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On the Wire

Official Newsletter of the Great War Association

Spring 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Great War Association,

I hope you are excited as I am for the spring 2024 event.

First off, I would like to thank the GWA Secretary for revamping our website as well as modernizing the registration process. The website has modernized and we now own both the .com and .org domain names for our organization. We also saved money, time, and effort with the new registration process. We can now better track event attendance and unit participation at a lower cost to the GWA.

Porta-johns: In other important news, we now own all the porta-johns on the site. We bought them from the old rental company when he closed his business. We have secured a new service provider with a lower cleaning fee. Porta-john rental is a major event cost and by owning them, we incur lower service costs. We will recoup the initial purchase price over the next few events. After that, the cost will only be the service fee, which is much lower than our old provider's rental and service fee.

Event Parking: Parking on site can be a challenge as our numbers have grown. For the spring event, we will be posting more signage, and tightening up vendor sales to one consolidated area. Please do not park along the road and do not park around our neighbor's commercial building. In addition, we need to park closer to each other as we can fit a lot more cars in the lot if we park in a uniform way.

Site Committee: The site committee has reorganized and will be presenting ideas for site improvements over the next few months. They will be presenting the G8 with proposals on when, where,



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As we prepare for the Spring event next week, please remember:

Enter the GWA property via the green gate at 520 S. Middle Road ONLY.

Park with common sense and courtesy; please don't take up more than one space.

If you haven't provided vehicle information yet, snap a picture of your license plate so you can provide the number at check-in.

Bring your QR code (on your phone or printed) to the registration shack to be scanned for one-step check-in. (We can look you up by name if you don't have your QR code, or if you choose not to use that method.)



Parking was a bit haphazard in November.

(photo courtesy of GWAA)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(cont'd from page 1)

and what improvements need to be put in place over the next 1, 3 and 5 years. If you have suggestions and solutions for improving the site, please use your chain of command, or speak to your GWA Allied/Central Powers representative.

Safety: There has been a fair amount of new construction on the site over the past few months. There are new trenches, new structures, and stronger emplacements. As always, be mindful of where you are and take time to familiarize yourself with the site.

Finally, over the past few years we have had several surprise by-law amendments that appear at the registration shack for the initial 50-person signature. There have been some unintended consequences from some of these proposals. I always appreciate the GWA membership's input, and having full information along with the proposed by-law will allow us to look at the legal, financial and safety ramifications, and ensure it is an actionable amendment prior to the initial signature collection phase. In so doing, we can all ensure that proposed amendments are clear, concise, and do not have adverse consequence to our organization, well before they are presented to the membership for a vote.

In closing, it is my distinct pleasure to represent your GWA. It is my honor to be leading a great G8. This term's G8 has hit the deck plates running in 2024. I would like to thank them for all their hard work. They handled several emerging issues with great skill to find solutions that make the GWA a stronger and more cohesive organization.

Very Respectfully

Sgt. Jim Boswell

27th ID, 107th Infantry Regiment Recreated

GWA President

EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday

3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.: Registration

7:00 p.m. - GWA Social - at the Chateau on the French line / showing of "Paths of Glory"

Friday

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Pyro Inspection, near registration shack (late arrivals report to your side's safety officer for inspection)

12:00 p.m.: Registration Opens

1:00 p.m.: Living History activities begin

2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Mandatory New Recruit Safety Training, at the Fusilier Crater in No Man's Land

4:45 p.m.: Registration closes

5:00 p.m. Gate closes

5:00 p.m.: Mandatory for All Participants GWA Safety Briefing in Formation - at the Memorial

6:00 p.m.: Unrestricted combat begins

11:00 p.m.: Unrestricted combat ends; restricted combat / living history activities begin

Saturday

7:00 a.m.: Restricted combat / living history

8:00 a.m.: Make-up New Recruit Safety Training, with each side's respective Safety Officer.

8:30 a.m.: Unrestricted combat resumes.

9:00 p.m.: Combat ends

Sunday

Clean up.

8:00 a.m. GWA Town Hall Meeting with the President, Allied & CP Representatives



REP'S REPORT: CP

Guten Tag Kameraden,

Welcome to a new reenacting season and a happy and healthy New Year! Thank you for reelecting me to serve as your Central Powers Representative! I look forward to serving with the new CP Commander to further the hobby and our experience.

Please welcome our new Safety Committee; Karl KJ "Rosey" Rosenkranz and Skyler Zenisek. They served their first event in November and will do much to ensure that we continue to enjoy our events without injury. In April they will also be tasked with ensuring that we meet the safety requirements in our bunkers. Please ensure that your smoke alarms, CO2 detectors and fire extinguishers are on hand and operable. I would like to thank them for volunteering!

Also welcome our Authenticity Committee; Skyler Zenisek and Fritz Bar. They've graciously volunteered to lend their expertise to serve as a resource for all units and individuals, as well as ensuring that minimum standards are met. They will be looking at the authenticity standards on the GWA website to update them as needed and possibly producing a recommended vendor list. It's important to note that this is not an attempt to "stitch Nazi" the CP impressions, but to ensure basic uniform, grooming, equipment and weapons standards are adhered to. Unit commanders are ultimately responsible for setting high standards within their units.

This is an exciting time in the GWA. We look forward to exciting new scenarios and more detailed staff planning from the G8. All will help to ensure that our hobby continues to grow in an authentic and relevant way.

Thank you very much,
Eric M. Cleveland
Central Powers Representative

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Fellow Members:



It's been a busy couple of months; your G-8 has been working hard to ensure the Spring event is safe, enjoyable, and as hassle-free as possible. Thank you for your engagement with the new online registration process. From most of the feedback I received, folks found it quick and easy to use and were pleased with the ability to pay via credit/debit card as well as the traditional PayPal or check. Lessons learned for me include adding clearer explanations of the offline payment process with a reminder to fully submit the registration form, as well as clarification on how the 'opt-in' buttons for the Formation Safety Briefing and New Guy Training work. (Quick note of thanks to my son, Kyle Neuendorf, for allowing me to use his soup-sandwich picture as 'the face of new guy training' on the registration form.)

I think you'll be pleased with the upgraded check-in process and experience; everybody will be required to check in individually at the Registration Shack once again, but check-in will consist of just a quick scan of your QR code (or an almost-as-quick name lookup if you don't) assuming your waiver is signed and your information is complete. You'll also have the opportunity to vote on a couple of proposed by-law amendments at that time; more details on those in the pages that follow.

Work is still underway on building out the organization's new website. We've successfully transitioned to a new platform, but we owe a huge thank you to Randall Chapman for maintaining the website for years and serving as the GWA Webmaster - and to James Clary for his initial work on the site and for keeping the greatwarassociation.com domain safe under his wing (and paying for it) for several years. The work these gentlemen did up to this point is making it much easier to rebuild on a newer and more nimble platform. Once the build-out is complete, we'll be able to take advantage of some cool functionality like members-only areas, a blog, etc. Please continue to send over any updates, as well as photos, links, etc. you'd like to include on your unit's individual page; as soon as the figurative dust settles post-event, I'll be working on getting the rest of the 'old stuff' re-created.

Please travel safely as you make your way to South Central Pennsylvania - and have a fantastic event. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Erica Miller, Secretary
GreatWarSecretary@gmail.com

**NEXT ISSUE OF ON THE WIRE:
JULY 15, 2024**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 1

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER



Reenactors of the Central Powers,
Meine Herren und Damen,

In a week we take to the fields, trenches, and bunkers of Neuville and I am very excited to once again lead y'all in simulated combat. A lot of work has gone into our preparations and we will be once again operating under a new Zug system. Each unit is assigned a Zug and a Zugführer and we will follow this organizational structure starting at 4pm Friday

- .1 Zug Leutnant Bauer (Duffy Bauer)
FR 73, FR 90, IR 459
 - .2 Zug Feldwebel-Leutnant Penzig (Bob Penix)
12 MWK, IR 52, IR 63, KuK IR 63, RIR 236
 - .4 Zug Feldwebel-Leutnant Tassel (Skampi)
20 MGSS Abt, IR 23, IR 92
 - .5 Zug Feldwebel-Leutnant (Bob Gräbe)
Bayern Leib Regiment, 5 Garde Regt, IR 129
 - .7 Zug (Stoß) Leutnant Empfänger (Eric Cleveland)
5 Sturm Btl, 14 Pi Btl, IR 124
- General Support Units
8 Kürassier und Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Landwehr-specially formed only for temporary rear area duties

Please pay close attention to the schedule starting Thursday as we have some new and exciting opportunities starting then. The first is a divisional training school replicating the very same schools the German Army held behind the lines not only for new Soldaten, but also for returning Soldaten and units pulled back for specialized training. The Stoßzug will be conducting this training and I will supervise it. As a note, this closely resembles the WWII German Kriegsschule that we have been conducting now for over 3 years to great success. I highly encourage all Landser to attend this valuable training, if possible.

Friday we will have a unit commanders' meeting followed by a Zugführer meeting. We have some very good combat operations planned and all Soldaten will be given the opportunity to participate based upon age and fitness level. We have been working with the Entente Commander and his Headquarters to provide better coordination of events from an overall GWA perspective so that everyone gets good combat and reduce the "winner/loser" games at the highest level (I still need you all work towards beating them down). What this does is better manage our time there and provides us opportunities for down time and action times where you won't miss the great combat times if your unit decides to have a meeting or Essen. Your Zugführere will know these times and you'll know them through them.

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FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

(cont'd from page 4)

I also want to take the opportunity to thank the British cartographers in opening up their mapping skills to help us build a CP map as well as an overall GWA central map that we all work off. Speaking of such, one of my biggest worries is the overall site plan as we expand our trenches and we need to ensure that the CP has sufficient land in the future to expand. We are addressing this with the Site Committee and the G8. I do want to emphasize that the rear roads behind the CP and Entente positions are in play, but to use them you **MUST** go through the trenches to get to them; no “end arounds” to skirt past defenses. I would also ask that traffic along our road be one way from North to South and exit through no man’s land as much as possible, especially during heavy traffic times.

All mortars and indirect fire assets are being husbanded in order to ensure coverage and massing of fires for attacks. Our attacks will have fire plans with designated targets and munitions mixes to help us achieve success. Aaron Sterling of IR459 volunteered to perform this function and has been working with our mortar sections to better organize them.

I spoke with the Swiss contingent and we are working to incorporate them as intermediaries with communications and prisoner exchanges. My biggest concern was overall time spent as a POW and away from units and combat. I’ve been assured that if a reenactor doesn’t want to participate in their processing, then they are quickly sped through their process and returned to us. However, they have some really interesting living history procedures and paperwork to employ if you wish to participate in this process, but the decision will be yours as a prisoner being expatriated. All Entente we capture as prisoners will be processed (at a location to be designated later at the event) and then taken to the Swiss for exchange.

We have some really cool living history events planned this coming event like a Thursday night Rosary, a song to sing marching up Friday evening (see page 6), and another secret item I won’t release until it happens. I’d also like to encourage the learning of Skat and other games Germans and Austrians played to increase our living history experiences with the eventual possibility of a Skat tournament in the out years for a very nice trophy of sorts for the winner. As always, reenacting is what we make it. As you focus on your units, it is my job to grow our collective experiences and build the Central Powers as a cohesive and effective Armee. That being said, I have been approached by two different groups of reenactors wishing to start new units. Together, we can grow our hobby and make it better.

Have safe travels coming up and prepare to have an excellent event. As always, if you have any ideas on making our hobby better, please bring them to me. I don’t have all the answers, but together we can build a better experience for all!

„Wir haben einen Willen; Sieg oder Todt!“

Hauptmann Otto Landrik

Mike Landree

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER (CONT'D)



Drei Lilien

1. Drei Lilien, drei Lilien,
Die pflanzt' ich auf mein Grab,
Da kam ein stolzer Reiter
Und brach sie ab.
|: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
Da kam ein stolzer Reiter
Und brach sie ab.

2. Ach Reitersmann, ach Reitersmann,
Laß doch die Lilien stehn,
Die soll ja mein Feinsliebchen
Noch einmal sehn.
|: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
Die soll ja mein Feinsliebchen
Noch einmal sehn.

3. Was schert mich denn dein Liebchen,
Was schert mich denn dein Grab!
Ich bin ein stolzer Reiter
Und brech' sie ab.
|: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
Ich bin ein stolzer Reiter
Und brech' sie ab.

4. Und sterbe ich noch heute,
So bin ich morgen tot,
Dann begraben mich die Leute
Ums Morgenrot.
|: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
Dann begraben mich die Leute
Ums Morgenrot

Three Lilies

Three lilies, three lilies,
are growing on my grave,
there comes a proud rider,
and picks them up.
/: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
There comes a proud rider
and picks them up.

Oh rider, oh rider,
let the lilies be,
they should my sweetheart
once more see
/: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
They should my sweetheart
once more see

What does your sweetheart matter,
what matters your grave to me,
I am a proud rider,
I am going to pick them up.
/: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
I am a proud rider,
I am going to pick them up.

And I'll die this very day,
and tomorrow I'll be dead,
Then the people will bury me,
in the morning-red.
/: Juvi valle ralle ralle ralle ra
Then the people will bury me,
in the morning-red.

AAR: "THE WINTER LINE" ITALIAN FRONT (1943/44) EVENT

The 109th hosted our annual WWII event February 2-4. It was well attended and well received by the participants both new and old. The weather was great with plenty of sun on Saturday (not very winter like if you ask me lol), and no injuries were reported. Some units held Living History activities Friday night with combat starting at 9AM Saturday.

Tactical commanders Bret Werner (Allied) and Scott Miller (Axis) managed each side very well and utilized the site to provide a dynamic experience for the participants, fighting over areas often not used during GW events to capture or control predetermined points.

Special thanks to Joseph Lombardo and my comrades in the 109th for their help with registration and other logistics and to the individual unit commanders for adding so much to the event. I'd also like to recognize the G8 for quickly sorting out the issue with the Porta-John's (Company was going out of business).

In closing, it was a great time as always seeing so many GWA friends helping to make our gem that is Newville feel like 1943. I would like to encourage all GWA members who have an appropriate impression or are willing to build one to come out next year and enjoy a different side of the site.

Respectfully

Travis Bard, CO. 109th AEF

AAR: EASTERN FRONT TACTICAL, MARCH 8-10, 2024

Another successful eastern front tactical was held at the site March 8-10, 2024. 150 participants were registered, and despite not very favorable weather, 135 checked in. The rain pushed back our original start time from 0900 till 1000. The original endX time was slated for 1700, but due to the rain we called it by 1500. The ambulance company was onsite from 0900 until 1600 and thankfully there were no emergencies and they were able to spend the entire event in the comfort of the ambulance.

This was my third year in a row hosting this event, after it had gone dormant for some time. I hope to continue this event for years to come.

David V Strichko, PPCLI



Then... and Now



UNIT ROUNDUP: ALLIED

Drakes, RND



Join the Navy, they said, cruise the world and visit exotic lands, they said.

Clean sheets and warm bed and the fine food, they said...

UNIT ROUNDUP: CP

Greetings from 2./Sturm-Bataillon.Nr.5(Rohr),

We'd like to share our condolences to the Bavarian Leib Guard for the loss of Bruce Hutchinson. Bruce was one of the original members of the GWA and the Leib Guard and a long-time reenactor spanning a half century. He was a joy to have in "The Ponderosa" and he will be sorely missed.

We have been improving and repairing our lines in the trench as we had new projects to tackle and some unforeseen collapses of very old sections that needed repair. We have finished the construction of a replica Minenwerfer 7.58 that will be mobile and able to support the Central Powers „on the move“ during assaults. This adds an MW section to the unit, and we are growing to what an actual assault section of Rohr's looked like during the war. Only on a few occasions did they fight as a complete Bataillon. Most of the time, they were conducting demonstrations at company and Halbes-Bataillon strength at Beuveille, France. In combat, they would send from 1 man to 20 with supporting fires to be attached as the lead assault effort of a major push, most of the time this occurred at Verdun between 1916 and 1917. To that note, we are still working to improve our Flamethrower Section. We are decommissioning the original Compressed Air Systems and moving forward with all CO2 systems which provide a better report and cloud. The downside is that they weigh 60+lbs a unit.

A few personnel changes within 2d Komp. Jim Michaud, the unit's 1st and only unit commander since 1979, has given the reigns to Vinnie Brennan; who was a whopping 3 years old in 1979, Jim will still be around at events and will continue to handle the major end items and leave all the combat command and day to day roles to Vinnie. Other personnel movements will also occur within the Kompaine as we flesh out new and old rolls and duties.

Braunschweigische Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 92

The boys of IR.92 are excitedly gearing up for another GWA event this April. What have we been up to?

To kick off the year, several members attended the January Winter Immersion event, hosted by the always generous Joe Murray and FR.90. The Mecklenburgers were excellent hosts as always, and showed that their hospitality has now bounds by including some semi-barbaric Bavarians and a lone lost member of the BEF in the festivities. This event is fast becoming a favorite of mine and I encourage other members to check it out. While it may not be a brass burner, this relaxed event fosters great Kameradschaft and an opportunity to do some rear-line activities that we don't normally get to during the Fall and Spring tacticals.

IR.92 is preparing for the coming (redacted) in April by processing new members into the unit, which will surely give us the strength to break through to Paris! In preparation, the regiment has established a *Richtig Gruppe* or Authenticity Committee to help acclimate and guide new members into the unit and offer support to any Alte Hassen looking to upgrade aspects of their impression.

Lastly, our Regimentschor is tuning up (and I use the term "tuning" loosely...) and adding new songs to our set list for April, including *Drie Lilien*. For those who didn't see his Facebook post, Herr Hauptmann has requested that CP Soldaten learn at least the chorus and a couple of verses for the march to the safety meeting on Friday. Keep your ears peeled and be ready to join in the singing!

Bis bald in Paris!
Unterschriben,
Gefr. Reinhold Klein (Rodney Schuyler)

SCENES FROM THE “WINTER OF 1915-16” EVENT

(Fotos bereitgestellt von Klein, Novak & Gebruski aus Braunschweig)

