

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Fall 2003



President's Letter

Dear GWA Members,

This is my last letter to you as president of the GWA. I have enjoyed representing this organization and working with all of you to promote our hobby and improve our site. I am taking this opportunity to discuss with you several of my concerns and issues facing this organization.

First of all, I appreciate the support that many of you demonstrated while I served as president and the expressions of support for me to continue for a second term. My choice not to seek re-election was based on an exhaustive schedule of required courses as I am concluding two Master's programs. This, combined with my work schedule and my family obligations, left me no choice but to decline to continue in this position.

I am pleased to let you know that many of the plans for site development are completed, or are in the final stage of completion. We have united the German line and made needed improvements, a well is being driven on the Allied side of the line, all work requested by the Allied staff has been completed, we are building "blinds" to conceal the portable toilets, etc. In short, we have accomplished most of the goals set in February 2002 to improve the site.

Unfortunately, vegetation continues to be a problem due to a more than usual amount of rain. However, some improvement has been made in this area as well. This will take time to fix.

I have met with the fireworks company about the charge specifications for re-useable grenades. This is an effort sup-

ported by the unit commanders to comply with state and federal laws governing the use of pyrotechnics (grenades). There is still more work to do in this area, which I will continue to carry on, if it is the desire of the incoming President.

In addition, I also feel that this organization needs to consider seeking nonprofit status in order to receive tax breaks and donations of money and WWI equipment. This issue will require steady leadership and work by the members to support it.

I realize that many of you only know of this hobby as it exists today. Even still, much has been done to develop our existing site. To do more will take a greater investment and this is why I strongly support seeking nonprofit status. It will bring "legitimacy" to our effort and allow us to seek corporate gifts to help underwrite the cost of improving our battlefield and memorial site. Our dues and event fees alone do not generate enough revenue for us to accomplish major site development issues.

I am very concerned and dismayed about an attitude eagerly promoted by certain members new to this hobby that readily dismiss contributions and years of service made by other members of this organization (observed a number of times on the e-lists). There is no place for this in our organization. The truth is, many of our members have served with distinction and without their dedication and leadership this organization would not exist. I would be bitterly disappointed to see this organization, dedicated to preserving the memory of the past, fail to appreciate the effort and leadership of those who have served this organization through many of its hardest times.

There have also been comments about always fighting in the trenches and "we need something new." One of the unique aspects of WWI is the trench. This is what they did! They faced each other, fought and died—in the trenches. Some of our members have expressed a desire to use more of the land. This is the responsibility of your Combat Commanders. They determine the scenarios. If you want something different, then speak to them about it.

In a few short weeks, we will be electing new officers for the Executive Committee. I would make a few observations about the "job." having completed a few years in service to the GWA

First, this is a volunteer organization. You cannot force people to do anything. This is probably why 90% of the work of the GWA is done by 2 to 5 % of the membership.

Second, hand-in-hand with the first observation, leadership of the GWA must be conciliatory and consensus building; not given to issuing edicts, threats and mandates from "on high." During the past two years, we have seen the first use of the Steering Committee (primarily unit commanders) as part of the decision making process. It has worked

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extremely well and proven effective.

Third, the GWA leadership must exhibit reserve and decorum, to calm the sometimes "excited" debate over issues, represent the organization to outsiders and negotiate with government agencies, vendors, contract workers and neighbors.

Fourth, the GWA leadership must be good stewards of our resources. The organization is in good financial shape and with due care should remain so. The land itself brings us revenue from outside groups but we must never let our representatives forget whom they are protecting the interests of—the GWA membership.

Fifth, the membership of the GWA cannot expect everything from the elected leadership. They are, after all, unpaid volunteers. Trenches must be maintained and the site cleaned by the membership. Don't wait for "some other guy" to get something done.

Lastly, communication is a two way street and important to the health of the organization. If you have a question, idea, recommendation, or complaint CALL the GWA Allied or Central Powers Representatives or other elected officials. Unfortunately, many of the threads of the Internet discussion groups have been used to incite turmoil (and for what *real* purpose?) rather than resolve problems.

This is a hobby and hobbies are fun . . . have you had fun?

—John

GWA Elections

Candidates for 2004–2005 term

For President: Mickey Collins, Robert Zienta

For Vice President: William Garofalo, Jim Kidd

For Secretary: No one nominated at Spring event. To be appointed by incoming President

For Treasurer: Pat Hernandez

For Allied Combat Commander: Mike LoCicero

For Central Powers Combat Commander: Lou Brown

For Allied Representative: Dave Hughes, Tom Price

For Central Powers Representative: Bill White

Candidates for President

Mickey Collins

My name is Mickey Collins and I am running for GWA President.

I believe I possess the management, organizational and networking skills to be a progressive and efficient office holder. Being self-employed I can devote the time needed for the position and live just 30 minutes from the "trenches" which makes it very easy to physically be on hand and available when required.

I appreciate the consideration of your vote and support.

Thanks,
Mickey

Rob Zienta

GWA Members:

At the last event I was approached by several members and asked if I would be willing to run for GWA President. After giving it quite a bit of thought I agreed.

I made this decision because I have relocated near the site, my health is good and I am concerned about several issues that I feel are important to the membership.

- **Site Development** – Improvements have been made and continue. The German lines have been linked (a major issue), a well has been put in on the Allied side, and trenches are being reworked. As president, I will establish a site committee composed of the Combat Commanders, Representatives, Trenchmasters and unit commanders. I believe that such representation allows for tactical, unit, construction, and member (through the Representatives) concerns to be addressed. This committee should be allocated a budget that can be used for site development. This committee should also review the current site building regulations and establish inspection and safety concerns for bunkers and trenches. Bunkers and trenches should be inspected on at least an annual basis and any unsafe conditions repaired.
- **Representatives** – I would like to see the representatives more actively involved in communicating information to the members and providing input from unit commanders and members to the administration committee (G-8). They need to be a part of the communication loop.
- **Membership Committee** – I will reactivate the membership committee. I established this committee with Mark Anderson. It resulted in an organizational logo, promotional video and membership brochure.
- **Web Site** – The GWA Web site has undergone several facelifts. There are some things that we can do to make this a more user-friendly site and increase its communication value. I will initiate restructuring of the Web site, to include posting of committee and advisory committee minutes.
- **Pyrotechnics** – I have worked closely with John Novicki on this issue and will continue to support and follow the direction he initiated to ensure that we meet state and federal requirements.
- **Nonprofit Status** – Unit commanders approved a proposal to investigate the impact of seeking nonprofit status for the organization. I will ensure that a proposal is developed and presented to the membership for input prior to any vote.

I will ask John Novicki to serve as an ex-officio member of the administrative committee (G-8) because he has served as the immediate past president and has worked on the above issues.

With your support I believe that we can build on our successes to continue to make this organization and our events better than ever. I ask that you support this effort by electing me as your GWA president.

Best regards,
Rob Zienta



Candidates for Vice President

Bill Garofalo

I joined the GWA in 1989 as a member of the French unit 151 RI. I am now part of a newly formed French unit, the 8th BCP. I have provided unit support with a Hotchkiss heavy machine gun during these years, and have been second in command of both units since 1995.

In the role of VP, should I be elected, I would work toward increased safety at the events, and well as increased co-operation between units of both sides. Also, I would like to encourage increased use of the long standing ideal of the GWA, the "DIE, DIE, DIE" scenario. Too often I have heard complaints the "the other guys" just don't "die." All sides seem to have somewhat of a problem with this, so I like to encourage everyone to work on their impression of falling in battle.

Above that, the GWA members need to contribute more individual effort to helping maintain the trenches. Understanding that many of the members live too far away to actively participate in work parties during the off times, I'd like to see more of us come out early for the event, like on the Wednesday or Thursday before the event and cut some weeds, clear debris, fill some sand bags.

See you all at the event, win or lose. And remember to do your part for the hobby ... DIE!

Jim Kidd

While it may come as a surprise to many of you, I've been your Vice President for the past few months. John Novicki appointed me to fill out Bill Baldwin's term when he resigned earlier this spring. As I'm on the ballot for the same position for the Fall election, the condition may persist for the next two years, so hopefully you can live with it.

I'm a newcomer to the Executive Committee (popularly know as the G-8, hopefully without an expletive in front of it!) but have been hanging around the GWA for about six years now. If you are a Yank, you probably know me or at least recognize me as the tall officer who gets you shot up all the time. For the rest, you may know me or hopefully will get the chance.

As VP, my primary duties are in heading up the Safety Committee. This has appeared to be a committee of one for some time, we'll see about the need for a larger committee and making it work. In terms of Safety Issues, not much has changed over the past few years worth commenting on. Every event, it seems, we have an occurrence following a lapse of judgment, where some injury takes place. Last event it was a "pistol to the back of a prisoner" incident that went awry when the weapon was discharged. Luckily, the injury was minor and the wounded returned to action. Common sense is our best defense against injury; please use it. If you are doing something that the little voice in the back of your head says "*this might not be good...*" please don't do it. Unit leaders, if you happen to have someone in your outfit for whom common sense is a foreign concept, please don't let them take the field. In the end you are responsible for your men and their actions.

The biggest issue with safety every year seems to be with our simulated ordnance. While pyro checks are done, and hopefully everyone is being checked, the issue of "too hot" or "fragmentary" often comes up. As many of you are aware, and all soon will be, a change for pyrotechnics is on the horizon. John Novicki has been driving that issue for the past few years and has more up to date information than I do on that; I'll let you get the information straight from the horse's mouth, as John will be updating everyone in this issue of *OTW*.

Since John is going to comment on one of my areas, I'll take a brief moment to comment on one of his, that effects all of us: The need for improved communication. A cornerstone in the functionality of any organization is good communication. My military experience has drilled it into my head. My civilian experience has echoed this. Communication within the GWA has been inconsistent for many years. Some pathways are very active, for others, information gets dead-ended, resulting in frustration for some members. One of the things I hope assist in improving is communication processes, such that every member can, if they so desire, have access to all the information the GWA possesses. This will allow the membership to accept greater level of ownership and responsibility in the guidance of our organization as we evolve.

There are many means of doing this and we'll explore every avenue that holds promise. Your suggestions in this will be quite useful in suiting the solution to the dilemma.

Moreover, I encourage, no I *challenge* the membership of the GWA to take a greater role in helping to improve our organization. Like the bulk of you, I too had been content to sit back and let the G-8 do all the work as long as I could go to two decent events per year. Unfortunately that doesn't give the leadership a broad level of feedback to work off.

A body that only has circulation at its head is dead from the neck down. We don't want that to be said about the GWA.

See you in the Fall.

Jim Kidd
VP, GWA

Treasurer

Patrick Hernandez

Hi all,

I thought I would give you all a chance to know who your next Treasurer for the GWA is going to be. My name is Patrick Hernandez, I am 38 years of age and reside in Albuquerque, NM.

I am currently a SSgt. in the USAF with the NM Air National Guard (150th FW "TACOs" or sometimes known as "The Enchilada Air Force") with the 150th Civil Engineering Squadron as a Utilities Systems Craftsman, 3E471, which is Water/WasteWater/Plumbing. I have been in the military for over 13 years and have had the opportunity to serve in the South-West Asia region (Persian Gulf) on active duty numerous times as part of Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle.



Great War Association Absentee Ballot 2003

Name: _____

Unit: _____

President

☐ Mickey Collins ☐ Robert Zienta

Vice President

☐ William Garofalo ☐ Jim Kidd

NOTE: Members of Allied units only may vote for the Allied Representative.

Allied Representative

☐ David Hughes ☐ Tom Price

Mail ballot to: John Novicki
132 Maiden Choice Lane
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Your yearly membership dues (\$25) must be paid up or included with this form. Ballot must be received by **30 October 2003**.

I have been reenacting the ACW for approximately 14 years as part of the 1st NM Volunteer Infantry, Company A "Kit Carson's Own" as a Federal Ordnance Sgt. of the Ordnance Department stationed at Ft. Union NMT during the period before and during the ACW. I am the unit's Ordnance/Safety Officer and one of the original founding members. Our unit is member of the New Mexico Civil War Commemorative Congress and it also one of the members of the Frontier Brigade. I also reenact the Mexican-American War as a Mexican soldier with the Lanceros del Presidio de Santa Fe and as a Conquistador of the 1500's with La Sociedad de la Entrada.

I decided to start reenacting WWI about 2 years ago with the 151 RI. I have always been interested in WWI history, tactics and weapons—particularly WWI French weapons as I have been collecting them for over 18 years—especially Lebel, Berthier rifles and carbines. My first WWI reenactment as a member of the 151 RI was the Summer 2002 event, which I had a great time at and have been to every other event since.

I hope to one day sit down long enough to write a concise book about French Lebel and Berthiers as these weapons deserve a book solely dedicated to them as they rarely get the recognition that other rifles have. I also moderate a couple of different gun forums on the Internet on French firearms as well as reenacting forums. (You will find me as 1886lebel on these forums)

I hope to be able to do a good job as your next Treasurer and as well as Randy Gaulke has done in the past for you all.

Thanks!
Patrick Hernandez

Candidates for Allied Representative

David R. Hughes

Allied Reenactors,

I have been your Rep. for the last two years. I hope I have done the job that you wanted done, and you feel that you have been represented well. I will continue to do this if you re-elect me as Allied Rep. If, on the other hand, you feel that you think that someone else should do the job for the next two years, then vote for him. If you are new to the hobby and really don't know who I am, then ask some of the guys in your unit who have been around for a while. They will help you to decide for me or the other guy.

I look forward to the opportunity of being your Rep. again and working with you to make sure that you and your unit, and the Allies as a whole have the best representation in the G-8. Thank you for being a part of the best side of reenacting.

Sincerely,

David Hughes

Lance Sergeant

No. 3 Company 1st. Battalion

Irish Guards

Thomas (Tom) B.B. Price, Jr.

As you may remember, I was nominated for Allied Rep. last event. Simply put, the position is to relay the cares and concerns of the Allied members of the GWA to the governing body. As your Allied Rep., I can assure you open lines of communication up and down the organization. You may depend on me to insure the GWA By-Laws will be followed. Moreover, I will work with the other members of the G-8 to insure the continuation of wise fiscal policy and continue to address the needs of the hobby.

As for experience, I have been reenacting WWI since 1980. I have portrayed a doughboy of the 29th Division and Australian of the 5th Battn, AIF, staff officer and a machine gunner of the 2nd Bde, 1st Div, AIF. Real life experience includes nearly twenty-five years in the criminal justice system, 21 years military experience (active and reserve). During service I served in nearly every position in an infantry battalion from rifleman to company commander, including primary staff appointments. On the education side of the house, I hold a BA and MA in History from Salisbury University, academic honors include Phi Alpha Theta (History Honors Society) and Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science Honors Society). I am currently a Correctional Administrative Hearing Officer for the State of Maryland and a Certified Mediator.

I look forward to serving you as your Allied Representative. ■

Election Procedures: Ballots will be cast in person at the Fall 2003 Event as part of the event registration process. Voting and registration closes at 9AM on Saturday, 1 November. Absentees should fill out the ballot form on this page return it by regular mail.



A Look at Recent Site Development Outlays

By Randall S. Gaulke
GWA Treasurer

How the GWA spends its money is not communicated fully enough to the members of the GWA. So I thought I would make a few comments on site development expenditures over the last few years.

Beginning with the budget: We forecasted \$29,200 of revenues for 2003. Out of that revenue, we have to pay administrative expenses (which is largely insurance), communication expenses (which includes OTW and Web site), the mortgage (\$9,500 per year) and taxes (about \$1,000), event expenses (toilets, ambulance, dumpster, etc.) and site development expenses.

For 2003, the Administrative Committee has budgeted site development as follows: \$2,250 for new craters, etc. (a very broad category), \$1,500 for defoliation and mowing, and \$250 for road maintenance. (Copies of the 2003 budget will be available at the registration shed.)

In actuality, the GWA will spend about \$2,700 on two major capital projects in 2003, neither of which is directly related to the battlefield: First, the GWA spent about \$1,800 for the registration shed. Second, we are currently spending about \$900 to build fences to hide the port-a-johns from view.

The decision to spend \$1,800 on the registration shed was based on the fact that we were spending over \$1,000 a year to rent the tent, table, and chairs for three events. This investment will pay for itself in a two-year time period, plus the GWA has reduced its annual expenses by \$1,000. The decision to hide the port-a-johns follows complaints from numerous members about their visibility.

This \$2,700, combined with about \$500 spent on certain trench improvements on the Allied side of the lines will equal \$3,200. This amount basically equals the \$2,250 budgeted and \$1,000 of savings from the registration shed—as discussed in the previous paragraph.

At the time I write this, we are still planning to spend the money for defoliation, mowing, and road maintenance. However, defoliants work best when the spray has several dry days to stay on the leaves. As most of you know, it has been very wet in PA this year.

Putting this into historical perspective, the shift away from the battlefield follows several years in which the GWA has spent considerable dollars on the battlefield itself, so the current administration felt that it was justified to spend on these two projects. Past President Rob Zienta made it a priority to build the craters and shell-holes in no-man's-land. President John Novicki emphasized the joining of the two sections of German lines, several improvements on the Allied side (including a well) and defoliation of the site. 2002 capital expenditures for John's projects alone exceeded \$5,000.

My Thoughts—Looking Down the Road

The GWA has currently paid about 2.5 years of its 10-year mortgage. This means that we have about \$72,000 principal amount left of the \$100,000 mortgage. Since we entered the mortgage agreement, I have advocated that future administrations should consider rallying the troops (for extra donations) to pay the mortgage off in year 7 or 8. This would give the GWA total control of the land! It would also eliminate \$9,500 of annual expense—that could be spent for serious site development!!

The counter to this argument is that the GWA has a 0% interest rate mortgage. So why pay it off early? Why not spend more on site development expenses over the early years?

I'm sure this debate will be taken up by each succeeding administration, and opinions will be split. But members should not lose sight of the fact that they are part of a very unique reenacting organization: One that will own its own property (without a mortgage note or payment) in the intermediate term. ■

Responses to GWA Battlefield Tour Questionnaire

Responses to the questionnaire in the Spring 2003 issue of OTW were underwhelming! In total, only 18 people completed and returned their questionnaire, even though 400+ newsletters were sent out. Multiplying each person times the self-reported percent likelihood of attendance (90%, 75%, 50%, 25%) suggests the trip would only have 12 participants. Even if we adjusted for spouses and attracting a few other people, it appears that the group could still fall below 20 people.

Tour economics generally do not work well unless you can fill a bus with 25-30+ people. Furthermore, it would take a great deal of effort to tailor a tour to visit "unit-specific" sites as well as the major sites. Given the anticipated low attendance, I have recommended to the current Administrative Committee that the GWA not pursue a battlefield tour at this time.

Individuals interested in visiting the Western Front but uncertain where to begin could start by looking at the various UK battlefield tour operators (including www.flanderstours.co.uk). Another good place to start is in the (independent) travel section of my new Web site: www.meuse-argonne.com.

—Randy Gaulke

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 Spring 2004 issue: Feb. 18
Spring 2004 publication date: March 1



Narrative of Operations

April 11 to 12th, 1918

1st Composite Battalion, Neuville-Pronville sector

April 11th. On the afternoon of April 11th, the 1st Composite Battalion began the relief of the 6th French Regiment, in the Neuville-Pronville sector. This relief was completed by 7:00PM. During the evening, a reconnaissance by elements of the AEF Company was carried out from the BEF company trench (CALEDONIA TRENCH). This was in preparation for a raid, which would involve both the BEF and AEF companies.

At 8:10 PM, a large enemy party raided the French company. Although, our line was breached, Lt. Manchu immediately rallied his men and launched a counterattack, and the Boche were driven out of the French position. Throughout the evening, minor actions took place in no man's land, with several prisoners being brought back to battalion HQ.

April 12th. At "stand to," the following morning, the enemy was quiet along our line. At 11:28AM, a barrage of rifle grenades and mortars was opened up on the BEF company sector. Seven minutes later, the enemy, armed with rifles, bombs, and light machine guns, advanced from his trenches, under the cover of smoke. Due to the short length of no man's land, the Germans were able to enter our trenches very quickly. Fierce fighting in the lines below Hill 10 prevented the enemy from gaining this important tactical position. The enemy however, soon rapidly consolidated our trenches to the left of the hill. The fighting continued for approximately an hour, when a counter-attack launched by elements of the 5th AIF, and the 102nd AEF succeeded in driving the enemy from our positions. Sgt. A. Crane and Cpl. G. Gormley are to be especially commended for their leadership in this action.

Heavy fighting continued opposite CALABASH TRENCH (AEF sector) and a number of offensive patrols were launched by the AEF Company.

An unfortunate incident occurred in no man's land during the afternoon, in which Lt. S. Rall (1st RWF) was severely wounded during an encounter with a German party, which approached the BEF Company sector under a flag of truce.

The Raid on Munich Trench and The Duck's Bill

A raid on the MUNICH TRENCH and the DUCK'S BILL was planned for the evening of the 12th at 7:55PM (see appendix 1). Both BEF and AEF Companies would cross no man's land under a trench mortar and rifle grenade barrage. A covering party, under Lt. W. David (AEF) would provide rifle bomb and automatic weapon support from no man's land. This party would be accompanied by a field telephone section of the RE signal company.

At the appointed hour, the BEF Company and the covering party, debouched from CALEDONIA TRENCH. The BEF Company rapidly crossed no man's land, and entered the enemy trenches on both sides of FUSILIER CRATER. The enemy posts, which were set on the paradors of their front trench, were quickly eliminated. It was here that Sgt. B. Kendall (6th Buffs) distinguished himself by accounting for an enemy machine gun, and several men.

Upon entering no man's land, the covering party immediately went to ground, due to heavy fire from the German trenches. It is believed that the Boche, in concentrating on this target, was unable to parry the BEF Company on their left front. Thus, this party was able to consolidate all of its objectives as far as the NEUVILLE-PRONVILLE ROAD rapidly, and deny the enemy egress to his forward positions.

Five minutes after zero, the AEF Company rushed the DUCK'S BILL salient, and quickly overran all of its objectives. After linking up with the BEF Company, the enemy position was mopped up and consolidated. All enemy attempts to drive us from his line were unsuccessful. After 30 minutes, the OC raid decided to withdraw the force by signal from the Strombus Horn, before the timed withdrawal. Twelve German prisoners, a number of rifles, automatic pistols, and documents, were brought back to our lines during this operation.

In the aftermath of the raid, the RE Signal Section comprising of Sgt. Keller and Sappers Ivers and Cole, performed a series of outstanding feats in no man's land. With the withdrawal of the raiding force, these men remained in between the lines, and communicated back to CALEDONIA TRENCH information regarding enemy movements toward our line. When a small enemy offensive patrol approached the BEF company sector, this information was passed on to the OC BEF Company, who immediately dispatched a section of the PPCLI into no man's land to drive it off. In addition to this, the RE party also ventured into the enemy wire and his reoccupied line to provide valuable information to HQ. During this latter period, another enemy raid was foiled.

This raid, a model of its kind, was carried out with the utmost dash and vigor. Special mention should be made of the following officers and men: Lt. W. David, Lt. J. Kidd, RSM R. Turfitt, Sgt. C. Henschke, Sgt. B. Kendall, Sgt. S. Keller, Sappers Holder, Ivers, and Cole.

Relief by the 2nd Composite Battalion was due to begin at 10:00PM. Prior to the relief, a number of encounters took place up and down the line, as patrols from the three national companies probed the German wire and forward trenches. The relief was completed by 11:56PM, and the battalion proceeded to reserve at Heaudeville, arriving there at 1:15AM.

General Comments.

- 1) Improvements need to be made in regard to defensive mutual support between the national companies. Company commanders need to arrange amongst themselves, a system of mutual support when it is necessary. The enemy raid on the morning of the 12th, demonstrated the need for a rapid deployment of support from the AEF Company, to the threatened BEF sector. This took much longer than necessary.
- 2) ACME sirens have proved useful in distinguishing whistle commands given by officers and NCO's from those of the enemy.
- 3) The RE Signal Section, distinguished itself greatly during these operations. Sgt. Keller, and Sappers Holder, Ivers, Nelson, and Cole, deserve the highest praise for their efforts during a trying period.

Sgnd. **Capt. M. S. Lowe**
2nd Dublin Fusiliers
attached 1st Composite Battalion
11/4/18



APPENDIX 1

Secret

ORDERS BY CAPT. M. S. LOWE

2nd DUBLIN FUSILIERS ATT.

1st COMPOSITE BATTALION

FOR A RAID ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 12th, 1918

1) **Intention.** The BEF and AEF companies will carry out a raid from CALEDONIA TRENCH (BEF Company sector) on the evening of April 12th in the vicinity of the DUCK'S BILL salient and MUNICH TRENCH.

2) **Object.** This raid has been planned to inflict casualties on the enemy opposite. In addition to this, close examination of the position while the raiders are in occupation will assist intelligence gathering in regard to the German line in this sector. The enemy trench mortar "Karl" at "4" is also to be destroyed (see map). All captured documents are to be brought to advance HQ. DO in GROSVENOR HOTEL dugout at CALEDONIA TRENCH.

3) **Strength & Composition.**

Directing Officer. Capt. M. S. Lowe, Dublin Fusiliers.
OC raid(s). Lt. S. Rall, RWF with BEF Company
2nd Lt. W. J. Kidd, 109th Inf. with 2nd platoon AEF Company
Lt. W. David, 109th Inf. with Covering Party
Signal Section RE, Sgt. S. Keller

4) **Dress.** Fatigue dress, steel helmet, equipment arranged in assault order, gas helmet in alert position, all documents and maps, private letters, etc. removed.

5) **Equipment & Arms.** Revolvers to designated men, rifles, wirecutters to designated men, bombs to designated bombers.

6) **Plan of Assault.** The BEF Company (less trench garrison) will cross no man's land from CALEDONIA TRENCH and advance on both sides of FUSILIER CRATER and secure the enemy line as far as the CERIZY-PRONVILLE ROAD. A bomb stop will be placed at "A" and MUNICH TRENCH arranged for defense facing the WUNDERWERK and HAIRPIN.

The 2nd platoon AEF Company will cross no man's land from CALEDONIA TRENCH and enter the enemy trench line north-west of the DUCK'S BILL. Following this, it will secure the enemy line as far as the CERIZY-PRONVILLE ROAD. Bomb stops will be placed at "B" & "C".

Once the enemy works have been secured, the area will be cleared of any remaining resistance with special attention paid to neutralizing the "Karl" trench-mortar position at "4".

The covering party is to be selected from either the BEF or 1st platoon AEF Company or a mixture of both. It will align itself in no man's land from "X" to "X" (see map).

It will deploy after the two raiding parties enter the enemy position and secure no man's land and FUSILIER CRATER, which will be made into a right flank defensive position. It will not withdraw until both raiding parties have passed through to our frontline following the raid.

7) **Rifle Grenades & Trench Mortars.** Arrangements will be made by BEF & AEF company officers to engage the necessary targets.

8) **Smoke.** Provided that proper meteorological conditions occur, smoke candles will be utilized to assist the crossing of no man's land. Battalion HQ will make arrangements for this.

9) **Communication.** RE signal section will provide telephonic communication from GROSVENOR HOTEL dugout in CALEDONIA TRENCH to the covering force (see 6 above).

Communications Paradigm: Telephone from GROSVENOR HOTEL dugout to Covering Party. Runners are to be used by BEF and AEF companies to Covering Party and back. ACME sirens and C2121 forms to be issued to Raiding Party OC's. Battalion HQ will handle all details concerning telephonic communication to Covering Party.

10) Zero hour will be designated on Z Day. The raiding force will remain in the enemy lines no longer than forty minutes, when it will retire on the discharge of the Strombus Horn in CALEDONIA TRENCH. Following this, the Company officers of the BEF & AEF raiding parties will utilize their issued ACME Sirens to signal for withdrawal.

11) **General Instructions.** The password is "Achilles/Priam." Prisoners will be brought to advanced HQ at GROSVENOR HOTEL dugout in CALEDONIA TRENCH.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THEY TO BE TAKEN TO HQ. AT GUNGA DEN DUGOUT.

Lt. S. Rall will arrange for a guard to handle prisoners during the raid.

12) **Reports.** Reports will be made following the raid to the DO (Capt. Lowe) at GROSVENOR HOTEL dugout.

13) **Information.** IR63 is believed to be in possession of the area to be raided.

14) **Meteorological Conditions.** Overcast—53 H, 34 L. Sunset at 7:45PM. 77% of the moon's visible disc will be illuminated.

Preliminary list for Company Commanders (review).

April 11: 4:00PM—Sector briefing at battalion HQ. at GUNGA DEN dugout.

7:30 to 9:00PM. A liaison between BEF & AEF companies in CALEDONIA TRENCH will take place in preparation for the raid.



Reconnaissance and fighting patrols will be sent forward by both companies to investigate the enemy line and wire entanglements in the area to be raided.

10:00PM. BEF and AEF Company officers and NCOs to report battalion HQ. GUNGA DEN dugout to review raid orders in detail.

April 12th: BEF CC to arrange for continued observation of enemy trenches to be raided. All reports are to be relayed to Battalion HQ. AEF CC to arrange for relief of AEF sub-sector by the French Company and any AEF company personnel who will not participate in the raid.

BEF & AEF CC's to arrange for trench mortar and rifle bomb barrage. In addition to this, hand bomb supply should be provided for, along with the positioning of automatic weapons during the raid.

BEF & AEF CC's to explain details of operation to all NCOs and OR's of raiding parties and Covering Party.

5:30PM. Pre-raid briefing by DO (Capt. Lowe) at GROSVENOR HOTEL dugout in CALEDONIA TRENCH. Synchronize watches.

CC's to supervise a final inspection of weapons and equipment of raiding force.

Issued 12MN

Verbally & dictated to all concerned.

APPENDIX 2

Report on Operations April 10th, 1918

AEF Company
1st Composite Battalion
Newville-Pronville Sector
11-12 April 1918

My unit, Company A, after sustaining heavy losses in the fighting around Seichprey, was pulled back to the Newville sector to rest & refit. This sector was assumed to be quiet, and suitable for taking and training of replacements. We were placed as part of a composite Allied battalion, assigned to hold a sector of front at Newville, to allow for replacements to gain necessary experience.

We moved up to the front line at 8 PM on 11 April, relieving a company from a French colonial battalion. We immediately made contact with the companies on our flanks (on our right was a company of the Russian legion, and our left consisted of a British company, with a detachment of US troops included. We settled in and began to improve the position. We received information about a large-scale raid to take place the following evening at the northern end of the enemy line. Reconnaissance was necessary to determine the wire configuration and enemy presence in the target area.

In concert with participating BEF elements, a section of my 2nd platoon, under Lt Werner undertook a patrol to obtain the information needed. Proceeding out of the BEF sector, the patrol moved forward, until the scouting element became

separated from the covering party, which proved unlucky, as the scouts were engaged by enemy pickets, and were driven off before obtaining the needed information. One man was wounded.

Later a second patrol was organized under Sgts Crane & Busch, to examine the area. This party was more successful, finding large gaps in the German wire at the far northern end of the target area. This information was relayed to Battalion HQ.

While the scouting parties were out, the remainder of the company, a section of 2nd platoon (Sgt Jordan) and 1st Platoon (Sgt Petty) conducted active patrolling of no man's land in our company front, to deter enemy patrols and cover for the absence of a portion of the company patrolling in the BEF sector. Lanes in the German wire were cut at random places, so as to disguise the intent of the following day's operations. During this period two German prisoners were taken. Several other Huns who had infiltrated portions of the line to our right were hunted and eliminated.

Overall German activity in our front was very light.

German activity picked up around 10:45 AM Saturday, 12 April. The Germans began a sporadic shelling of our lines about this time. We detailed our mortar section and rifle grenadiers to conduct counter battery fire, which was successful in quieting the Hun mortars, though they were to be a nuisance throughout the day.

At 1100, the enemy attempted to gain advantageous terrain in no man's land from which to bomb our trenches and forward posts. These were driven back with hand and rifle grenades. Information from the enemy dead indicated they were from IR459. We attempted to seize the same terrain features, but the presence of several German machine guns made the place untenable. We retired with no loss.

The shelling had cut phone lines, and we were out of direct contact with battalion when a runner arrived from battalion HQ, requesting reinforcements to assist in evicting a Hun lodgment in the BEF sector. Sgt Crane took a section of 2nd platoon and succeeded in driving the Hun from a section of trench manned by ANZAC troops. Enemy losses were reportedly heavy. AEF losses were three slightly wounded.

In my 1st platoon sector, we received a request for assistance from Lt. Poplavsky, RL, to support his left in a push on the Germans in his front. Sgt Petty led this effort. The assault was largely ineffective. Casualties to 1st Platoon were 1 dead and 4 wounded.

At 1210, in response to heavy MG fire and rifle bombing from the German center, the company undertook to quiet this harassment. 2nd platoon hit the northern fringe of Death Valley, attempting to gain lodgment there long enough to take out the offending MG's. 1st Platoon, supported by troops from the Russian Legion, were sent forward to occupy the MG nest on the southern side of Death Valley. The diversionary element was quickly pinned down, but succeeded in keeping the MGs across from the assault platoon busy. 2nd platoon ran into stiff resistance, but was able to gain a foothold in the targeted sector, quieting the MG's. However,



casualties were significant, and there was not sufficient strength left to hold on very long. Both assault elements retired. Losses were 8 killed, 17 wounded. Enemy losses were estimated at 7 killed, twice that wounded, and two MG's destroyed.

Shortly thereafter, I observed concurrent but uncoordinated attacks by both the BEF on our left and Russian & French contingents on our right upon the Hun line. To support the flanks of this assault I sent Company A over the top as well, making this a general assault. While the attacks by the BEF and Russians seemed to stall, my 2nd platoon swept into the German lines, seizing the sector north of Death Valley held by IR459. We consolidated our positions there. However, noting the retirement of the Allied forces on our flanks (about the time of the BEF commander's wounding), we retired our force back to our own line. Losses in this assault were light. This was likely the result of the enemy's preoccupation with his flanks, which allowed him to be caught unaware in his center.

Things were quiet for several hours until the German mortars again became active. At 4:45PM, one German mortar pit was noted close to the front line on the south face of Death Valley. A brief raid by Company A, supported by the RL, was attempted to put this tube out of action. This effort was repulsed with loss by the heavy concentrations of MG on both sides of the valley. Troops made it to the last line of German wire but no further and retired with significant losses.

There was little of note between that time and the jump off for the evening raid. Germans employed smoke and gas to annoy our men, but the wind favored us, blowing it back upon the enemy.

At 8:00 PM, Company A, in accordance with battalion directives, pulled out of our lines, to proceed to the raid jump off point northwest of the BEF flank. My mortar section took up positions behind the BEF right to provide supporting fire for the raid. A section of auto riflemen and rifle grenadiers, augmented by a BEF light MG team, formed a covering party under Lt. David. The raid start kicked off with the commencement of mortar fire on the enemy line. The covering party deployed into no man's land laying down a base of fire. The BEF went over directly at the point of German line closest their trenches. Company A moved quickly through the more open terrain around the north end of the BEF and Hun lines, moving in squad column, in column of sections, 2nd platoon on the right, 1st on the left, moving through the area found devoid of entanglements the night before. Orders were to go into skirmish order when the lead elements were engaged; however, the action of the covering party and BEF had drawn the German attention further to our right and we weren't fired upon until we were at the Hun front line. Few Germans were present and were quickly overwhelmed. A German MG in a redoubt to the rear of our target sector opened, taking out the lead squad of 1st platoon. The remainder of the company, as well as elements of the BEF which had gained the enemy line in their front, quickly bombed the

redoubt into submission. From that point German resistance ceased.

Cpl Lewis (1st platoon) set and held his assigned bomb block on the northern German commo trench. Sgt Jordan (2nd platoon) set and held his on the next trench to the south. Sgt Crane supervised the defense of this sector, while Lt Werner looked after our right. Cpl Mead covered the center with a reserve squad. Cpl Simkins was detailed to funnel out prisoners to the covering party, waiting to receive them. Four prisoners were sent to the rear. Two other prisoners, taken by the BEF, were noted to be forced to fire their mortar upon the German lines. Worthy action, though possibly a breach of ethics in the treatment of prisoners. I don't know their fate.

Things became a bit confused at this point. BEF troops came into my sector to secure the bomb blocks we had been assigned and already had in place. They said their orders came from Lt. Rall, OC, BEF. It had been my understanding that, owing to his wounds, Lt. Rall would not be participating in the raid, replaced by RSM Turfitt. Shortly after, Lt. Rall appeared, and I explained the situation to him. Not long after, the signal for retirement, the Strombus horn, was heard. As planned, I began to retire my company, by squad. Lt. Rall quickly countermanded this order, insisting that we stay longer. Rall seemed a bit agitated (I wonder if not due to the painkillers possibly given in treating his wounds) and eager to "give the Hun what for." As he was senior officer present, we acceded, and reestablished our defensive positions, which the Hun had not yet taken back.

A short time later the horn was again heard. I went to find Lt. Rall, but could not, finding instead RSM Turfitt, who was retiring his men. I chose to do the same. As I was doing this, Lt Rall appeared with a squad he intended to use to cover the withdrawal. All forces vacated the Hun line, virtually uncontested, allowing us to evacuate our dead & wounded.

Losses for the raid in Company A were 4 dead 14 wounded. We counted 26 dead Germans in our sector, and 6 prisoners. Little quarter was asked or given. Four German MGs or heavy weapons were taken or destroyed.

We resumed our lines around 9 PM. We established listening posts and settled in hopefully for a quiet evening. Around 10:15 PM one of our patrols, led by Lt Werner was jumped and several prisoners were taken, including Lt Werner & Sgt Crane. Sgt Crane later escaped, bringing back word of their fate.

Another regrettable instance occurred later that night when several men and I captured Hun infiltrators to our line. Two of these men appeared to need medical assistance and were immediately led back to the Battalion aid station near HQ. These two dastardly Huns were in fact suicide sappers, and Sgt Busch, escorting the prisoners, was killed when they blew themselves up.

Little else of note occurred the balance of the evening until 0100 13 April, when we were relieved.

Respectfully submitted,
J.A. Kidd
Lt. OC (acting) Company A, AEF



Truces and Tacit Understandings

A Brief Historical Perspective Pertaining to GWA Battle Reenactments

By Michael LoCicero, aka. Captain Lowe

During the past several GWA events, it has been the practice of both Combat Commanders to allow, on an unofficial basis, for a truce or tacit understanding during the Saturday dinner hour. Some members believe that this is the time for a general stand down. This however, is not the case, as there was never a general stand down or relaxation of vigilance in the line during the Great War. I will make some general comments below in regard to truces and tacit understandings on the Western Front. In addition to this, I will also make specific comments in regard to meal truces and their relationship to our battle reenactments, utilizing the standard volume on the subject.

Tony Ashworth examines the phenomena of these truces and understandings, in *Trench Warfare 1914-1918: The Live and Let System*. In this work, the author discusses the empathetic process, which developed between combatants, which lead to overt (Christmas, 1914) and covert truces between trench fighters. "Truces were usually tacit, but always unofficial and illicit. The agreement between antagonists was unspoken and expressed in certain actions—or non-actions—which were meaningful to front fighters—but not always to others. Truces were illegal at all times for they were neither created nor legitimated by authority but were explicitly forbidden" (Ashworth 19). Higher authority attempted to counter this inactivity by orders and increased bureaucracy, or use of developing specialist technology; like artillery, trench mortars, and machine guns. The trench fighters counteracted all of this by participating in ritualized aggression. To the uninitiated, this gave the appearance of hostile activity, without really harming the enemy opposite. Memoirs abound of the poor aim of Fritz in the opposing trenches, of the rifle grenades or trench mortars that never seemed to find their mark. A non-verbal message of non-molestation was sent to the enemy opposite by these actions. It was hoped that the opponent would reciprocate.

"Cushy Sectors"

We have all read comments in Great War memoirs recalling the "cushy sector," which seemed a rest cure after a trying time at Verdun, the Somme, etc. The overt truces of 1914, so frowned upon by the High Command, were followed on a much larger scale by covert truces. This was especially true during trench war. It would be noticed that activity would almost cease in certain sectors, while Fritz was having his breakfast or dinner. No doubt, too, that such knowledge would influence the behavior of the Tommy, Poilu, or Doughboy. "Some evidence suggests that the first understandings were associated with meals, the times and condi-

tions of which were common to each side" (Ashworth 24). This being said, attitudes towards agreements with the enemy could vary from unit to unit. If a service battalion in the British Army has an understanding with the Saxons across the way, and then is relieved by the elite and aggressive Grenadier Guards, the said Saxons may find their situation to be changed for the worse.

In particular sectors along the Western Front, a large-scale offensive would be taking place at certain times. In other sectors, there would be fierce activity, the bad place, where artillery and trench mortars were active, mining was frequent, and raids were the rule. Other sectors, would be mildly active, while the "cushy" or *bon sector*, would be considered by trench fighters to be just the sort of rest cure needed after trying conditions experienced on other more dangerous parts of the front.

It would be difficult for combatants to reach any sort of understanding during a major offensive, or while involved the frequent fighting in a bad sector. Truces and tacit understandings occurred far more frequently in the mildly active or so called quiet sectors. I would contend therefore, that the Neuville sector of trenches recreated by the GWA, are similar to a mildly active part of the Western Front in 1918. We have no artillery or other means to launch a major offensive. Raids and patrols are the norm here. We have to imagine that the larger issues are being decided to the north or south while we hold the line. This being said, it should also be realized that a mildly active or quiet sector could be transformed into a dangerous one by the non-adherence of either side to the agreement that previously existed.

Mealtime Truces

The mealtime truce between trench fighters did not mean a relaxation of vigilance. As stated above, a quiet sector could quickly become an active one, if one side or the other violated the tacit relationship. When Fritz, contrary to past practice, suddenly bombarded the Allied line, then the consequences of Allied retaliation would redound on his head. Thus, it was beneficial for the opposing sides to maintain understandings; otherwise life in the trenches would become nastier than necessary in the circumstances. "Accordingly, it seems that both sides soon started to make assumptions about each others behavior in respect to areas unrelated to war. For example, each side speculated that if we allow the enemy to breakfast in peace, they will allow the same in return, since like us they are hungry" (Ashworth 46).

The process of mutual empathy and live and let live, which developed on both sides of the line, was always nebulous. As stated above, attitudes in units toward understandings with the enemy varied. Sectors and conditions varied. There was no commonality in the trench experience during the Great War. It is Ashworth's belief however, that as the war progressed all of the varied arms, including the specialists, in addition to the infantry, sometimes participated in tacit understandings with the enemy by the practice of ritualized aggression. This would not be evident to Corps, Divisional, and Brigade commanders, who would perceive activity but not realize its meaning. All this would depend on



Pyro Update

The GWA has been working to develop prototypes of grenade simulators that can be mass-produced to our safety standards. Several sample squibs have been submitted by a U.S. manufacturer, but none have been satisfactory so far. At this time we are waiting for revised samples to be submitted. Once a usable squib is available, we can proceed next step of having molded grenade bodies designed.

the circumstances of the sector that the units would be assigned. How widespread all of this was is impossible to ascertain. Great War literature however, contains countless allusions to this practice.

The above comments are in no way to be interpreted as representing the desire of the Combat Commanders to limit action at GWA events. Rather, by emulating some of the "live and let live" aspects of the trench fighter, we increase the level of realism in our hobby. In the future, a single one hour truce will occur on Saturday evening, at times which will be designated by the Combat Commanders. Units should always keep in mind however, that the enemy opposite could violate the truce at anytime. A decrease in sentries in the frontline during these times is permissible but it is important to be prepared for the eventuality that the enemy may change the rules at any given moment.

Trench Warfare 1914-1918: The Live and Let System by Tony Ashworth is available from amazon.com as a reasonably priced paperback from Pan Books. ■

Internet Download vs. Snail Mail: Should *OTW* be a 21st Century Newsletter?

Several members have informally questioned the GWA's practice of posting *On The Wire* on its Web site as an Acrobat PDF download, and then mailing a paper copy to every current (and not so current) member. To many who regularly download and print the newsletter, it seems a waste to get the same newsletter by mail a week (or more) later at the expense of GWA funds (i.e. our dues money).

Each issue of *OTW* costs about \$0.60 to print and \$0.37 for postage. Our mailing list is over 500 names, and we put out 2 or 3 newsletters a year—so the annual expenses are not chicken feed. Savings in this area could be spent on trenches or something more tangible and permanent.

A few years ago the GWA experimented with sending out *OTW* as an attachment to every member we had an e-mail address for. This did not work well; some people had Hot-mail type accounts that did not allow attachments, some could not get the attachments past firewalls at work, and others were not allowed by their ISPs to get attachments over 500K. Plus, many of the addresses were out of date.

However, almost all personal computers now ship with some form of Internet browser and Adobe Acrobat reader installed. The percentage of GWA members that have Internet access at home, school, or work has to be very high. I

suspect that 90% of our membership could get *On The Wire* off the Web site and forgo the mailed copy, which could result in the GWA (i.e. us) saving \$900 to \$1,400 a year.

Furthermore, if we cut the paper copies of *OTW* down to 50 or so per issue, those that need a mailed newsletter would get them quicker, as it would take less than a day to print, fold, stamp, seal, address, and mail each issue (instead of three to seven days like it does now)

But the question is not can we do things this way, but should we? Some members may just not want to be bothered with downloading and printing. Others may feel that they are entitled to a printed newsletter in return for their dues money.

What I propose is that we:

1. Include an entry in our membership database that denotes that a mailed newsletter is not required. That way when we print labels, those names will be filtered out. We would still mail out printed copies of *OTW* as we always have.
2. To notify the "non-mail" members that a new issue of *OTW* is posted on the Web site, e-mail notices would be sent to unit commanders and posted on GWA and unit e-lists to spread the word that it is available. (This is being done to some extent already.)

To develop some data, I've included an extra box/question at the top of the registration form which asks if you would prefer to get *On The Wire* off the Web site instead of getting it in the mail. (Please don't get the idea that we intend to stop printing *OTW* and expect everyone to have a computer and Internet access.) This is an opinion poll and a call for volunteers, not a vote. The information gathered will not change anything by itself; it will only suggest to the membership and future GWA leaders the advisability of adopting the above proposal.

—Mark Graef, Editor

Fall Event Schedule

October 31–November 2, 2003

Friday, October 31

1PM–9PM Tent open for registration

5:30PM German Commander's meeting at the 8.Kürassier lager

6:30PM Safety meeting on road between trenches

6:45PM Combat begins

10PM Stand down from combat

Saturday, November 1

8:30AM German units form on road behind trenches near "Death Valley"

9AM Safety Meeting

10AM Combat begins

10PM Stand down from combat

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

Print first letter of your last name in this box

☐ Check this box if you are a unit commander

☐ Check here if you prefer to download *On The Wire* and registration forms from the Web site (www.great-war-assoc.org) instead of receiving them in the mail

***GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Fall Combat Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, October 31– November 2, 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 dues if not already paid **\$25.00**
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

B. Fall 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 October 27, 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

Phone: (908) 626-1345 E-mail: lavarennnes@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
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

1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment
5SB 5. Sturm Battalion (Rohr)
8KUR 3. Feldesk., Kürassier Regt. Nr 8
12MWK 12. Minenwerfer Komp. 12 Division
20MG 20. MG Scharfschutzen Komp.
23JR J.R. 23 (2. Oberschlesisches)
63JR J.R. 63 (4. Oberschlesisches)
73FR F.R. 73 (*probationary*)
90FR F.R. 90 (*probationary*)
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.)

Non-Military

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

Great War Association
584 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933

