

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Summer 2002



GWA Summer Living History/Combat Event to be held at Newville, PA on June 14-16, 2002

The Summer Event is on! Yes, we know, the event date technically is still in spring. But this is the mid-year event that has long been discussed and planned by both the GWA leadership and the membership, and it is going to happen on the weekend of June 14-16.

This event is going to be rather different than our traditional spring and fall combat events in both the schedule and types of activities. Rather than revolving around a 13-hour combat scenario on Saturday, the Summer Event will combine night combat tacticals with day-time public-oriented living history, and well as time and opportunity to do unit level activities and special impressions.

Recognizing the greater chance of warmer temperatures in June, the primary tacticals are scheduled for the evenings and mornings. If there is sufficient interest, the Friday evening tactical will not end until 6AM on Saturday.

Activities during the day will begin around noon (having given the troops sufficient time to sleep/eat and go shopping) and be of a living history nature — giving ample opportunity

for people to pursue their first person interpretations. Earlier war impressions may be divided up on one side of the valley and late war impressions on the other.

The open house period begins at noon and lasts until 4 PM. Numerous members have volunteered to set up displays. Here is the chance for people to share all their cool artifacts and trot out those interesting impressions they have hanging in the closet. Bring those potential recruits out to show them what is going on . . . Invite the family to see the madness you pursue . . .

After our guests have departed, tactical combat will resume around 6 pm.

This schedule allows for a multitude of experiences, while recognizing the possibility for high temperatures. (However, the way the regional weather has been cooler than normal, we may actually see temperatures cooler than the unusually hot Spring Event in April.)

Other considerations:

Defoliation: The site is to be sprayed for weeds (read Poison Ivy) before the event. Mowing will commence, in selected areas, shortly thereafter.

Flea Market: All vendors are invited to attend. Any GWA member may display and sell militaria in the inner parking lot, as always. This event allows for more extensive flea-market time than usual, due to the later start of the safety meetings/activities on both Friday and Saturday.

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Summer Event Schedule

June 14–16, 2002

Friday

- 3:00–9:00 PM** Registration
- 7:00 PM** Safety Meeting at the Memorial
- 7:40 PM** Tactical Begins
- 6:00 AM** Tactical Ends?

Saturday

- 9:00–11:00 AM** Registration
- 11:00 AM** Safety Meeting at the Memorial
- 11:45 AM** Man display areas
- 12:00 NOON** Public Tours begin
- 4:00 PM** Public Tours end
- 6:00 PM** Tactical Begins
- 10:00 PM** Tactical Ends

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You are invited to attend the

World War I Battlefield Site Open House

Watch a WWI Battle Reenactment

Tour Portions of the Trenches and Bunkers

View Equipment and Unit Displays

Talk to Reenactors about their Hobby

Date: Saturday, June 15

Time: 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site,
Middle Road, Newville, Pennsylvania

(About 20 minutes West of Carlisle and 40 minutes East of Chambersburg.
Convenient to the Turnpike and I-81. See maps below.)

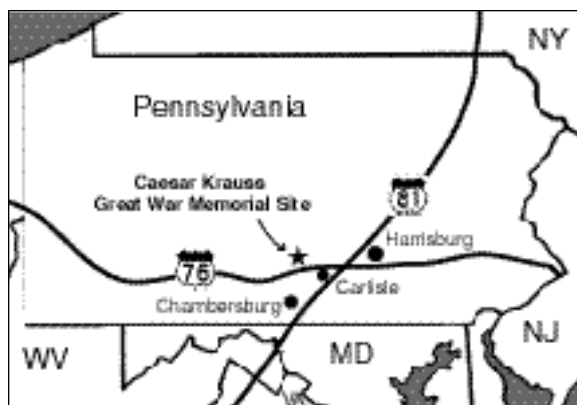
Suggested Donation: \$5 per person, \$10 per family

For additional details, contact:

Randy Gaulke, Treasurer, 908-626-1345 (evenings) or lavarennnes@rcn.com

John Novicki, President, 410-788-1708 (evenings) or verger@replications.com

This event is sponsored by The Great War Association, Inc., a national association whose mission is to foster and perpetuate the memory of all those who served in World War One from all nations, educating both members and the general population through the sponsoring of living history re-creations and encouraging research into the daily lives and material culture of the armies of 1914-1918. You can find additional information about the Great War Association, Inc. and its member units on the organization's website: www.great-war-assoc.org.





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A kinder, gentler registration: The registration fee for this event has been reduced to \$20. (It would have been reduced more, but this is the minimum amount needed to make sure the event pays for its expenses). Also, there will be no gate registration penalty for this event. Everyone is still encouraged to preregister to help planning and to speed up the registration process.

Trench and bunker work: Units may use this event to work on their site improvements. Power tools, chain-saws and generators may be used in the trench area until 6:00 pm on Friday, after which time they must be removed from the area or well hidden from view. Work using period tools may continue until the safety meeting, and may resume on Saturday morning and continue all day, if desired. If you do trench work during the open house time, make it a part of the living history program—be prepared to take short breaks to explain what you are doing to spectators.

Aircraft: Although it is doubtful any will come this year owing to the “short” notice, we can anticipate aviators if the event is repeated next year.

An opportunity: Many accounts of the war indicate that the vast majority of the time in the trenches wasn’t spent in combat. Rather, it was fatigue duties like moving ammo and building supplies, etc. into the trenches, stringing barbed wire in no-man’s-land after dark, sentry duty, and so on. During a regular event we generally don’t have a whole lot of time to do these sorts of living history oriented activities. At this event, units can incorporate some of these other activities into the schedule. Unit leaders and organizers should take advantage of this opportunity.

See you at the Summer Event!

President’s Letter

Congratulations to all for a great Spring Event! With very few exceptions, I heard nothing but praise from those who were there—despite the heat. Hopefully, future events will improve on strides made so far.

One of the things which stuck me as a “great stride” was the heightened cooperation I observed—especially notable (for its improvement) on the Central Powers side. Perhaps it was the mix of persons present, perhaps it was the planning on the part of the CPstaff, perhaps it was the training session for unit leaders but more than anything else, it was the willingness of people to come together, work toward a common goal, appreciate the abilities and contributions of others and enjoy the hobby we all share.

Cooperation is the theme of this issue’s letter. Cooperation in managing our property, accurately pursuing the memory of those who served in the Great War, furthering education, recruiting and retention.

Management of site:

Well, we have our own place to play for over a year now . . . Now what?

With an eye to productive development of our site, the Administrative Committee (the former “G-8”) developed a list of items we would like to see improved on our property. Some have already come to pass (extending the Allied lines, digging out some of the Allied communication trenches, revamping the CPleft/center and scheduling weed abatement spraying and mowing. These improvements were all carefully considered with the idea of permanently enhancing the experience of all our members.

Future developments will come with time – thoughtfully designed with authenticity and safety in mind. Some will doubtlessly need to be reappraised, others set aside as additional information becomes available, but whatever the course, development will only be successful with the active cooperation of everyone involved.

We are recreating World War One. That involves developing areas of trenches, saps, shell holes, bunkers, lagers, areas of tangled wire, road net works, etc., etc. In creating these things, we seek to have a setting for accurate living history, tactical scenarios that use period practices and terrain, and is relatively safe. The past few months has seen a few incidents where cooperation was regrettably not a shining feature.

The site regulations we have were designed to promote a safe, authentic place to “play.” For whatever reasons, a few people have ignored these regulations and pursued projects that have been unsafe, unauthentic and wasteful of manpower/material. Trench walls with uprights spaced so far apart that the wall buckles within a season, above ground shacks that are plainly visible within the active combat areas (within the loop road), and use of modern (exposed) cinder block are just a few examples. In citing them, I hope I do not unduly offend the members who made these errors – I mean no offense. These (and many other) mistakes could have been avoided if people followed the procedures already outlined in our site regulations. Unit commanders will be receiving copies just in case they do not have one.

Please see the article in this issue regarding site change requests.

I think most of the people present at the spring event appreciated the improvements made on our site. These improvements took considerable time and money to bring about. Thank you to the individuals who donated their time and as to money, well, we had a sufficient bank surplus to start many of the improvements that were found desirable. Future developments will continue to require time and money. The plan that Randy Gaulke recommended (for accelerating site development) has been very successful. About 60 spring event registrants donated additional monies for site development (outstanding!). The revenue generated from leasing the site (for a weekend) more than doubled that amount. Look for more significant improvements over the next few months!!!



Memorial and Education

The Spring Event saw the return of the entire GWA pausing to remember the sacrifice of those who served in the Great War. For five minutes after the safety meeting, a memorial was sounded by the music of the B.E.F. while the assembled troops stood at attention and paid appropriate respect. For the time we spend preparing and executing our living history and tactical activities, it was nice to see us pause and remember the people who were involved in the Great War for real. Are any other groups interested in performing a memorial at a future event? Please contact the President if interested.

The constitution of the GWA clearly spells out our organization's goals. One of them is to educate members and non-members about the Great War. This June will mark the first time we have held an open house for our neighbors. The families around Newville and Shippensburg, as well as some personnel of the Carlisle War College and members of the Western Front Association, will be attending our open house from 12-4 on the Saturday (15 June) of our Summer Living History and Tactical Event. For those of you who like the living history activities of Newport News, MTA, MTT, Universal Soldier, etc., this is another opportunity for you to shine. The tacticals are scheduled for the cooler morning and evening hours. Let's see all those cool impressions you have hiding in your closets at home. Ah, the sight of spikes bobbing along the trenchline . . . red trousers . . . shapeless khaki caps . . . and . . . you better watch the sky during the daylight hours . . .

This event is likely to be attended by potential recruits and GWA member's families. We need to make sure that all our guest's come away with a positive impression of our organization and it's efforts – it would be really nice if we could recruit a few locals.

Recruiting

In my last letter, I called for the organization to recruit. I must say that I am thrilled by the fantastic response made by the general membership. I received over twenty e-mail and three regular mail submissions for plans on recruiting. People have recruited at living history time line events, Civil War reenactments, local "hobby shows," and even at an outside event held at our site. Since the middle of March, we think over thirty people have begun (some completed) the process of obtaining kits and becoming members! That is a five to ten percent increase in our numbers in just two months of concerted effort. Outstanding! Keep it up!

In closing, the cooperative spirit has never been stronger within the GWA. The benefits procured by this cooperation are readily visible in the progress of site development, improved numbers of members, financial strength, furthering our memorial and educational goals and perhaps most important, the sense of enjoyment we receive as active participants in our hobby.

Yours,
John Novicki

Site Improvement Requests

After some misunderstandings this past Spring, it is apparent that we should review the procedures the GWA has had in effect for a number of years and also make a few (hopefully) positive changes.

At this point, the Site Improvement Request procedure is as follows:

1. A GWA unit decides to make certain improvements to the GWA's Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site. These improvements might be (but not limited to) the building of bunkers, lagers, permanent shelters of any kind, revetting of trenches, adding shell holes, etc., etc.
2. A GWA unit prepares a plan and submits it to their respective Trenchmaster.
3. The Trenchmaster examines the plan for GWA policy adherence.
4. If acceptable, the Trenchmaster sends his approval back to the unit and work can commence.
5. If not acceptable, the Trenchmaster sends a clear explanation as to why the plan is not acceptable and makes suggestions as to what would make it acceptable.
6. The GWA unit may rework and resubmit their plan.
7. If the Trenchmaster finds that their plan is still not acceptable, the unit must repeat the above procedure until an acceptable plan is produced.
8. If the unit decides to pursue a different project in the same area, they must follow the above procedures for the new project proposed.
9. If a unit carries out improvements that are not approved and are found contrary to the GWA site development policies, they may be instructed to remove the improvement by the GWA.

In the interest of carrying out the intent of the GWA's Site Development Policies the following additions/clarifications are being added:

10. If the site improvement will influence the forward areas of each side's lines, it is sent to the President so he may consult with the opposing side's Trenchmaster. The President will then approve/disapprove these forward area changes. This policy specifically addresses front line trenches and areas forward of them (No Man's Land). Front line trenches will not be moved any closer to the enemy's trenches than they are now.
11. If the site improvement is something that requires the use of heavy equipment, the Trenchmasters will forward the request on to the President (potentially bringing it before members of the Administrative Committee) for approval. Such improvements are



much more involved to alter, or undo, if they are found unacceptable.

12. If a unit constructs something (that is unsafe, blatantly non-authentic or detrimental to overall development of our site) without permission, as outlined above and in the GWA policies, then the GWA may have the "improvement" filled in, or otherwise removed, using funds budgeted for true site development for that year.

Requests to units to change their unauthorized work have fallen on deaf ears in the past. This is a volunteer organization and the reality is that we can do little to make members follow the guidelines we all should abide by. Thus, the overall organization will need to bear the burden of maintaining our site. Please do not make a personal decision to the detriment of your fellows.

With this age of e-mail, there are few reasons a Site Development decision should drag on—the guidelines are rather clear. It should rarely take more than two weeks from the time a unit submits their plans to the time they receive their answer. If a unit has not received an answer from their respective Trenchmaster within two weeks, they should submit the plan directly to the President for consideration.

Spring 2002 After Action Safety Report

by Vice-President/Chief Safety Officer Bill Baldwin

The incoming Safety Committee is composed of V. P. Bill Baldwin (Chairman), John Torkos (Polices & Documentation), and Nat Sooy (Small Arms & Pyrotechnics). Also included are members functioning as Military Police, both Allied and Central Powers. I would like to include a Central Power's member in this committee to insure an additional perspective as well. If someone (gentlemen or lady) would like to volunteer please contact me.

Thanks to the continued support of the membership we experienced another series of tacticals at Newville without any serious injuries. Please accept my profound "thank you folks" for your adherence to GWA policies and the *Rules of Engagement*! Safety is always a high priority and indeed the survival of our beloved hobby as we now know it depends upon your efforts to play safe and respect the well being of your fellow reenactors.

We are fortunate to have some skilled members who continually volunteer their medical expertise and provide some degree of "field medic" services during our programs. Several medical personnel were kept busy this past event and I personally thank the Deutsche Rote Kreuz for their kind treatment while being held prisoner! This program was especially challenging because of the unusual heat and increased tick problem. It is reassuring to have some of our own health care professions on site. Thanks medics! Remember that the GWA has a small but comprehensive medical kit and each unit is encouraged to stock a small first aid kit near their site to deal with minor issues on the spot.

The use of *bayonets* is expanding! This is rewarding to see and I strongly encourage this activity! The bayonet was freely used during the Great War and we need to understand this weapon and its applications. Since there are no "blank" bayonets it is essential that extreme caution be used. Past training activities conducted in the "Bull Pen" were very useful and this can hopefully be revisited. Please remember that all Safety Rules are in effect and that units can only participate in this activity when under the direct command of Officer's and NCO's!

Grenades:

No grenades or other pyrotechnic were rejected! This is the ultimate goal. I do suspect, though, that not 100% were presented for safety inspection and I hope that this will improve. Please do not allow bomb remnants to turn up on Sunday morning clean up that haven't been inspected. There is no effort to disqualify any grenade, bomb, rifle grenade, mortar round, smoke device, or illuminating device. We merely ask that these items be constructed to comply with published GWA criteria as found in the Safety Regulations. Nothing has changed and nothing will be changed at this time. Probably the main concern in this area is the continued lack of authenticity of many types in use. Please continue in your efforts to produce grenades that look at least somewhat like documented types. Some samples continue to appear using paper cups, foam cups, and other bogus shapes. The time proven Easter egg bomb has been around for many seasons and remains a safe, inexpensive, and less objectionable presentation. If you simply cannot find a suitable grenade shell then perhaps it would be wise to just use the egg type. Some individuals have been highly creative in grenade fabrication and wonderful examples of Mill's, German kugel, turtle, stick types, French pineapples, etc. have been presented! Please remember that all projectiles, launched or thrown, must be 8 ounces or less and be filled with baking soda only! Other substances such as cat litter, sand, flour, etc. are not permitted! Use only 30 grains or less of black powder/substitute and avoid compressing charges! The goal is to have a "pop", NOT an explosion!

Pyrotechnic Inspections:

Will be conducted before the mandatory Saturday morning Safety Meeting! Hours will be 1-5 PM Friday at the registration area and from 8-9AM near the Krauss Monument on Saturday morning. This will get us all into the field faster! Please be compliant! Please direct questions to Nat Sooy (BEFOLDSGT@aol.com) or myself for technical advise in construction of safe bombs or mortar rounds.

Flares:

These devices are in heavy use and only the parachute variety is prohibited at this time. Some flares, however, were launched at a very low angle and fell onto the ground while still burning heavily. This must be prevented! Please launch flares upward to provide a high arc. Flares are to be used for illumination only and not as a projectile towards opposing positions! Having to stop the action and deal with a fire is not what we need.



Military Police:

This past event we had only **two** MPs. They are dedicated fellows and did quite a bit of work which entails sacrificing a lot of personal time. (a big thanks to Bruce and Joe!) In fact the GWA would not be able to function effectively without MP support. These folks are there to assist you and make the programs run smoothly. Please consider volunteering for a few hours if you would like to help your organization in this area. No experience or special equipment is necessary although we greatly appreciate uniformed MPs as well. Please remember that all MP have the full support of the G-8 and *they must be obeyed!* Carry your GWA credentials on your person at all times and be prepared to share this with any other member who challenges you! It is a security violation NOT to identify yourself when challenged by another member.

Muzzles:

In past seasons perhaps the most serious injuries have been from muzzle blast. Firing too close may damage both eyesight and hearing. If a muzzle is very near the body when rounds are fired, serious damage may result. This should be a readily apparent and just a matter of common sense. It was very disappointing and alarming to receive reports that this had occurred several times during the program. **Please let me make this clear:** This situation is totally avoidable! All persons are expected to be in full control of their weapon at all times! Discharging a weapon in close enough proximity to another person's head to cause pain or injury is a serious violation of Safety Regulations! This will absolutely not be tolerated! Persons found violating this rule may be asked to leave the scenario! Mind your muzzles or stay out of the field!

Blanks:

Many people use "Grenade Blanks" for general use. These are very loud and are possibly the ones causing the above mentioned incidents. It is recommended that Grenade Blanks be used only for launching rifle bombs. Please try to use less powerful blanks as much as possible. Vendors do supply non-military manufactured blanks of good quality. If "muzzle blast incidents" continue this subject will be revisited, so act now before some one is unnecessarily injured and more rules impede the fun.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself (860-349-1147 or Mineola17@att.net) or other Safety Committee members to offer comments, criticism, or advice. It is my goal to return the basic functions of the GWA back to the individual member and unit. We must work together to assure our success! Responsibility starts with the individual!

My Kind Thanks to You All for your Support!

Mark your calendars:

**GWA Fall Combat Event at Newville, PA
November 1-3, 2002**

Action Report

Abt. z.b.V. Neuville den 23. April 1918

The following is a detailed outline of the actions of *Abt.z.b.V. Neuville* during the period 19-20 April.

1. 19 April 1918.

a. Observation and displacement of enemy troops and our limited numbers led us to cancel our planned operation; instead, an economy of force operation (strong deployment in north) was undertaken. Composite Gruppen under the leadership of *Uffz. Stiebritz* (JR459), conducted an assault at 20:00 hours. JR111, K.u.K., JR63 additionally joined in the attack. Prior to the assault, I had moved forward with the *8.Kür.* to observe the action. The intent of the assault was to gain entry into the enemy trenches in the ANZAC sector and, in turn, breach lanes through enemy barbed wire to support planned offensive operations on 20.4. While some lanes were breached, the attack was repulsed and, as such, cannot be considered a success. Following this attack, I received a report from *Oblt. Plack* and we evaluated our effort. The sector was placed under the command of *Oblt. Plack* and I returned to the command area.

b. *Uffz. Stiebritz* requested permission to try another assault, which was granted by *Oblt. Plack*. This attack was to be launched at 20:45 after resting the troops, but enemy activity indicated an earlier launch time advisable. As such, a second attack was launched across the same terrain beginning approximately 20:30. This attack fared better, though it did not unfold as envisioned. Following is *Oblt. Plack's* report: "As we traversed the field against light resistance, it became apparent the enemy had been in the process of launching a counterattack as we jumped off. Our second effort caught their attack half in and half out of the trench. The fighting was close and quickly devolved into hand-to-hand engagements resulting in the capture of at least 5 ANZACS. Once enemy resistance was subdued prisoners were evacuated as additional wire cutting was accomplished. While our attack not executed as envisioned because of enemy action, leaders on the ground, particularly *Uffz. Stiebritz* and *Vzfeld. Fischer*, quickly adapted to the rapidly changing effort and ensured this effort was extremely successful and can be credited with spoiling a planned enemy attack." *Uffz. Stiebritz* and *Vzfeld. Fischer* are commended for the effort as a result of *Oblt. Plack's* report.

c. The *8.Kür* and JR120 were dispatched several times to repel sporadic enemy attacks on our positions. However, most of the later action on Friday night can be classified as minor and of no significant consequence.

2. 20 April 1918.

a. The second planned operation called for JR111, JR63, and JR549 to conduct a limited objective advance to penetrate and hold that section of the ANZAC trenches into which lanes had been cleared the previous evening. *Kampftruppenkommandeur* (KTK) was *Vzfeld. Fischer*, JR111. To add punch to



the operation, the *Abteilung* reserve (elements JR120 and 8. *Kürassier*), 5. *Pionier Batl.* and reinforcing automatic weapons from 20. *MGSS* were added. This attack was not successful, having miscarried because of bogging down and a subsequent failure to advance by the attacking force. Enemy lines were reached but unable to be breached. Our units returned to the lines under intense enemy fire.

- b. At 13:00, we were stunned when the Americans conducted a foolish and wasteful bayonet assault using tactics not seen since 1914 against the center of our lines. The entire attacking contingent was butchered as they entered the *Minen-trichter* against the combined fires of JR459, JR92, JR120, 8. *Kür* and, of particular note, a Lewis gun section of 20. *MGSS*, which accounted for at least half the inflicted casualties. Numerous prisoners were taken and the U.S. commander—a Lieutenant—died after being taken prisoner. I ordered *Oblt.* Plack to arrange for the valiant officer's remains returned to the Americans, though they seemed confused by the European custom of returning the body of a dead leader who had fallen while behaving as a brave soldier.
- c. The third planned operation was a lightning trench raid, entering the French trenches and exiting through the Russian Sector. Originally to have been an JR92 and JR124 effort, 5. *Pionier Batl.* Was substituted in place of JR124. This raid was expertly executed under cover of smoke (expert smoke placement by commander, 20. *MGSS*) which was, unfortunately, nullified by a sudden shift in the wind just as the raid launched), however, in spite of this unfortunate situation raid objectives were met. The raiding party returned with three prisoners as requested—one each Russian and French privates, as well as a Russian officer (*Lieutenant*). *KTK* for the raid was *Fldw.* Benno Lowe, commander, JR92. The Russian officer was so hungry that he began eating paper, though he claimed to be disposing of orders. Unfortunately, we had already captured an earlier duplicate document and offered him some brandy to help him digest his meal.
- d. The final planned operation was for a deliberate attack against the American center sector. The concept of operations was a two-pronged assault against the center of the American positions directly opposite the *Minen-trichter*. The *Abteilung* Adjutant, *Oblt.* von Spee was appointed *KTK*. The original launch time of the operation was delayed 45 minutes to 18:45, and the success of the operation was aided by an Allied effort against the friendly right flank that, coincidentally, launched at approximately the same time. As JR63 and JR111 launched from the right, JR92 and 5. *Pionier Batl.* Executed a simultaneous thrust from the left against the same point, achieving rapid and complete surprise against the stunned Americans, who were easily rolled up. 20. *MGSS* provided excellent support to both wings of the attack. Commander, JR459, as commander of the security force (JR459, JR120 and 8. *Kür*.), handily repelled the light Allied attack on our right as well as a surprise raid by the Russians, who slipped into the positions vacated by JR92 and penetrated across to the friendly right.
- e. At approximately 14:30, the 20. *MGSS*, under the command of *Fldw.* Benno Lowe, aided by the 5. *Pionier Batl.*, took part in a small raid to take out an enemy MG position and to observe

the French section of the line. Command received a report that the French and Russian sectors were undermanned and *KTK* Lowe decided to push forward. As they were about to enter the enemy trench the French MG. began firing. The advance faltered, it was then that the 5. *Pionier Batl.* provided valuable support that helped make the incursion of enemy lines successful. *Gef.* Fischer, was mentioned in report for taking out a group of Russians with an MP-18. This raid was extremely successful as the Russian MG positions were destroyed.

Throughout the day, our forces did well containing numerous smaller efforts by the Allies; these were either broken up outright, though the Allies posted limited successes in gaining control of several sectors for limited periods of time. Eventually, these were put to rights by counterattacking into the affected sector. The disproportionate expenditure of ammunition and, particularly, grenades indicates the level of activity encountered on 19 and 20 April. Likewise, the high number of prisoners taken on these two days (ca. 15 on Friday, at least treble that number on Saturday, including two officers) indicates the high degree to which enemy forces were displaced by our operations. It is noteworthy the Allied commander suggested a POW exchange during the afternoon of 20 April, during which time an ANZAC sergeant was returned to the Highlanders, though the promised exchange of German prisoners never occurred, whether through treachery or blundering on the British part.

Truppenverbandplatz Report:

Wounded:	Ger. 4	Allied: 11
Fed:	Ger. 27	Allied: 12
Water:	Ger. 40	Allied: 14

Two Australian prisoners were killed in separate incidents while attempting to escape, warning shots and calls ignored. Execution and torture of passive prisoners is forbidden, however, prisoners attempting to escape will be shot.

One American officer (Lt.) died while undergoing treatment for wounds suffered during a frontal assault. Remains returned to allied lines with honor.

The allied units in this sector are brave and able combatants. They are to be commended and have proven to be fine soldiers. The honor we receive is a result of the courage of the enemy we face. The Allies deserve our respect.

Rtm. Thielmann

Kommandeur, Abt.z.b.V. Neuville

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
Photos, art or disks may be mailed to: Box 2086, Merrifield, VA 22116*

Submission deadline for the next issue: September 6
Next issue publication date: September 16



Improving Your Impression

Fußlappen sind wärmer als Socken

An article originally published in *Der Frontsoldat* (magazine of IR63) in Issue #6, Fall 1996

by Dave Stone

The German Soldat in both World Wars was frequently issued a pair of Fußlappen or footwraps, in addition to a pair of socks. Many of you have heard of them but don't know exactly what they are or how they are worn, or even what they can do for you. I hope to impart some information on them to you in this article.

Footwraps are simple square or rectangular pieces of soft, flannel-like wool or wool blend cloth that are wrapped around the feet. They may be worn over socks, or less often, by themselves.

Now, I know it sounds absurd to suggest you go wrap a scrap of cloth over your socks, but not only are they easy to make, they're easy to wear, are quite comfortable, and are also quite warm.

At one WWI event, I wore only a pair of thick Fußlappen under my boots and my feet felt wonderful. One advantage of Fußlappen is that you can arrange folds of cloth to protect a sore spot on your ankle or heel.

A U.S. Army Quartermaster report from WWII states that among German prisoners, men who wore Fußlappen in leather boots seldom had trench foot, and that men who wore only shoes and Fußlappen seemed to be able to keep their

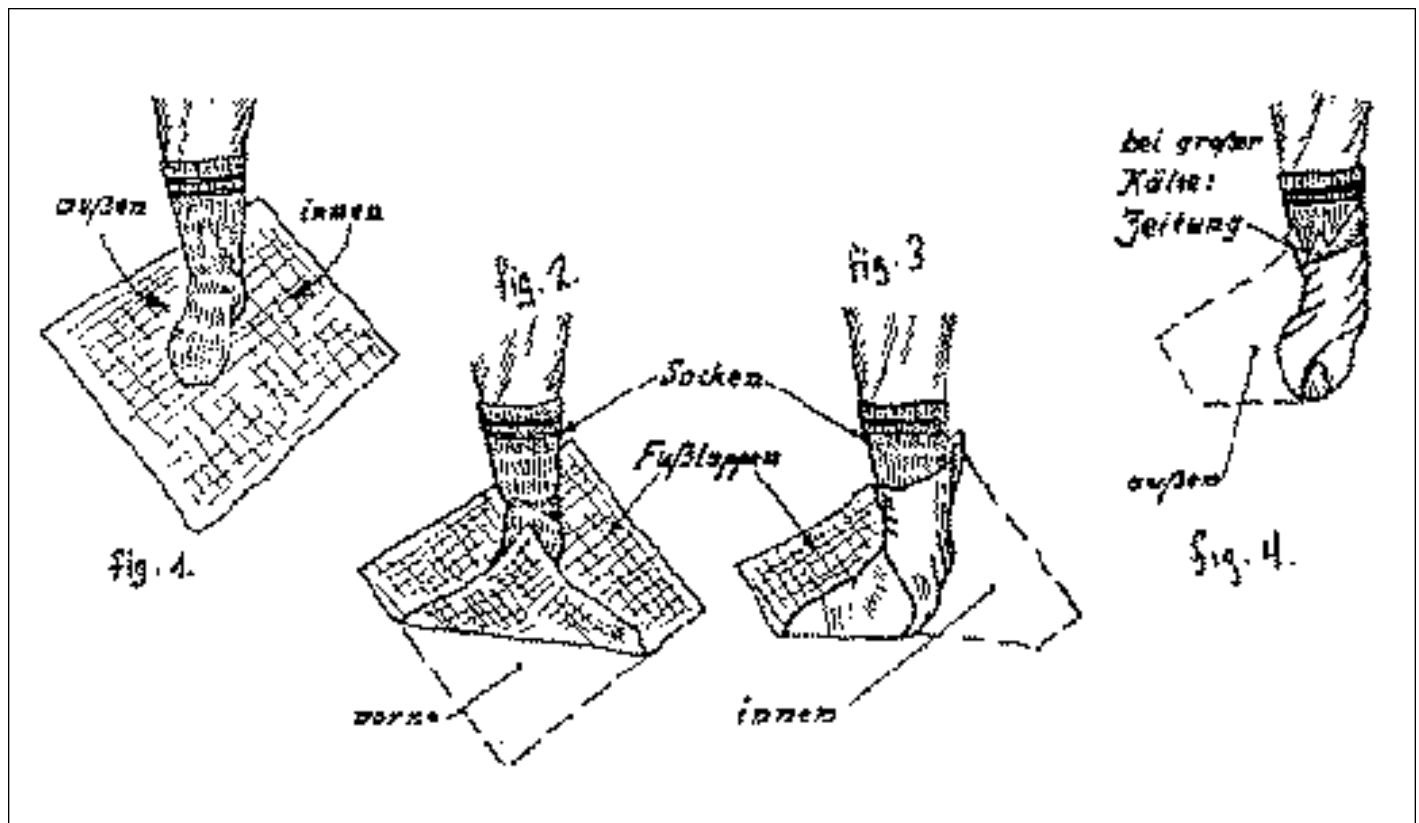
feet warm and dry in any weather.

Another mention of Fußlappen can be found in the WWII book *Soldat*, where the author, Siegfried Knappe, learns how to knit so that he can make socks, something the Russians had never seen, for they wore footwraps like the German troops did.

You can make your Fußlappen out of any sort of fine flannel material; just cut out two squares about 16-18" square. You need not hem the edges, just let them fray out a little.

To wear the Fußlappen, rotate the square into a diamond and place your foot on it so that your instep is along a centerline from top to bottom (fig. 1). Your foot isn't exactly in the middle, but a little off to one side. Now, fold up the front (fig. 2), then the inside (fig. 3), then the outside (fig. 4). Now, hold the folded part in place, and stuff your foot into your Stiefel (jackboot for the non-German speakers). Unlike socks, Fußlappen won't bunch up around your toes, and they don't seem to creep around on you at all. In cold weather you can put a sheet or two of newspaper under the Fußlappen, to increase your insulation.

Armed with this info, you can now be authentic where no one can see it!



☐ 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
Summer Living History and Tactical Event
at the
Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, June 14–16, 2002**

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. 2002 dues if you have not already paid this year **\$25.00**
(Annual dues are due at the spring event each year)

B. Summer 2002 event fee if pre-registered **\$20.00**

C. Optional site development donation \$

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

All pre-registrations should be received by the Treasurer on or before June 10, 2002. If your pre-registration is not received by that date, you must pay at the event. Your original pre-registration, if received in the mail, will be returned unopened.

Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register for event planning purposes and to speed up the registration process on site. 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@rcn.com

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
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
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
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

151RL 151er Regiment d'Infanterie

Russian Units

RL Legion Russe

Austrian Units

63KUK 63rd KuK

German Units

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 (*probationary*)

1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment

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

