

# ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Spring 2005



## President's Message

Dear Members:

Our thanks to Mark Graef for getting this issue out in spite of being hospitalized; the word is that he is recovering nicely. We appreciate his work on *OTW* and I am glad to have him continue.

**Nominations**—At this event we will open up nominations for officers for our organization. I have talked with everyone on the current administrative committee and they are willing to continue to serve another term. I would like you to consider re-electing the current members of this com-

mittee for another term. I think we have a good group and are working to improve our organization. We are moving away from an autocratic form of operation to a more representative one. This has caused some bumps along the way, but in the long run, we feel that this will be better for all.

**Event**—At this event, Tom Fife, a professional pyro technician, will be setting off charges. Bring your cameras and remember to remove your lens caps! The Combat Commanders are planning some interesting scenarios and there should be plenty of action for all. This should be an exciting event!

**Site development**—The site committee has not yet submitted a long-term plan. Part of the problem is misunderstanding as the committee begins to explore options. **NO DECISIONS CONCERNING THE SITE HAVE BEEN MADE.** Please do not listen or react to rumor. Our plan is to continue to work with a site committee and unit commanders to move this site development process forward.

See you at the event!

**Rob Zienta**

GWA President

## GWA Fall Event Schedule

April 15–17, 2005

### Friday, April 15

- 12 noon–6pm** Registration shed open
- 5pm** Modern vehicles must be moved from the battlefield (which includes roads, rear areas, camps, and all GWA property beyond the gate at the registration shed) before 5pm and parked in one of the parking lots.
- 5:30pm** Central Powers Commanders meeting at the 8. Kürassier lager
- 6pm** Safety meeting on road between trenches
- 6:30pm** Units deploy to trenches. Combat begins immediately.
- 11:00pm** Stand down from combat

### Saturday, April 16

- 8am–8:55am** Registration shed open
- 9am** Safety meeting formation for all units
- 10am** Combat begins
- 10pm** Stand down from combat

### Sunday, April 17

- 7am** Gate at registration shed opened. Modern vehicles may access roads to battlefield.
- 7am–8:30am** Battlefield cleanup
- 8:30am** Executive Committee meeting at the 8. Kürassier lager

## Safety's On

While there is space in the current issue of *On the Wire*, I wanted to very briefly discuss safety at events. I'm quite pleased that for the past few events I have had no reports of serious injuries or gross safety violations. While we've all seen some examples of questionable judgment, it hasn't resulted in anyone getting hurt. Hopefully we can continue that string while we work to achieve the utmost in safety.

One of the major safety initiatives we'd hoped to employ is standardization of pyrotechnics. We're still pursuing that goal; it has been slow going so far, as the readily available products still have too much bang for our needs. Custom designs mean going overseas, which really slows down the process. We're still working on it, but don't expect any major changes this year.

So for now our standard pyro regulations still apply. As VP, I get to be the guy who gets "bombed" before the event starts: I run the pyro checks. Most of the pyro I see is OK, though every event I have to reject a few unfortunate members handiwork.

I really feel bad telling a guy who may have made a large number of devices that he can't use them, as they are too hot. So I would urge everyone: Don't make them too hot. Our regulations allow up to 30 grains of black powder. Uncompressed, that might be OK, but if you really confine



your charge, you'll get the kind of boom that draws the hoots and hollers you hear at the safety meeting. Avoid this.

You're not going to impress anyone with a big bang; quite the opposite. All you need is enough of a poof to get someone's attention and a bit of smoke to mark your aim. 15 grains (often less) confined in foil will do this easily. Made that way, you get to save money on powder, and I don't have to send you home with a box full of baking soda chew toys for the kids or dog to play with.

Unit commanders, if you would, please provide me with the current safety POCs for your respective units. Email me at [JK816@comcast.net](mailto:JK816@comcast.net)

See you in the trenches,

**Jim Kidd**

GWA Vice-President

## Notes from the Treasurer

I want to thank the membership for bearing with me for my first year as treasurer while I stumbled through learning the job. I also want to let everyone know that I am here to serve the membership, so feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

There has been an issue that I have been asked about repeatedly that I wish to answer to. A few times a year we rent our property out to other reenactment groups. This is a necessary evil for us, we really do need the income. Apparently, there has been some damage to the site, complaints have been logged about trash, adjustments to positions, and in the past physical damage to property. If you incur damages, you are entitled to reimbursement. You will need to report this to your trenchmaster and you need to give me some kind of invoice or report which estimates the costs to you to repair/replace any damages, photos would help in this area also. We will review the information you provide and work with you to come to terms. We will bill the reenactment group for the damages, but we need the proper documentation. As for the other complaints such as moving sandbags, positions, trash, etc. that only require labor to repair, we try to limit this sort of "damage," but we cannot eliminate it completely. If you ask, there are many members of the GWA that would gladly assist you in repairs. Just remember, for this inconvenience, the GWA takes in revenue we need.

For the last two years, the GWA has run on a deficit — we have spent more money than we have taken in. It is a small deficit and isn't threatening our bank account with complete depletion, but a deficit still is not the desired condition in which we want to operate. I can tell you without exaggeration, that we have money in the treasury ONLY because of the revenue taken in by site rental. We would have run out of money entirely if not for that revenue. Attendance was down at both events last year, which is our primary source for funds, and we made up the difference with site rentals. We realize this may be detrimental to attendance and inconvenience the membership, but we need an alternate source of income — we do not want to raise membership dues. Therefore, site rental is vital to holding membership fees down, and the inconvenience it may cause is something we have to ask you to endure.

I also want to take this moment to thank everyone who has made donations to the site fund. I cannot list everyone by name here, but donations have ranged from \$1 to \$100, and every penny helps and we greatly appreciate the gesture.

**Randall Chapman**

GWA Treasurer

## GWA Summer "Open House"

**June 17-19, 2005**

For years the GWA membership has asked for a summer event and now that we have it no one seems to attend. We would like to change this by having a GWA "Time-Line" event. We are looking for individuals to bring out their unique WW1 impressions. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Also we would like the membership to bring out their collectibles and display them to the membership and the locals that may come by. Please contact Max Stiebritz ([ir63geftr@aol.com](mailto:ir63geftr@aol.com)) and let him know of your impression.

*(The registration form for this event is on page 3)* ■

## Unofficial GWA Work Party

**July 29-30, 2005**

Every year the GWA tries to have a work party at the Newville site but the word rarely gets out in time. So this year the Anzacs and IR459 got the ball started early. We came up with a date that both units could come to the site and work on our respective positions. We now have several units that have verbally committed into participating in our "unofficial GWA work party."

We are looking for any unit or individuals interested in coming to the site and working on their position. We would like to have enough bodies to defoliate the site.

The units that have verbally committed are the 5th Battalion Anzacs, 151ème, IR459, FR90, and the Buffs. ■

### COMING EVENTS

*at the Caesar Krauss Great War  
Memorial Site near Newville, PA*

**April 15-17, 2005**

**GWA Spring Tactical and Living History event**

**June 17-19, 2005**

**GWA Summer Open House —  
Great War Time-Line Living History weekend**

**July 29-30, 2005**

**"Unofficial" GWA Work Party**

**November 4-6, 2005**

**GWA Fall Tactical and Living History event**

☐ 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 want to stop receiving a paper copy of *On the Wire* via regular mail and instead download the newsletter and registration forms from the Web site ([www.great-war-assoc.org](http://www.great-war-assoc.org))

# Registration Form for the Summer Event

at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA

## June 17-19, 2005

### 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 page of this newsletter. If you do not belong to one of these units, you are an independent.

### Part III — Dues and Event Fees

A. 2005 dues if already not paid  
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

**\$25.00**

B. Summer 2005 Event fee

**\$15.00**

C. Optional site development donation

\$

D. Pre-registration total (A+B+C as applicable)

\$

*Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register. If you pre-register but are unable to attend, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks. All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before **June 13, 2005**. If your pre-registration is not received by this date, you must pay at the event. Your original mail pre-registration will be returned unopened.*

Make checks out to "Great War Association"

Send form and check to: **Randall Chapman, GWA Treasurer**  
**7925 Jahnke Road**  
**Richmond, VA 23235**

(804) 323-7159 [randall@cavtel.net](mailto:randall@cavtel.net)

### **Register Online with PayPal**

You can now register and pay online by using PayPal ([www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com)). Dues and the event fee are \$26 each (\$52 if paying both) to cover the costs of this service. Payments should be sent to the GWA Treasurer at **randall@cavtel.net**. Please include all information normally entered in Part I & II of this form in the notes box of the PayPal form. Registration payments without this information included will not be accepted.



## Register online through PayPal

The GWA is now offering the option of registering and paying dues and event fees using PayPal, the online payment service. Some of you may find this method more convenient than the usual paper-form-and-check through the mail. However, the fees PayPal charges must be included with any payment: add \$1 to each amount—dues would be \$26 and event fees would be \$26.

Online payments should be sent to **randall@cavtel.net**. Please answer the questions found on the top of the registration form and include all information normally entered in Part I & II in the "Notes" box of the PayPal form. Below is a sample of a registration in text form:

Address change: NO      First event: NO  
 Unit commander: NO      I download newsletter  
 Schmidt, Hans  
 12345 Main Street  
 Newville, PA 17241      USA  
 (717) 555-1212      h.schmidt@aol.com  
 Unit Commander: Peter Geyer  
 Emergency Contact: Mary Schmidt (717) 555-1212  
 I certify that I am older than 18 years of age  
 Unit: 63JR  
 Dues: \$26      Event fee: \$26

(If you don't already have a PayPal account, you can set one up at [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com))  
 — Mark Graef, Editor

## GWA Executive Committee

### 2004–2005 term

#### President

##### Rob Zienta

4601 Embassy Circle #203  
 Owings Mills, MD 21117  
 (443) 394-7605  
 rzienta@comcast.net

#### Vice President

##### Jim Kidd

1110 Putnam Blvd.  
 Wallingford, PA 19086  
 (610) 874-3757  
 jk816@comcast.net

#### Secretary

##### Tim Kuntz

teekay44@msn.com

#### Treasurer

##### Randall Chapman

7925 Jahnke Rd  
 Richmond, VA 23235  
 (804) 323-9074  
 randall@cavtel.net

#### Allied Combat Commander

##### Mike LoCicero

thirdypres@netzero.com

#### Allied Representative

##### David Hughes

4502 Arendale Sq.  
 Alexandria, Va 22309  
 (703) 799-1141  
 irishguards@verizon.net

#### Central Powers Combat Commander

##### Lou Brown

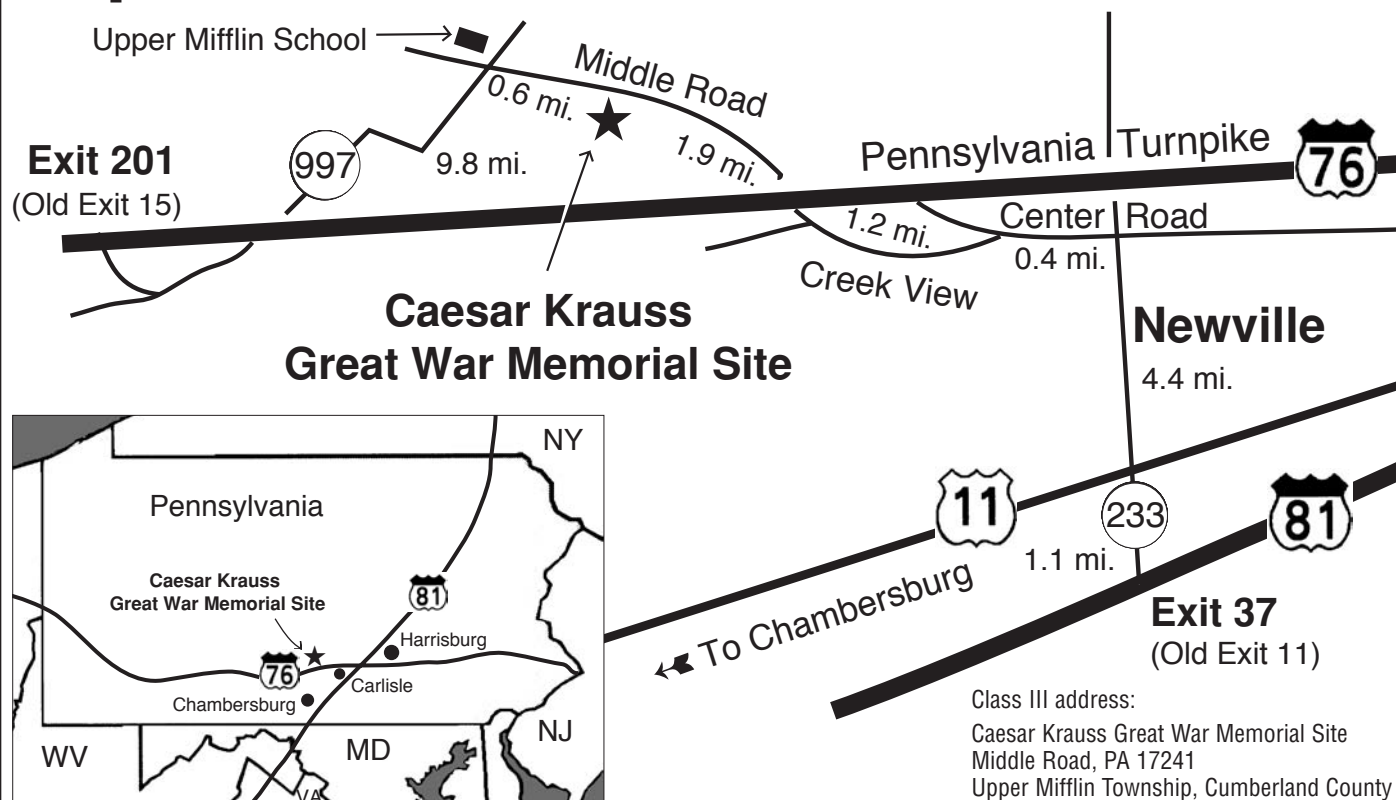
Stiefeln@aol.com

#### Central Powers Representative

##### Merlin Hanson

3701 Roland Ave.  
 Baltimore Md. 21211  
 (410) 467-8503  
 merlin42@erols.com

## Map to Event Site







# A Model Trench Raid

The report below was submitted by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. J. Kulaga following a model trench raid that was planned and executed by the BEF Company at the GWA Fall 2004 event:

SECRET

Report on a Raid by the BEF Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> C. Battalion that occurred on the night of November 6, 1917 in the Neuville – Pronville sub-sector.

Report by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. J. Kulaga (2<sup>nd</sup> Seaforths) OC Raid  
See O.O.1531D

The order to raid the enemy position vin. DUCK'S BILL map ref. I. 18. C. 1. 2. 4., was received at 10:23am on 5 November. The intention was to obtain identification of enemy units opposite the BEF Company sector by securing prisoners, documents, and equipment. The raid was to originally take place that evening. The date was later changed to the night of the 6<sup>th</sup> due to more time being required for preparation.

The OC Raid consulted with Sgt. T. Shackelton, and arranged for the selection and assembly of the raiding force consisting of himself, Sgt. Shackelton, and 20 OR's. In addition to this, arrangements were made for patrols to reconnoiter no man's land and the enemy wire and trenches opposite. Next, the OC Raid reported to battalion HQ, where Capt. M. S. Lowe and Lt. S. Rall, further briefed him on details concerning the proposed operation.

Composition of the raiding force was as follows:

## Party A

OC Raid – 2 Lt. J. Kulaga  
Sgt. C. Williams PPCLI  
L. Cpl. Simmons PPCLI  
Pte. Twist PPCLI  
Pte. Lubka PPCLI  
Pte. Felmlee PPCLI  
Spr. J. Ivers RE Signal Sec.  
Spr. Cole RE Signal Sec.  
Cpl. Paul 107 Inf. 27 Div. (AEF)  
Pte. Arron 107 Inf.  
Pte. Eric 107 Inf.  
Pte. Moccio 107 Inf.  
Pte. Bugala 107 Inf.

## Party B

Sgt. T. Shackelton 2 RDF  
L. Cpl Horton Irish Guards  
Pte. Higgenbottom Irish Guards  
Pte. Poppe Irish Guards  
Sgt. B. Kendall 6 Buffs  
L.Cpl. Mock 6 Buffs  
Pte. A. Sharp 6 Buffs  
Pte. S. Sharp 6 Buffs  
Pte. Hopeman 6 Buffs

- 4) Arrangements were made for a covering force to accompany the raiding parties as far as no man's land. The covering force consisted of 10 OR's of the 5th Australian Battalion under the supervision of L. Cpl. K. McCabe.
- 5) The raiding force was assembled for briefing and training at 11:30am on 6 November. Assembly took place at I. 11. a. 3. 4. (TROYE SAUVAGE FARM), where Information was disseminated to all participants, and two practice assaults were conducted to the satisfaction of the OC Raid.
- 6) The raiding force was reassembled at 7:30pm vin. map ref. I. 11. a. 7. 8. (GUNGA DEN DUGOUT) for pre-raid inspection, preparation, and rum ration. All raid participants had their faces blackened, with all equipment reduced to steel helmet, revolver, or rifle & bandoleer, two bombs per man, knobkerries, and knives. In addition to this, picks, shovels, and sandbags were issued to men designated to construct bomb blocks.
- 7) The raiding force was divided into two parties designated A & B, deployed vin. map ref. I. 15. b. c. 1. 2. & I. 15. d. 12. 13. (CALABASH & CALEDONIA TRENCH). The raiders entered no man's land at 8:30pm: Party A on the right. Party B on the left. The covering force immediately followed them and took up positions in the shell holes opposite the objective.
- 8) The raiders silently traversed no man's land through the lanes in our own and the enemy's wire. These lanes had been prepared by patrols the previous evening. On a pre-arranged signal, both parties entered the enemy line on the right and left of the DUCK'S BILL. An Enemy MG located at map ref. I. 18. central, ceased firing as Party A entered the enemy front-line. At the time, it was undetermined why this occurred. Later, it was determined that rifle fire from the covering party had disabled the water-jacket of the gun.
- 9) On the right, Party A entered the enemy front-line to the right of the DUCK'S BILL, and initially encountered heavy resistance, which was quickly eliminated. The OC Raid was forced to dispatch several of the enemy who were too severely wounded to be removed to our line. Trench blocks were established in the enemy front-line on the right and left flank, while the remainder of Party A proceeded down ALE ALLEY to link up with Party B, and establish a bomb block as far as the CERIZY-PRONVILLE ROAD located in the rear of the enemy first line. While proceeding thither, they encountered an enemy trench mortar at I. 18. a. 6. 6., which was attacked and overwhelmed in a spirited hand-to-hand action.
- 10) On the left, Party B, under the able leadership of Sgt. Shackelton, entered the enemy front-line to the left of the DUCK'S BILL. After encountering sporadic resistance, they quickly established a bomb block at the end of



DUCK TRENCH. While securing the objective, Party B captured a German officer who was turned over to the covering party for escort to our line.

11) Upon pre-arranged signal by ACME siren, both parties withdrew to our front-line. The covering party followed immediately afterwards. All elements of the raiding force had returned to our line by 9:15pm, where a de-briefing was conducted with each raid participant. Following this, hot tea and warm water for washing was provided at battalion HQ.

#### 12) Results:

- a) Prisoners secured: (1) Oberleutnant of IR111, and (2) OR's of IR111 & IR459
- b) MG: (1) MG destroyed by rifle fire
- c) Trench Mortar: (1) 7.6 Trench Mortar destroyed by raiding party.
- d) Estimated enemy killed: (1) Hauptmann of IR459, (9) OR's
- e) Estimated enemy wounded: (6) OR's
- f) Our casualties Killed: nil, (2) OR's slightly wounded

Material consisting of (1) 9mm automatic, steel helmets, caps, bayonets, ammunition belts, gas masks, and soldier's books were brought back to our line. In addition to this, the captured officer had on his person a great deal of useful documents, which were forwarded to brigade HQ.

During interrogation, the captured Oberleutnant stated that the raid was a "complete surprise" to the right section of

*Gruppe Plack*. He also stated that the raid had pre-empted an enemy raid, which was launched later that evening in the same sector.

#### 13) Summary:

- a) The selection of members of the raiding force was to be based on experience. This was communicated to all unit commanders. Despite this, compliance with this requirement was half-hearted, with some units providing raw recruits with little or no experience, while other units provided their picked men.
- b) Training prior to the raid was beneficial and well received by those selected to participate. There is, however, no adequate training area to be found in this sector.
- c) The ground traversed was firm with plenty of cover and concealment within existing shell holes. The ground on the far left was bare, with little discernable cover.
- d) The success of the raid was due to the skill, energy, and vigorous enthusiasm displayed by all ranks; to the good arrangements made by battalion HQ, and the fine spirit of all concerned.

14) The following men are recommended for a commendation for the work done during the raid chronicled above:

136789 Sgt. T. Shackelton 2 RDF  
 44678 Sgt. C. Williams PPCLI  
 224563 L. Cpl. D. Horton Irish Guards  
 8719 Spr. J. Ivers RE Signal Sec.

☐ 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 want to stop receiving a paper copy of *On the Wire* via regular mail and instead download the newsletter and registration forms from the Web site ([www.great-war-assoc.org](http://www.great-war-assoc.org))

**GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Spring Combat Event at the  
Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, April 15–17, 2005  
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. 2005 dues**

(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

**\$25.00**

**B. Spring 2005 Event fee if pre-registered**

**\$25.00**

**C. Optional site development donation**

\$

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

\$

**E. Gate registration fee**

**\$15.00**

**F. Gate registration total (D+E)**

\$

*Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register to save the gate fee. If you pre-register but are unable to attend, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks. All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before **April 13, 2005**. If your pre-registration is not received by this date, you must pay at the event — including the \$15 gate fee. Your original mail pre-registration will be returned unopened.*

*Make checks out to “Great War Association”*

*Send form and check to:* **Randall Chapman, GWA Treasurer  
7925 Jahnke Road  
Richmond, VA 23235**

(804) 323-7159 [randall@cavtel.net](mailto:randall@cavtel.net)

**Register Online with PayPal**

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

## American

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

## British

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

## Commonwealth

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

## Russian

RL Legion Russe

## French

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

## Austrian

63KUK 63rd KuK

## German

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 Scharfschützen 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)  
459JR J.R. 459 (Rhein. Westf.)

## Non-Military

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

Great War Association  
7925 Jahnke Road  
Richmond, VA 23235

