA Bylaws

The following by law amendment was presented at the Spring Event and received in excess of 50 signatures as required by the GWA constitution.

We, the undersigned members, wish to propose a change to the Bylaws of the Great War Association (as revised) by changing the following provision:

"14. All assets in the GWA's possession, whether money or material, are solely at the disposal of the GWA. Should the GWA disband, all assets become the shared property of the GWA at the date of the disbanding. These assets may be sold and all moneys evenly disbursed among the members. However, any liabilities of the GWA shall be resolved before any other disbursements are made."

Contents

Fall Event Schedule	2
GWA Elections	2
Defoliation Update	4
Discussion of the GWA's Financial Position . . .	5
Projected 2001 Budget Details	6
The Russian Expeditionary Forces in France and The Russian Legion	7
Registration Form for the Fall Combat Event . .	9



so as to read as follows (italics show words added):

“14. All assets in the GWA’s possession, whether money or material or real property are solely at the disposal of the GWA *except as is noted hereafter*. Should the GWA disband, all assets become the shared property of the GWA at the date of the disbanding. These assets may be sold and all moneys evenly *distributed among the members then in good standing in the organization*. However, any liabilities of the GWA shall be resolved before any other disbursements are made. *With respect to the real property on which the GWA owns in Newville, Pa, said property may neither be sold nor encumbered by any lien without first obtaining the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members of the GWA then in good standing with the organization.*

A note of explanation as to why this bylaw change is needed: This provision was written prior to the GWA buying the Newville site, and as such, did not contemplate the organization’s ownership of a valuable piece of real property. As currently written, the Bylaws are not clear how the organization would, if circumstances required, sell or borrow against this property. One read is that the current Bylaws authorize the GWA/G-8 to sell the site without input of the membership. Furthermore, the G-8 could arrange a mortgage, or some other lien, against the property which could lead to the property’s loss to a third party. Even though these events are an unlikely to happen, the petitioners feel that the membership should provide the G-8

the clear authority to sell, or place a lien on, the site, and the best way to formalize that understanding is to amend the Bylaws of the organization. The effect of this amendment is raise any potential sale or mortgaging of the site to a level at least consistent with a Bylaw amendment, and the sale of the site or the creation of a mortgage are certainly at least that important!

GWA Elections

Uncontested Candidates

For President: **John Novicki**

For Vice President: **Bill Baldwin**

For Secretary: **Randy Gaulke**

For Treasurer: **Mark Anderson**

For Allied Combat Commander: **Mike LoCicero**

For Central Powers Representative: **Bill White**

(Sue Fisher has withdrawn her bid for Central Powers Representative for personal reasons.)

Contested Positions

Ballots will be cast in person at the Fall 2001 Event as part of the event registration process. Absentee ballots may be obtained by a written request by regular mail (or by e-mail) to: John Novicki, GWA Secretary, 132 Maiden Choice Lane, Catonsville, MD 21228 (verger@replications.com) Requests must be made by October 8. Absentee ballots must be returned by regular mail.

Allied Candidates

David R. Hughes, candidate for Allied Representative

I have been a reenactor for 14 years, starting out in Civil War. I rose to the rank of 2nd lieutenant in the one Civil War unit I belonged to for over 12 years, enjoying my time the most as 1st sergeant. In 1997 I started Number 3 Company, 1st Battalion Irish Guards in the GWA, yet started out in the unit as a private. With the growth of the unit since that time, I have now risen to the rank of Lance Sergeant, running the unit on and off the field. Since our first event with six men, our ranks have swelled to 18.

I find WWI reenacting to be the most enjoyable reenacting period and wish to do my part for not only for the governing body we belong to, but more importantly for the men who make up the membership. I don’t believe in playing politics and back stabbing. We all have a stake in this hobby and we need to seriously get down to the business of serving the membership and continuing to improve communication and our level of enjoyment.

I intend to work within the G8 and with the membership and to strive for a better G8. I don’t intend to be a shoulder

Fall Event Schedule

November 2–4, 2001

Friday, November 2

1PM–9PM Tent open for registration and voting in GWA elections

7PM Assemble for safety meeting at center of road in No Man’s Land

8PM–12MID Night combat in first line trenches of designated sectors

Saturday, November 3

7AM–9AM Tent open for registration and voting in GWA elections

9AM–10AM Safety meeting at memorial site

10AM–12MID Continuous scenario, full battlefield

Next Event: Spring Combat Event at Newville, PA

April 19-21, 2002



to cry on, or a sounding board for complaints about specific people. If you have a problem with something or someone, give me a number of solutions you would and will accept. Give me something to work with and I will work with you.

This is a great hobby with some of the finest reenactors I have had the pleasure to know. Let's work together to make the GWA and the Newville site the finest reenacting organization. Your solutions, through me, will achieve that goal.

Sincerely,
4376 LSjt. David R. Hughes
No. 3 Coy. 1st. Bn. Irish Guards

Nat Sooy, candidate for Allied Representative

Gentlemen,

I will make this short and sweet. First off, I would like to thank those who nominated me for this post. For those who do not know me, I am one of the Commanders of the 7th Royal Irish Rifles (formerly the 4th Middlesex) a post I have held for more than 7 years. I first joined the hobby back in 1989, and since then have only missed two events. I even planned my wedding and child's birth around them (sad and sick, I know!)

I am a believer of the Old Ways where EVERYONE DIES. I also believe that the GWA is the finest reenactment group in existence. I ask all my fellow Allied members for a vote of confidence and to allow me to work for you and the continued growth of our hobby.

Respectfully,
Nat Sooy

Central Powers Candidates

Rob Zienta, candidate for CP Combat Commander

Dear Soldaten:

I am running for Central Powers Combat Commander. Following are some of the reasons why I feel I am qualified for that position, and what I intend to do if elected.

In the spring of 1989 I joined the GWA as a German reenactor, starting as a Muskettier in the trenches at Shimpstown. Later, I became a NCO, and stayed active in the GWA in the period when we had no permanent site. When I became commander of JR23, I learned firsthand the responsibilities and concerns that unit leaders face. I served on the Central Powers command staff under Mike Gonzales, Tim Goodwin and, most recently, as Lou Brown's Oberleutnant.

I was the Central Powers Combat Commander from 1998 to 1999. While in that position I worked directly with Allied Combat Commander Mike LoCicero to plan combat scenarios and to bring some innovations into play, such as the Saturday pre-dawn battles. Other actions I took to improve events included obtaining additional pyrotechnics, eliminating the mid-day unofficial stand downs, authorizing a "cemetery" to be placed in no man's land (like in *All Quiet*), and pursuing the formation of a dedicated staff. To address authenticity concerns, I formed a committee that drafted authenticity guidelines for the Central Powers.

I was elected GWA President in the fall of 1999. As president, one of my specific actions to help the Central Powers

was expediting JR92's bunker proposal that had been held up for over a year. (I believe that bunkers help build Kameradschaft in units, help to keep our men in the field and help units attract recruits—they are very important to Central Powers field strength.) Recognizing that our battlefield is special and important to our hobby, Mike LoCicero and I improved no-man's land by adding shell holes, and I initiated the berm put across "Death Valley" to link the German lines.

Based on the experiences and accomplishments above, I believe I am very qualified for another turn at a G-8 post. If elected, I will be able to "hit the ground running," since I will not need time to learn my job.

Each G-8 administration must work well together right off the bat in order to get anything done within the two-year election cycles. I have already worked with most of the candidates for the next G-8 and have already established a working relationship with them. If elected to the G-8, I will promote consensus, not controversy. I will advance practical solutions to problems, not just complain about them.

If elected, my priorities will be to make combat **exciting** but **safe**, to heighten **authenticity** and **realism**, and to make sure we all have **fun**! I have several goals to help accomplish this—

My general goals are:

1. to make safety a top priority;
2. to continue to support authenticity standards for the Central Powers;
3. to help increase membership and attendance by improving the site and the quality of combat action;
4. to work with the G-8, CP Rep, CP Trenchmaster, and unit commanders to strengthen the Central Powers trench system, with an eye to overall defense.

My specific goals are to:

1. Establish a Central Powers headquarters/command post.
2. Recruit an enlisted staff to run a system of field phones and messengers between the HQ and unit commanders.
3. Appoint subordinate leaders to the CP staff who are chosen for their military skills, leadership ability, and maturity.
4. Set an example for others, and to present the Central Powers with the best impression I can of a WWI German officer—not only in terms of my uniform—but also in terms of attitude and demeanor. I will use my ability to speak German and knowledge of German commands and drill to heighten that impression.
5. Work again with the Allied Commander before events to create new variations to our combat scenarios which will be interesting and fun for all, win or lose. But once on the field, I will use every resource and tactic available to **win** those scenarios for the Central Powers.

As Central Powers Combat Commander, I will serve with honesty, integrity and honor.

In Kameradschaft,
Rob Zienta



Marsh Wise, candidate for CP Combat Commander

I am simply going to ask for your vote and perhaps I can give you a few good reasons to vote for me.

First, I will give you a few facts about me:

I have been a member of the Great War Association since 1990—all of that time spent in one unit: **J.R. 63**. Over the years, I have served in J.R. 63 starting out as a *Musketier*, then promoted to *Gefreiter* and later to *Unteroffizier*.

I was there at Shimpstown and also during the “dark days” when the GWA had no place to call home, so I know what a good thing we have now at Newville. I hope to help re-introduce some of the good things that we had at Shimpstown here to Newville.

I have served the last four administrations starting as editor of *On the Wire*. I was the second editor, rebuilding it after it had been dead for a couple of years. I started OtW back up as a magazine format and continued on as editor until the magazine format was dropped due to costs. In 1998, I was asked to start and build the GWA website and I have been I have been the **GWA's Webmaster** ever since.

I am the owner and head webmaster of **reenactor.Net**—the largest reenactor site on the Internet. As part of this, I also run two e-mail lists for WWI reenactors, **Great War Reenactor** and **WW1-g** (this last is for German and Austrian reenactors). Oh yes, I am also J.R. 63's webmaster.

Okay, now you're asking: “What are you going to do for the Central Powers if elected?” Fair enough... my priorities are:

- **Building the CP Staff** into a real tool that can actually help us.
- **Rebuilding the Central Powers forces.** In the last few years, we have seen our side's numbers drop **WAY** off. *In fact, our side is hemorrhaging people!* Much of this, I feel, is due to member's dislike of all the heavy politics that has come to characterize the Great War Association over the last few events.

- I wish to see the GWA become more responsive to the **membership**
- **Communications between the G-8 and the membership MUST be improved!!!**
- **Work closely with Captain Lowe to build an event schedule that will heighten all of our enjoyment of the events.** And yes, **I DO believe we should go back to starting later**, say **Noon** or **1PM** on Saturday. This will allow units to train, do trench work, etc. and... allow for a better flea market, as more vendors will come if it is 2 days vs. 1.
- **People like to know.** I believe we could also have a more **permanent schedule** as to what *KIND* of events we will be having.
- I feel that the CP CC **MUST** work in close cooperation with the CP Rep and that both of them must remember that their job is to look out for the interests of all members of the CP Forces—whether they agree with them or not. Too often in the past, politics has seemed to have gotten in the way of this... **NO MORE! The CP CC and CP Rep ARE the defenders of the CP membership!**

Those who know me, can tell you that I ALWAYS respond to e-mails and phone calls—now saying that, often real-life intrudes on the reenacting life, but... I make it a point to be “**in contact**.” In the past, GWA members have sometimes found it hard to contact administration members or to get a quick answer to their question or problem. To me, this is just not right—problems need to be addressed quickly. If you are building a bunker or doing trench work, you don't want to wait weeks or months for approval. There is no reason that this should not be able to be handled expeditiously.

Thank you for your time and if you have ANY questions about my position on GWA related stuff or if you have some positive ideas for me, feel **FREE** to contact me.

Sincerely,

Marsh Wise

Phone: 530.367.5270 e-mail: mwise@reenactor.net

Searching for the Great War

The Great War Society
Western Front Association—US Branch
Cross and Cockade, Midwest Chapter
join to announce a major World War I event.

October 13, 2001

9AM–5PM

**The First Division Museum at Cantigny
Wheaton, Illinois**

Admission: \$10

For more information visit:

<http://www.worldwar1.com/tgws/cantweb.htm>

Great War reenactors are invited to attend,
participate in ceremonies and give demonstrations

For details contact: Mike Hanlon, Event Chairman
greatwar@verio.com

Defoliation Update

John Novicki and I spent a good portion of Saturday, 25 August interviewing a number of herbicide sprayers. As this newsletter goes to press, we continue to examine alternatives. It is anticipated that the barbed wire and trench areas will be sprayed, and that Steve Wiser or another local person will be hired to mow the parking lots, road sides, and open areas of No Man's Land. Timing will likely be between mid September and mid October. Further updates will be provided to unit commanders via e-mail.

—R. Gaulke

In the next issue of *On the Wire*:

How to modify a readily available modern work boot to a U.S. M-1918 field shoe.



Discussion of the GWA's Financial Position

A) The GWA is projected to run a \$4,500 deficit this year, as shown in the summary below and the details and notes that follow.

Summary of Projected Revenues and Expenses (See Details Below.)

Budgeted Revenues	\$27,500	100.0%
Budgeted Expenses		
Administrative	-\$3,719	-13.5%
Communication	-\$1,230	-4.5%
Site Purchase	-\$11,512	-41.9%
Event & Site	-\$8,063	-29.3%
Site Development	-\$2,500	-9.1%
Legacy	-\$5,034	-18.3%
Projected Deficit	-\$4,558	-16.6%

B) One reason for this is that the land purchase expenses were higher than anticipated. Included in the 2001 budget under the heading legacy expenses are the \$2,136 closing costs paid and the \$2,897 of legal fees paid in 2001. A complete list of land purchase expenses is provided below:

Summary of Land Purchase Expenses Paid

7/25/00	Survey by Carl Bert & Assoc.	\$325
8/31/00	Legal Fees paid to Stevens & Lee	\$5,503
9/14/01	Phase I Environmental Study by Hydrosiences	\$1,800
11/3/00	Escrow Pmt.—Became \$1,000 paid at closing	\$1,000
12/15/01	Legal Fees paid to Stevens & Lee	\$4,202
1/17/01	Net Legal Closing Fees Paid	\$2,136
6/4/01	Legal Fees paid to Stevens & Lee	\$2,897
	Total Expenses	\$17,864

C) Also note that we have budgeted \$2,000 for defoliation and \$500 for tree trimming and road widening.

D) On the positive side, we began the year with a strong cash balance.

Cash Balance

As of 12/31/00	\$11,573
Less 2000 Expenses Paid in 2001	-\$1,779
Adjusted Cash Balance—12/31/00	\$9,794

E) Also, many of our costs—especially event and site costs—can be reduced if needed.

F) Finally, by watching expenses we have historically been able to rebuild the budget, as shown below:

Historical Cash Balance

as of 12/31/97	\$5,646
as of 12/31/98	\$17,822
as of 12/31/99—Height of balance before land sale	\$23,263
as of 12/31/00—Decline reflects land purchase costs	\$11,573

Conclusion: The land purchase did weaken our near-term financial position, but I see little cause for alarm, given the fact that some expenses can be reduced and given the recent history of strengthening the cash position.

If we do have a \$4,500 deficit, the GWA will still end the year with a cash balance of about \$5,200.

Randall S. Gaulke
Treasurer
8/28/01



Projected 2001 Budget Details

Budgeted Revenues

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

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

Budgeted Administrative Expenses

Misc./Legal Expenses	\$0	0.0%
Postage/Printing/Other	\$500	1.8%
Liability Insurance	\$1,444	5.3%
Medical Coverage Insurance	\$500	1.8%
Officers & Directors Insurance	\$1,275	4.6%
Total Administrative Expenses	\$3,719	13.5%

Budgeted Communication Expenses

	Per Event		
Website and Software Costs		\$150	0.5%
Registration Form Printing & Mailing (650 copies)	\$300	\$600	2.2% ⁽²⁾
Newsletter Printing—two 12-page newsletters ⁽¹⁾			
6 sheets paper @ \$0.05 x 200 copies	\$60	\$120	0.4%
Printing/Folding/Stapling @ \$0.10 x 200 copies	\$20	\$40	0.1%
Postage @ \$0.80 x 200 copies	\$160	\$320	1.2%
	\$540	\$1,230	4.5%

Site Purchase⁽³⁾

Monthly Mortgage (11 months x \$792)	\$8,712	31.7%
Additional Payments (\$1,000 at close and at 6 mos.)	\$2,000	7.3%
Estimated Taxes	\$800	2.9%
Total Site Purchase Expenses	\$11,512	41.9%

Budgeted Event & Site Expenses

	Per Event		
Ambulance (\$200 + \$10 x 30 staff hours)	\$500	\$1,000	3.6%
Other First Aid Supplies	\$50	\$100	0.4%
Road Maintenance	\$250	\$500	1.8%
Period Transportation	\$300	\$600	2.2%
Tent/Table/Chair Rental	\$325	\$650	2.4%
Toilets—1 on site permanently @ \$63.60/month		\$763	2.8%
Toilets—5 extra during event @ \$58.30/each	\$292	\$583	2.1%
Dumpster on site (\$15/month + 4 p/u @ \$128)		\$692	2.5%
Site clean-up	\$100	\$200	0.7%
Printing of Passes/Membership Cards/Etc.	\$100	\$200	0.7%
Trench Supplies			
Flares (200 @ \$2 per event)	\$400	\$800	2.9%
Sandbags (1,500 @ \$0.475 each)	\$713	\$1,425	5.2%
Smoke	\$100	\$200	0.7%
Wire (5 rolls @ \$35 each)	\$175	\$350	1.3%
Screw Pickets	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Total Event & Site Expenses	\$3,304	\$8,063	29.3%

Budgeted Site Development Expenses

New Craters, etc.	\$0	0.0%
Defoliation and Mowing	\$2,000	7.3%
Tree Trimming, Road Widening	\$500	1.8%
Total Site Development	\$2,500	9.1%

Legacy Commitments and Unusual Items

GWA/GWF Canteen—was \$1,000—Project Cancelled	\$0	0.0%
PR Committee Funds—was \$500—Suggest we not fund	\$0	0.0%
Membership Committee Funds—was \$500—Suggest we not fund	\$0	0.0%
Land Purchase Closing Costs (Pd. In January)	\$2,136	7.8%
Land Purchase Legal Fees (Pd. In June)	\$2,897	10.5%
Total Legacy & Unusual Items	\$5,034	18.3%

Notes:

(1) By publishing the newsletter electronically (except to those who do not have access to the Internet), we can help control costs.

(2) The goal of the one-page registration form is to get the form out in a more timely manner than previously achieved.

(3) The GWA purchased the land on January 17, 2001, paying a purchase price of \$100,000. \$95,000 will be paid through monthly mortgage payments of \$792 over 10 years / 120 months. In addition, \$5,000 will be paid in \$1,000 amounts at closing and on the 6th, 12th, 18th and 24th month anniversary of closing. The first mortgage payment was made on February 1, 2001. The mortgage does not bear interest.



The Russian Expeditionary Forces in France (1916-1917) and The Russian Legion (1917-1919)

by Eugene Poplavsky

In the small town of Mourmelon-le-Grand, there is a small, well-groomed cemetery with rows upon rows of white crosses, not unlike those at other military cemeteries in Europe, where French, American, British and Commonwealth, German and Austrian soldiers are buried. Among the rows of crosses, there are two mass graves as well, with large head stones. The cemetery is the final resting place for over 800 men. There is a small chapel, white and pretty in the grove of pine trees.

The cemetery is that of the men of the Russian Expeditionary Forces, a small and often forgotten group of men who fought and died on the Western Front. Many more have been buried elsewhere in Soisson, Courcy, Laval, Neuville and elsewhere in Champagne, as well as Macedonia and Morocco.

The REF (Russian Expeditionary Force) started out as two brigades in 1916. Each brigade was made up of two infantry regiments. Various accounts place the total strength of these brigades to between 16 and 20 thousand men. The 1st Brigade departed from Moscow on January 25, 1916. They traveled along the Trans-Siberian Railroad to the port Dal'ny (Darien), from where they embarked on a sea voyage that took them through the Sea of Japan, the Indian Ocean, Suez Canal and the Mediterranean. After a trip of some 19,000 miles they arrived in Marseilles on the morning of April 20th.



Russian soldiers disembarking from ships in Marseilles, April 1916.

Photos (4) from original French postcards/Courtesy Russian Legion collection



General Lokhvitsky at the head of Russian troops in Marseilles, 1916.



Russian troops halt: the crowd covers them with flowers. Marseilles, 1916.



Newly arrived Russian soldiers at Camp Mailly, April 1916

The arrival of Russian soldiers in Marseilles was received with much enthusiasm. They triumphantly marched through the streets, greeted with music and flowers. For the French the arrival of fresh Russian troops seemed a miracle. The newspapers promised hundreds of thousands more Russians in the forthcoming months. This, in fact, never happened. After the 1st Brigade came only one more, the 3^d, which arrived in Brest in June of 1916.

The REF was set up to train in Mailly, a military camp near Chalons sur Marne in Champagne. After initial training in trench warfare the Russians were sent to the front. In June 1916, the 1st and 3rd Brigades of the REF were made part of the French IV Army just east of Reims. (It is interesting to note that at one time, a regiment of the REF was in the trenches next to the French 151st Line Regiment. At a later time, in 1918, the Russians also encountered the 5th Marines). Early reports state that the Russians fought valiantly despite very heavy losses. On a single day, September 5th, the 1st Brigade lost more than a third of its men while engaging the enemy in hand to hand combat.

By April 1917, the REF was depleted by a third. They had, however, earned the respect of the French command, which, during the Nivelle offensive, made the REF a part of the French V Army, at the head of its attack on the positions surrounding Fort Brimont. General Oliver Mazel, commander of the V Army, wrote in his order No. 166 (April 25, 1917):



"1st Special Forces Russian Brigade. General Lokhvitsky's Special Brigade, in a spectacular effort, has achieved all of its objectives. Despite heavy losses, particularly among its officers, the Brigade has held ground and repelled all enemy counter attacks."ⁱ Both regiments of the Brigade were awarded Military Crosses with Palms for their respective regimental banners.

After the failure of the Nivelle offensive, the REF was retired to the rear for rest. Demoralized by heavy losses, homesick and continuously sabotaged by socialist agitators, the 1st Brigade rebelled in Camp La Courtine. This happened at the height of the mutinies among French army regiments. Unwilling to court martial and execute many of its "allies" the French military authorities chose to disband the REF. A majority of its soldiers were placed in labor companies, tending roads and other infrastructure behind the lines. Those who refused to serve in the labor companies were exiled to Morocco to work on plantations. Yet others, who were not involved in the rebellion, were allowed to form The Russian Legion (La Legion Russe) which was to fight in the war until its end.

The Russian Legion was a tiny unit compared to the REF. At its beginning in December of 1917, it numbered some 1600 men. Divided into four battalions, the Legion became part of General Charles Mangin's X Army, and subsequently part of the notorious Moroccan Division under General Albert Dagan. It operated successfully in Champagne, distinguishing itself in the defense of Soisson, where it earned the title "the Russian Legion of Honor" and lost half of its men.

One of the Russians' last successful actions in the war was the storming of the Hindenburg line. "... On September 14 the battalion of the Russian Legion returned to battle in an assault



Russian troops passing French review.

on the Hindenburg Line to the northeast of the plateau of Laffaux... At the designated hour the first company advanced, followed at 175 yards by the second. With what the French reporter called "*un élan impetueux*," the 1st company fell on the trenches before them, taking the advance and two intermediary trenches with bayonet and grenade assaults. In their place of attack was a mine field and a German concrete blockhouse, which resisted desperately with all its machine guns, and the Russians were given most of the credit for reducing this obstacle that had stopped Allied progress for several days. From this point the battalion advanced to take the Chateau de la Motte, its last objective. The ardor of the attack caught the Germans by surprise, and the Russians captured numerous prisoners and supplies...."ⁱⁱ

The 1st battalion of La Legion Russe became part of the occupation force and marched into Worms in November 1918. The Legion numbered some 400 men at this time.

For lovers of history trivia, it is worthy to note that the REF had its notorious personalities. Rodion Malinovsky, who

became the Minister of Defense of the Soviet Union, was an exemplary non-commissioned officer in the Russian Legion's machine gun company, and a cavalier of the Order of St. George. Captain Vadim Masloff, while on convalescence leave in Paris after being wounded in action, was pitied by the famous Mata Hari. He became her very last lover. A famous Russian poet, Nikolai Gumilev, served in General Lokhvitsky's staff for six months, probably as an intelligence officer. His subsequent execution by the Soviets in 1920 may have been caused not by his poetry, but by his military career.

The author and all of us in the reenactment Russian Legion sincerely hope that we can honor these forgotten men.

For pictures, more articles on the REF, please see: <http://members.aol.com/begemot/legion>

References

1. M.K. Chiniakov, *Russian Troops in France 1916-1918*. Moscow, "Reitar", 1997. p.36
2. Jamie Cockfield, *With Snow On Their Boots*. St. Martin's Press, New York, 1998, p.275



TOP: Gas attack in Champagne. Russians wearing Adrian helmets, French M-2 gas masks, armed with Lebels.

RIGHT: Russian soldier looking through the papers of a dead German, April 1917.



The Russian Military Cemetery and Church at Mourmellon-le-Grand.

☐ 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 Fall Combat Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, Nov. 2–4, 2001

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. 2001 dues if you have not already paid this year **\$25.00**
(Annual dues are due at the spring event each year)

B. Fall 2001 Event fee if pre-registered **\$25.00**

C. Rebate, if applicable (see below) **(\$25.00)**

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 Oct. 31, 2001. 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.

Rebate: Members who pre-registered for—but did not attend an event in 1998 and 1999—are entitled to receive a credit of the event fee only. If you believe you are entitled to a rebate, contact Randy Gaulke to verify this before sending in your registration form.

Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register to save the gate penalty. Beginning in 2000, if you pre-register but are unable to attend the event, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks after the event.

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

Phone: (908) 626-1345

E-mail: lavarenes@msn.com

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

American Units

1AEF 1st Div., 28th Inf. Co. E., 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
372AEF 93rd Div., 372nd Inf, AEF
49CO 5th Marines, 49th Co., AEF
67CO 5th Marines, 67th Co., AEF
26AEF 26th Div. (Yankee Div.), AEF (*probationary*)

British Units

7RIR 7th Royal Irish Rifles, BEF
6BWBEF 6th Btn., Black Watch, BEF
17BEF 17th Lancers, BEF
BUFF 6th Buffs Rgt., BEF
IRISHGD Irish Guards No. 3 Co., 1st Btn.
MGCBEF Machine Gun Corps, BEF
ROYENG Royal Engineers (*probationary*)

Commonwealth Units

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

French Units

151RL 151er Regiment d'Infanterie

Russian Units

RL Legion Russe

Austrian Units

63KUK 63rd KuK

German Units

1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment
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)
5SP 5. Sturm-Pionier Battalion (Rohr)
23/12 12. Minenwerfer Komp. 12 Inf. Div., J.R. 23
20MG 20. MG Scharfschützen Komp.
8KUR 3. Feldesk., Kürassier Regt. Nr 8 (*probationary*)
13LJB Landwehr Infanterie-Battalion 13
25LJR Landwehr Infanterie-Regiment 25 (1. Rhenisches)

Non-Military

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

Great War Association
584 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933

