

# ON THE WIRE



1914 THE NEWSLETTER OF SPRING 1994 THE GREAT WAR ASSN. 1918

## President's Address to the Membership

Fellow members of the GWA, we are back!! Back, that is, in the trenches where we belong. It has been a very long and difficult time for the GWA, but thanks to the work of many of you we will fight this spring in or natural element...MUD! On March 21st, the Army has notified us they will be starting on the trenches we have been designing. The trenches will not be fantastic, but at least will be one good line each side by the Spring Event. It has been a struggle trying to get trenches dug. The main problem has been in getting visiting Army engineering units to do the digging. These units normally do not start coming into Ft. Pickett until late Spring. After a lot of negotiation by the G7 (GWA Administration) the Army has agreed to getting these starter trenches dug for this event.

The Spring National will be held at the Ft. Pickett Regional Site on April 15 - 17. I am told that besides trenches, we will have period aircraft coming. We want a great turnout, so please notify those

who have not been coming that they are needed. At this time I would like to publicly thank the following members for their extra efforts on behalf of the GWA to get us in trenches again: Tim Goodwin, Mike Moss, Pete Tuttle, Brian Baird, Mike Gonzalez, Steve Fisher, Phil Schreier, Rick Keller and Ken Boice. These men are by no means the only givers of extra effort, but they have really pitched in during this difficult transition time.

Many others are also pitching in. I have been receiving letters and phone calls from many, volunteering their time and efforts to do various tasks within our excellent organization. Please continue. It is NOT the task of those whom you elected to do all the work. We are merely there to facilitate the smooth running of the GWA. I am again publishing the goals of this administration. You are the muscle which enables us all to meet these goals and make a better organization.

Many great things have been happening, including: the

start of a great set of trenches at the Ft. Pickett Regional Site; regional events happening in Indiana, Minnesota and Wisconsin; and an MP section forming to assist in more safety and security for each of us; and progress on getting insurance through the NRA.

WWI is growing at an incredible rate. For those of you who don't know what has been happening with this organization and throughout the U.S., the growth of WWI as a reenactment hobby has been spreading from one end of the country to the other. In the central and eastern U.S., the GWA has grown from a handful of members to over 600 men and women, while in the west the GWHS (Great War Historical Society), which is now over a year old, has well over 100 members. We in the GWA have moved away from having just two events each year to having multiple regional events and two national events. These regional events are occurring in the midwest, east and south. The national events are being held right now at Ft.



(Cont. from Pg 1) Pickett in Virginia until the funds are raised to purchase and develop land in West Virginia or Western Pennsylvania. To do this, we are looking at options ranging from hiring a national fundraiser to getting land plus money donations. We will need everyone's help here. One note in all of the change: We will not allow the strict authenticity standards and reasons why we all relish this historical period to be lost. In this we certainly welcome all suggestions on how to improve the job we do. And if you feel "in the dark" on communication, contact your unit commander first and then if needed, any of the elected officers.

I have heard from a number of you concerning the \$300.00 permitted for Ft. Pickett development mentioned in the last letter. I don't think I was very clear on how I see this working. The membership plainly said that it did not want to see a large gift to any regional site. It is a fact though that to put on an event takes some money up front. The way I see it, the GWA should help any GWA sanctioned regional event with "up front" money with the understanding that part of the collected fees from that event goes to paying the GWA back. This idea will, of course be discussed by the Unit Commanders at our meeting at Ft. Pickett in April.

One final area that I would like to deal with is the "On The Wire!" publication. Tim Everhart, who has been the editor of "OTW!" has graciously accepted to being the editor for another term. Joining him on

the staff is Sue Hayes, soon to be married to our own Lt. Fischer (the current Central Powers Rep). It is one of the goals of the current administration to upgrade the "OTW!" to make it more useful to each member. We will be adding columns from each of the representatives and adding a "GWA Guide to Better Reenacting" section. In this section we will be featuring articles from the membership on various parts of our hobby, with the goal of helping all of us improve our impression as a soldier and combatant. If you would like to contribute, I know it would be well received. Also, we are still looking for members who we can call on to fold, staple (hopefully not mutilate) and mail the "OTW!". Please jump in if you have not volunteered yet.

**"LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON APRIL 15 - 17 at Ft Pickett..."**

E. Deksheimer  
President GWA

*Deksheimer*

### Editor's Corner

The opening of the Spring Offensive is upon us once again, and the good news is that we are once



again to be back in the trenches. This is perhaps the best news that I have had the pleasure to report to you in many months.

The trenches that are being prepared at Ft. Pickett will not, at first, be as good as our old familiars at Shimpstown, but for those of you who have been with the

hobby long enough to remember the first Emmitsburg event, these trenches should be about the same. I think this is very fitting and highly symbolic. That first Emmitsburg show was a beginning, an exploratory step to see if such a thing as WWI reenacting could become a reality. As we all know, it not only became reality, but blossomed into something that exceeded the dreams of those of us who first donned stahlhelm or doughboy uniform in an attempt to recreate our grandfather's war.

And now our new trenches at Ft. Pickett are to be a new beginning. The GWA has weathered a storm of adversity and hardship. The loss of the Shimpstown site could have sounded the death knell for the hobby, but you, the membership, were loyal to the cause and hung in there. Now we can see the payoff for that loyalty.

A new start won't be easy, but it IS a new start. Let's all pitch in to do the very best we can to make the GWA and WWI reenacting succeed. All of you newer members have joined the ranks of those original Emmitsburg pioneering individuals and together we are about to step off on a new beginning.

As always, please contribute your articles, reports, anecdotes, research, stories, drawings and whatever to keep *On The Wire!* the very best publication we can bring to you.

**SEE YOU IN THE TRENCHES!**

*Tim*



Kameraden,  
As the Central powers  
Representative I am

co-chairman of the Site committee, Scenario committee, and along with Mike Gonzales the German Combat commander appoint the Central Powers Authenticity Inspector, Trench Master, and Military Police Commander. Thus far, Bill Combs has been appointed as the Central Powers Authenticity inspector. Anyone wishing to serve as the Central Powers police commander should contact myself or Mike Gonzales.

The Site Committee is almost ready to release its trench guides. The German trench guide will be sent out to the Unit commanders in a week or two. The guide describes general trench construction techniques and includes plans for Minenwerfer and Machine-gun positions. It also contains an outline of the defensive techniques used by the German Army. The Allied Representative and myself are also finalizing the GWA construction rules which, unlike the guide, are binding on all construction at GWA sites. This document will be sent out to all unit commanders for ratification.

The Site committee has approved our initial trench plans for the Ft. Picket site. It should be understood that construction here will take time, and that construction for the Spring event will be limited. The GWA's administrative committee, chaired by the President, will handle all negotiations with Picket.

The scenario committee

is continuing to developing interesting tactical situations. We need your input. Anyone wishing to join this committee should contact their representative. Anyone wishing to submit ideas should also feel free to do so.

I would like to welcome the newest additions to the German forces: Infanterie Regiment "Von Winterfeldt" Nr. 23, commanded by Unteroffizer Erich Zent and Lanwehr Infanterie Regiment Nr. 25 commanded by Unteroffizer Kasimir Heska.

In closing I would like to add that I am your representative and I encourage members comments and concerns. It is my goal to insure that the Central Powers forces work together smoothly and all voices are heard.

Steve Fisher

Central Powers Representative



### ALLIED REPRESENTATIVE DISPATCH

Greetings! This dispatch is in two parts: 1) general information of interest to allied reenactors, and 2) an inflammatory anti-Hun propaganda article which will serve to get our blood pumping in preparation for the spring offensive. This article is written in the style of those which were printed by the score during the Great War and is meant only to provide an aura of authenticity in advance of the April event. It is written with an American flavor. All individuals, Allied or Central Powers were affected by this sort of propaganda. Truth was indeed a scarce commodity.

#### **General Information**

1. Thanks for your votes.

Frankly, I was surprised to be elected as the Allied Representative. Despite all that, I will endeavor to represent the Allies the best I can in the time that is available. Daily job pressures, combined with the search for a suitable second career, keep me rather busy. Due to these constraints on my time, I heartily encourage your active involvement in the GWA. All of you have a wealth of knowledge and diversity of skills which the Allied side and the GWA both need. I can only urge you to embrace a spirit of volunteerism!

2. If you need to contact me, the address and phone number is in Dek's earlier open letter to the membership. Your best bet is to write me. I return all correspondence (a bit of the 19th Century man is ingrained in me, I suppose), but may not return phone calls.

3. I have been working on generic Allied trench construction guide for both national and regional sites. This guide is meant as a starting point and provides, what I feel, is a minimum acceptable framework for any Allied group to use in the construction of trenches. I've done basic research, with a great deal of valuable help and feedback from several GWA members, and have put together a "draft" packet. Based on the feedback I have received so far, I have to incorporate some important changes to allow trench systems to be tailored to reflect a French or British flavor. I also need to add some alternatives for a "budget" system. I view the trench guide as a tool that we all can use to



(Cont. from Pg.3) do our best in portraying soldiers of the Great War. The guide is general enough to be expanded in the future when more detailed trench information becomes available or when new sources of information are uncovered. When finished, I will mail copies of the draft to Allied commanders and other interested parties for their use. Since my goal is to produce a quality guide for all Allies to use, I am very interested in any comments or suggestions prior to developing the "final" version,

4. To date, I have officially represented one Allied GWA member and submitted a complaint for GWA officer vote and resolution. I think it is part of my responsibility to do this if the issue or problem is valid or if it represents a systematic fault that effects all Allied GWA members. If you are really wrapped around the axle on a GWA issue, contact me. As a minimum, I will be honest and tell you up-front if I think the issue is bogus or a "nonstarter."

5. Nothing further to report. See you in the trenches.

### Why We Are Fighting This War!

(written from the American perspective)

America is no longer sleeping! America is no longer neutral! We all know the technical reasons that the United States is now at war - the German reinitiation of unrestricted submarine warfare and the resultant sinking of neutral shipping and loss of innocent lives but, here's the real reasons we are in this affair:

- The rape of Belgium and Northern France
- The murder of Edith Cavell
- The sinking of the Lusitania
- The destruction of Louvain, Belgium, Antwerp and countless cities and towns.

The list goes on, but these things only serve to remind us that we are fighting more than the simple type of enemy we faced in the Spanish war or in the Insurrection in the Philippines. We are battling the incarnate evil of Prussian Militarism!



The historical trend of Prussian Militarism and desire for conquest pre-dates chancellor Bismarck. The Prussian nation was, in fact, forged out of military violence and lust for conquest (Schleswig-Holstein - Danish War of 1862, Austrian War of 1866, and the Franco-Prussian War of 1871). This nation has experienced an explosive growth in its military forces and they

have flexed these steel muscles around the world, as well as continuing to conduct typical sinister back-stairs diplomacy (Remember the succession for the Spanish Throne affair, Tangier incident and the Balkan Wars?).

The Kaiser and his league want to be world powers and their philosophies of "Weltpolitik" and "Lebensraum" together place a dark and dastardly political purpose behind their actions. Germany wants more of everything - land, power, economic reaches and influence. Their immediate target is Europe, and we are next. Remember the Zimmerman note?

This German "Kultur" is misguided. The German people, who at one time were basically good, honest folk, have been led by their crafty spiked-headed leaders to believe that they deserve a "place in the sun" just because they are German. They honestly believe that they are surrounded by enemies and that the democratic nations are really the aggressors - all at the same time as starving half of Europe and committing depredations.

Americans! Not only are we in this war to fight to protect and preserve the rights and liberties of our friends in Europe, we are fighting for our own American way of life. The Prussians are like mad dogs. What would any true American do if a mad dog entered the street where they lived? You know what to do!!!

While you are at it, pick up a copy of Irvin S. Cobb's book Speaking of Prussians at your Camp Library. Read it!

# GAS ATTACK

By Steve Fisher

One of the most novel weapons employed during the Great War was undoubtedly poison gas. This was the first and last time this weapon was used in a major European war. The image of the bug-eyed soldier in his gas mask will forever be linked to the Great War. The following is a brief history of the use of gas during the war.

The first country to use poison gas was Germany, although the French had unsuccessfully used gas earlier in the war. England and France had both been considering using gas but lacked an industrial base for its production. Germany on the other hand, was quickly able to develop poison gas because her huge dye industry could be converted for that purpose. One of the reasons the pre-war German Army was so colorful was because of this huge dye industry.

During April of 1915, the Germans launched the first successful gas attack near Ypres. The Germans facing the French 45th Algerian Division and the 87th Territorial Division released a cloud of chlorine gas from 6,000 cylinders placed in the German front line. The enormous yellow-green cloud surprised the Franco-Algerians as it slowly drifted across no-mans-land. They panicked and their line collapsed. The Germans cautiously pursued the fleeing enemy, capturing 2,000 prisoners and 51 guns. Increasing resistance brought the German advance to a halt. Gas was such a new idea that the German high command had failed to prepare for the

opportunity presented them to break through the enemy's trenches. The necessary reserves needed to exploit the breakthrough were too far away to be used.

During the Second Battle of Ypres, the Germans used chlorine on four other occasions. Gas attacks required extensive preparations. The installation of the gas cylinders was a laborious process; the gas troops ("Gaspioniere") had to carry the heavy, bulky cylinders up into the front line and then dig them in under the forward firing step. Complicated pipes and long tubes stretching out into no-mans-land allowed the gas to be released in the direction of the enemy when a gentle breeze blew in the proper direction. This arrangement caused many problems, from accidental bursting of the cylinders to slow leaks in the cylinder which made the frontline troops sick.

The British and French were quick to emulate the German method, although it took them a few months to set up their gas production facilities. The French had previously made unsuccessful attempts to use tear gas in various forms (grenades and mortar bombs). German industry had an advantage over Anglo-French industry because Germany's dye production industry could easily make the necessary chemicals. For the production of chlorine gas, the bleaching powder manufacturers were indispensable.

Chlorine's effects depend upon how much gas is inhaled. Symptoms include

severe inflammation of the lungs, retching, vomiting, and violent spasms which aggravated and strained the heart which was being deprived of oxygen. After sleeping, the victim either began to recover or deteriorated further. The lungs would fill with fluid and the victim drowned (similar symptoms caused death from Spanish Flu). Another noted effect was the corrosive patina-like finish left on unprotected metal. Troops had to carefully oil and polish their weapons after passing through a chlorine cloud.

The British were quick to respond to the German gas threat. They quickly organized the preparation of muslin pads moistened in a chemical solution which, when breathed through, would neutralize chlorine gas. The Germans and French also had similar pads. Later goggles were provided to protect the eyes. These measures were generally effective, if the pad was properly moistened, not soaked, and the gas was not densely concentrated. Because gas is heavier than air, it tended to collect in shellholes and trenches. Troops had to be taught proper gas discipline to remain calm, otherwise they might panic and breathe in the gas. Throughout the war the French suffered more from a lack of gas discipline than did the Germans or British.

The chemically-soaked pads and the goggles were only a temporary measure while better forms of protection were sought. The British tried several variations of a chemical-impregnated hood called the "Hypo Helmet"; a later version



(Cont. from Pg5) was called the "PH helmet" and the final version was called the "PHG helmet". The last type had tight goggles and a small flutter valve to breath out through. These hoods were all characterized as being hot, and when they reacted with gas, a foul smell was produced. The helmets were also difficult to care for and became soaked with mud and rain. The hoods were replaced by the "small box" respirator in May 1916. This consisted of a mask with goggles and a nose clip along with a breather tube connected to a filter box. This system was the best respirator produced by any of the warring powers. American troops adopted this system when they entered the war.

The French produced several types of pad and goggle masks, each version increased the number of pad layers. In 1916 they introduced the M2 which was a pad mask covered with a waterproof flap with built-in goggles. This mask was carried in a oilcloth pouch and later a small tin box worn on the belt. The M2 was used until 1918 when the ARS (Appareil Respiratoire Special) was introduced. The ARS was a copy of the German mask, but unlike the latter, it had a special exhaust valve. Despite its improvements, the ARS was still inferior to the German mask primarily because of faulty manufacturing. The French often issued troops going into the line with new masks, without reclaiming the old ones, thus French units in the trenches could have a variety of mask types.

During 1916, experiments were conducted by the warring powers in an effort to produce effective gas shells. The use of cylinders was costly and relied

too much on the weather conditions and wind direction. After several incidents of troops being gassed by their own gas, officers on both sides demanded a better method. During this period, Phosgene was introduced which had the distinctive odor of rotten eggs. It produced a delayed reaction which acted on the lungs and heart, like chlorine, but without the violent spasms. The effect took longer to develop but was much more lethal, when it did. The victim would react suddenly and death could occur shortly afterward.

During 1917, gas shells were perfected and new gas formulations were developed. The British introduced the Livins projector. This was essentially a crude mortar consisting of a base plate and a tube. It used an electrically ignited black powder charge to fling a thin walled drum filled with gas. Operated in batteries, they could fire only at large targets as accuracy was not considered important. The projectors could easily be carried into the trenches and if not destroyed by shell fire after firing, they could be reloaded and used again. Accuracy was of no importance since the idea was to randomly saturate a large area with gas and kill Germans. The Germans produced a couple of copies of the Livins projector but these were intended to fire accurately at dugouts and guns. The German model was overly complicated and failed to utilize the Livins best assets, simplicity and lightness.

Another gas developed by the Germans in 1917-18 was called Blue Cross (from its shell markings). This was also copied and employed by the Allies. Blue Cross was a particulate gas which was

composed of Arsenical compounds. It was a non-persistent gas and was generally non-lethal. It was used to incapacitate its victims with coughing or sneezing thus allowing more lethal gases to enter the victims gas mask and do their work. Blue Cross was often used in combination with mustard gas.

Mustard gas was introduced during 1917 by the Germans (also called yellow cross gas). This was a persistent gas, that is, it poisoned the ground it fell on, it left iridescent markings on the soil which revealed its presence. Mustard gas was also copied by the French and British but not until late 1918. Mustard gas blistered exposed skin, as well as the lungs, temporary blindness was also common. The blistering effect was a delayed action effect. Because of its persistent effect, trenches and shell holes had to be decontaminated. Trenches were decontaminated with white bleaching powder which then had to be covered with earth for camouflage. Guns had to be washed off and textiles and leather had to be treated or discarded. This process was a monumental task in the front lines.

Initially the German mustard gas shells could be detected by a distinctive "plop!" when they burst. This gave warning and allowed masks to be put on in time. The Germans improved their design which increased the dispersal of the heavy mustard gas and the new shells sounded like any other. During 1917, and particularly during 1918, the psychological effects of gas were stressed. Long periods in masks produced extreme exhaustion and lowered troop morale. The method was to saturate an area, then slowly

(Cont. from Pg6) feed in more gas, forcing the enemy to wear their masks for long periods. This was particularly effective against gunners because the physical activity in loading their guns required a lot of oxygen which had to be sucked in through the mask.

During 1918, the Germans used much more gas than they previously had. The allies retaliated with phosgene and their own mustard gas. Gas was used extensively during the German offensives of 1918. Mustard gas, used against artillery and positions not to be stormed, created impassable belts of poisoned ground. Phosgene and Blue Cross was used against areas where the assault troops would try to storm through. During the German retreats of late summer mustard gas was used widely to slow the Allied advance. The Allies used their own mustard gas, "Yperite", to great effect in the last months of the war.

In summary, the German Army used gas more than all of the other combatant nations combined. They were able to do this because of their huge chemical industry with manufacturers such as Bayer and BASF. This enabled them to more easily develop and exploit chemical weapons than the Allies. The ability to produce gas and its efficient use do not necessarily go hand in hand. The Livins projector was a great innovation by the British which the Germans failed to realize the value of. Also, the Germans concentrated much of their effort on the well prepared British rather than the poorly organized French. Overall the Germans were better able to employ gas than the Allies primarily because they integrated gas with high

explosive shell fire and their new storm tactics. But the German Army's morale was shaken by the failure of their 1918 offensives and the British and Americans were rapidly catching up and indeed, had the war lasted into 1919, would have considerable advantage in gas production and delivery over the collapsing German effort. The Allied use of mustard gas further reduced morale in a German Army which did not have the supplies to replace contaminated clothing, the rubber for decontamination suits, and chemicals to properly decontaminate effected areas and weapons. The psychological value of Allied mustard gas were much greater than its actual effects.

Hopefully this article has given the reenactor some appreciation for the types of gas employed, protective measures, and their effects. Gas warfare was a uniquely horrible aspect of World War One which we should all be familiar with. The preceding article contains information taken from The Poisonous Cloud by L.F. Haber. I highly recommend this book for those interested in this subject.

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*On The Wire!* welcomes article submissions from readers. The editor reserves the right to edit manuscripts for clarity, length and content. Manuscripts should be submitted in typewritten form, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides.

Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disks in a DOS based, IBM compatible format. All disks will be returned.

This newsletter also welcomes artwork and illustrations of an appropriate nature. Although all due care will be taken, the editor can not be held responsible for the return of original material.

All material should be sent to:

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*On The Wire!* the official newsletter of the Great War Assn., Inc. is published twice a year- in the Spring and the Fall.

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## GWA SPRING EVENT INFORMATION

1. The GWA spring event will be held at Fort Pickett, Virginia on April 15, 16 & 17. This army installation is located just off US 46, approximately 35 miles southwest of Richmond, Virginia. Signs will be posted at the main gate directing you to the registration area.
2. The GWA has been assigned one of Fort Pickett's ranges for this and subsequent events. The Allied/German representatives have coordinated the planning of the trench systems for their respective sides. The Army Reserve is now scheduled to begin digging during the week of March 21st. For the upcoming event, it is anticipated that both front lines will be dug to a depth of 30" (OSHA requires immediate revetting below 30") and multiple shell craters will be dug in no-man's land. Once completed, this site will be designated an official trench warfare training area by Fort Pickett.
3. Barracks are available for those who wish to use them. The cost for staying in the barracks is \$5.00 per person. There will be no camping on the field for this event (camping will be permitted for future events). The barracks are approximately 2 1/2 miles from the combat site. Parking is available near the range.
4. Registration will take place in the same building as the flea market. The table will be manned from noon to midnight on Friday and 7am to 9am Saturday. The Germans will be assisting with registration for this event (we need volunteers). The Fort Pickett event fee is \$15.00. All members participating at Fort Pickett must be current with their annual dues.
5. Friday will mostly be a work day. Units are encouraged to help string wire and fill/position sand bags. Please bring your shovel, along with any extra barbed wire you may happen to have. The U.S. Army has offered to provide the GWA several thousand burlap sand bags. If anyone knows where the GWA can acquire inexpensive metal pigtaileds, please contact Tim Goodwin at (614) 427-3544.
6. Since our new trench site is considered by the Army as an active firing range, no alcohol is permitted in the field at any time. This will be grounds for expulsion. Alcohol is allowed in the barracks.
7. Pat Callahan has again consented to provide meals (Friday night/Saturday Morning, noon & evening/Sunday. The cost is \$30.00 per person for the entire weekend. If interested, please call either Pat Callahan at 410-479-0911 or Tim Goodwin at 614-427-3544 so we can get a count.
8. If anyone has specific questions concerning this event, please feel free to call any one of the elected officers. A detailed "schedule of events" has been sent to each of the unit commanders.



December 15, 1993

From: Great War Association Treasurer  
To: Great War Association Membership  
Subject: Treasurer's semi-annual financial report

(1) An accounting of income and expenditures from the GWA treasury between 5/16/93 and 12/15/93 follows:

<u>Additions:</u>	Registration fees - Fall 1993 event	\$2,700.00
	Annual Dues collected	\$1,360.00
	Heritage Housing charges (scout camp)	\$984.00
	NRA Membership payments	+ \$75.00
		<u>\$5,119.00</u>

<u>Expenses:</u>	Ft Pickett facilities usage	\$951.65
	Heritage Scout Camp facilities usage	\$375.00
	Heritage Scout Camp Housing charges	\$984.00
	Insurance (fall event)	\$719.50
	Donation - Veterans of WWI Assn.	\$100.00
	Ambulance Service / fall event	\$150.00
	Printing/Postage/Labels - GWA newsletter	\$840.78
	GWA Conference Calls (elected officials)	\$312.30
	Site Committee Travel reimbursement	\$467.26
	NRA membership fees	\$75.00
	Trash Bags	\$11.17
	Site Construction materials	\$37.61
	Misc administration expenses (printing)	\$15.00
	Misc administration expenses (postage)	\$60.53
	Misc administration expenses (clerical)	\$11.50
	Financial loss (bad personal checks)	+ \$135.00
		<u>\$5,246.30</u>

Beginning Balance (5/16/93)	\$15,489.10
Additions	+ \$5,119.00
(subtotal)	<u>\$20,608.10</u>
Expenses	- \$5,246.30
Current Balance (12/15/93)	<u>\$15,361.80</u>

(2) Income Breakdown:

a) Total Registration for the fall event - 180 individuals  
(x \$15.00/ea).

b) Annual Dues paid this reporting period - 68 individuals  
(x \$20.00 /ea).

c) Housing fee for the fall event - 82 individuals (x \$12.00/ea).

d) NRA membership applications - 3 individuals (x \$25.00/ea).

(3) Outstanding debts: None.

(4) Accounts Payable - The GWA received three bad checks during 1993 for a total of \$135.00. Efforts were made to recover these funds, but with no success. This amount was deducted as an "expense" during this reporting period.

(5) A bulk mailing permit has been obtained from the U.S. Postal Service in order to reduce future mailing expenses. The only detractor in using this service is that it will normally take 10-14 days for delivery, plus mail with incorrect addresses will not be returned to sender.

(6) The GWA began charging annual dues (\$20.00) earlier this year. The purpose of this change in policy was to raise money for the acquisition and/or long-term lease of property for a new GWA site. Although Ft Pickett has been selected as a regional site, annual dues will continue to be collected in order to build up the treasury for the purchase of an alternate site. Members must have paid their annual dues in order to participate at GWA sponsored events or receive the "On the Wire" newsletter.

(7) It has been decided that the GWA will affiliate with the NRA in order to take advantage of their low cost group insurance rates. Although the amount of money the GWA spends on insurance annually will not materially change, we will receive more comprehensive insurance, which will also cover our regional site activities.

(8) Thus far, legal and accounting services provided to the GWA have been free of charge. We have several fellow reenactors to thank for this. We still need to plan for these types of expenditures. Legal/accounting fees can be considerable.

(9) Purchasing items/materials for use by the Great War Association doesn't automatically mean that individuals will be reimbursed their expenses. All expenditures must be approved by either the GWA President, Vice President or Treasurer.

(10) The GWA treasurer's ledger will be available for inspection at every GWA sponsored event. (Some expenses have been consolidated in this report for simplicity.) All members are welcome to review our financial records.

(11) Should any GWA member have questions concerning Association finances, please contact Mike Moss (new treasurer) at 215-865-7819.

Respectfully,

Timothy E. Goodwin  
(outgoing treasurer)

cc: GWA President  
GWA Treasurer