



Rexpoede, Calais - 1917 (photo by Paul Castelnaud)

On the Wire

Official Newsletter of the Great War Association Winter 2025

IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR UNIT-SPONSORED EVENTS

Insurance Coverage: Due to a change from the GWA's liability insurer, beginning in 2025 the policy will be billed at \$175 per event instead of the flat yearly charge we have historically been billed. Event sponsors will be responsible for paying this \$175, but will not be required to carry their own special event insurance policy.

Site Rental Agreement: Unit-sponsored event organizers will be asked to complete a Site Rental Agreement moving forward, which details requirements and expectations related to the event. Part of this Agreement also entails utilizing the GWA's event registration partner (RegFox) to enable tracking of the GWA's compliance with IRS requirements that less than 15% of income comes from non-member sources. Most event organizers report that RegFox is significantly more cost-effective and flexible than platforms like EventBrite, etc. Contact Erica Miller, GWA Secretary, for more information.



Photo above courtesy of Bradford Ireland



Photo above courtesy of Erica Miller, photo below courtesy of Kyle Mellott



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PHOTO ROUNDUP

Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 92

(Editor's note: The following photos from IR92's work weekend in August were submitted well ahead of deadline for the fall issue. I screwed up and completely forgot to include them - and for that I apologize. -EM)



Photo courtesy of George "Ranger" Walters



Photo courtesy of George "Ranger" Walters

Rotes Kreuz



Photo courtesy of Joseph "Sepp" Palenchar



Photo courtesy of Joseph "Sepp" Palenchar



Photo courtesy of Joseph "Sepp" Palenchar

FROM THE **Mom's** ADMINISTRATIVE'S DESK

This column represents my personal opinions, and is not intended to convey an official statement or reflect the personal views that may be held by the gentlemen of the G-8.



It's certainly been an interesting couple of months, on the heels of what was by most accounts a fantastic fall event. The elephant in the room that is the subject of gender-restricted impressions has ignited some impassioned conversations on both sides of the issue - and incidentally, has also revealed a stunning majority of members who just aren't personally affected to the point where they feel compelled to fuss about it one way or the other. I realize many have probably assumed I'm the driving force behind the opposition, by virtue of my vagina, but I assure you that's not the case. (Any of you who have seen me at events know that I put on a dress and do girl stuff - so I fall staunchly into the 'it doesn't affect me' camp.) My crusade - my solemn responsibility - is to leverage communication to keep you all as in-the-loop as possible, in an effort to make the organization better than I found it. And the eight of us you elected as your Administrative Committee all bear a fiduciary responsibility to protect the organization from legal and financial jeopardy, regardless of where our individual opinions may fall. That means we are bound to do what's best for the organization as a whole - and not to put the whole works at risk by pandering to a vocal minority. Two decades as an emergency room nurse taught me that there's peril in focusing on the squeakiest wheel ("If you're yelling like that, good sir, you actually **can** breathe - now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to redirect my attention to the guy quietly trying to die over there in the corner...").

Years and years ago, when the GWA was sparkly and new, the wise gentlemen who drafted the first set of bylaws (initially called *The Constitution of the Great War Association*) gave us a solid set of rules to start with. The participation guardrails they laid out prohibited discrimination and mandated that impressions be visually authentic. I like to think that they intentionally kept the scope broad, in order to foster a federated model where Unit Commanders hold the power to lead their own units, determine whether any prospective member is a good fit for whatever reason, and administer the policies that work best for their members. That structure has worked very well thus far, and I believe is the right path to continue upon. However, we seem to be at a crossroads where some aren't content with simply managing their own units - and feel like they should be able to dictate policy for every other unit as well. (Where else have we seen this ideology fail miserably??)

As an organization, we have some legitimate Big Stuff that demands our financial attention. The road network at the site has been duct-tape-and-chicken-wired for too many years and desperately needs to be graded, re-based, and graveled. The older well on the CP side has a non-functioning pump that needs to be repaired. The Site Committee has been busy planning a handful of other improvements that will enhance everybody's event experience. All of that stuff costs money. Should we really spend thousands of dollars on attorneys to advise us on how best to codify discrimination - or to defend the organization (and all of your individual investments into the property too) against a lawsuit that's all but inevitable if we end up playing cowboy with the bylaws?

No. That's dumb. We need to chill down the rhetoric, put away the torches and pitchforks, and use our inside voices AND the common sense God gave us. Every unit is different - and what's right for the members of one unit might not be right for the members of another unit. The GWA's founding fathers set it up the way they did for good reason - because even in those olden days they recognized that one size doesn't fit all. If members in a unit find that their values and preferences don't align with those of their leader, they are welcome to find a new unit - and if the majority of a unit's members feel that way, maybe it's time for the unit to find a new leader. Certainly not everybody is cut out to lead; but those who are understand that volume does not equal wisdom. If you stop for just a second, I bet each of you can hear your own

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

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mother's voice saying "Quit worrying about everybody else, worry about you."

Mom was right. Quit worrying about everybody else's unit, worry about yours. Make it the best unit it can be, whatever that means for your members, and irrespective of the choices other units make. As long as everybody is visually authentic, and having a good time, does it really matter what genitalia is beneath somebody else's uniform? Come on, you guys.



I'm sure this unsolicited dose of mom voice will earn me a flurry of unpleasant emails and a hearty helping of side-eye. That's okay. I was a nightshift charge nurse in the eighth-busiest emergency room in the nation, I married a sailor, and I've raised five kids. I can handle it. I've said what I feel needed to be said, out loud and in the open and with my name attached to it. The rest is up to you all.

Now then. Big thanks to the Central Powers forces once again for supplying me with the content for this quarter's issue. Fellas of the Entente, there must be *something* interesting happening on the west side of No Man's Land... The Spring issue will drop during the last week in March, prior to the April event, and I'm hoping it's full of good stuff.

Thank you so much to all of you from whom I continue to receive so much positive feedback and gratitude — I'm glad to be making a difference.

Erica Miller
Secretary, GWA

Last Call for Handmade Crates

Hi, my name is Bill Gow. I have been making crates and painting signs for the Central Powers for the last several years now. I have decided to retire from crate production for the most part to allow myself time to do other projects. Some people knew that I was retiring and some did not, and this led to some people not getting the crates that they wanted. In fairness to all of you wanting crates, I am asking you to email me at trenchrat73@gmail.com and I will try to get you what you want and deliver it in April to Newville. If it is a question of measurements, where to find hardware, or anything at all, please write and I will help you.

I would like to thank all of you who supported me in my crate building endeavor, it was great fun. Stay safe.

Bill

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2025 Spring Tactical	2025 Fall Tactical	2026 Spring Tactical
April 4-5	November 7-8	tbd

ADDITIONAL UNIT-SPONSORED EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEB SITE:

[HTTP://WWW.GREATWARASSOCIATION.ORG](http://www.GREATWARASSOCIATION.ORG)

FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

Reenactors of the Central Powers,
Meine Herren und Damen,

Wow! I think that's all that can be said of the Fall 2024 event! I think it was a great mix between combat and living history activities. I'd like to thank Bret Werner, his staff, the Entente Company Commanders, our Zugführere, and our Adjutant (and the Swiss) for the coordination meeting with the Swiss Friday night to ensure that the Saturday morning tactical went smoothly. This is a tradition we will continue into the future! Here are a few of my favorite things from the event: the Kaiser addressing the Kompagnie Friday evening in German, Feldpost, our Feldhaubitze (artillery howitzer), marching with our flags flying and drum thumping, Thursday's social and Skampi's long time commitment to our Kameradschaft (he buys all the Essen and Bier for it), night assaults, decentralized coordinated assaults designed and executed by our Zugführere, reenactor training on Thursday, Rosary and church services, use of flares for signaling, OUR new(er) Rotes Kreuz!, the huge fire sale on period crates, the expanding parking lots, and the Saturday defensive action (Drei Hoch)! Saturday morning we fell back to the German period camp and I told the IR 124 cooks that I had brought the fight to them. They really enjoyed the "scare" and the swift grabbing of weapons, Stahlhelm, and accoutrement. I didn't hear any complaining about hit taking from either side (not that it didn't happen, but I didn't have to speak to any ticked off commanders).

My objectives for this event were many, but the biggest were solidifying the Züge and practicing delaying tactics. The latter is very difficult for reenactors as we have a tendency to die in place and then "reconstitute" for the next battle. There's a time for that, but when we are conducting major, long term actions, it's important to disengage with the enemy BEFORE your position is untenable while maintaining your combat effectiveness and power. To be honest, this is one of the most difficult actions soldiers perform because it's part science and a lot of art. You can't withdraw too early or you're just ceding ground without making them pay for it and you can't withdraw too late or there's nothing to do but be killed or captured. It also takes a lot of discipline and cooperation within your unit and adjacent units. But I'm very happy with each of your actions; y'all did a great job not only retreating in an organized fashion, but also counterattacking like ravaging wolves. I'm very proud of your accomplishments and I think the Entente has a new found respect for your capabilities.

Leadership is one of my most important agendas for our hobby and I am proud of all of our leaders. Our unit commanders are performing great and our Zugführere are doing a tremendous job! I'm sad to report that Feldwebel-Leutnant Bob Penix is retiring from his leadership responsibilities and Feldwebel Steve Lehman has stepped up to take his place. Thank you, Steve, for stepping up for our hobby once again! And Drei Hoch to Bob for a job very well done organizing and serving as the first 2. Zugführer; this constitutes "mentioned in dispatches" and is one of the highest privileges one can achieve in an Armee. I'm glad you are just pulling back and will still be with us! I do wish to also mention the Zug Stellvertretend (assistant platoon commanders) and how they are performing admirably. These are our future commanders and we are doing all we can to develop them for the future. Saying that, I also wish to challenge each of you to step up where possible. We are not only developing our current leaders, but their replacements as well. But we must also reach down and start developing the replacements to the replacements. Leadership is a learned set of traits and I am a perfect example of that. I was not born a leader, but the Marine Corps developed me into one and we can develop you into one as well. Step up and serve...these are the basic trademarks of a leader. You must also be very knowledgeable and dependable. Leaders are like cow's milk; the cream rises to the top. Our hobby deserves the very best leaders we can provide. We must have an institutional process by which we are constantly developing leaders who are in different stages of development. We need to have ready and trained leaders to take leadership positions at all levels when the situation dictates, rather than starting to train someone for a leadership position only when he takes over. The latter is a recipe for disaster. Each of you are potential future leaders and it is my responsibility to build a hobby of leaders. I want to hand my position off to excellent leaders who will continue what we are creating together. Future reenactors deserve this!



Now a word on professionalism; we need to drastically work on our drill. We should all know the following basic drill movements: *Angetreten, Achtung Stillgestanden, Rührt Euch, Nach Recht Richt Euch, Augen Rechts, Augen Gerade Aus, Das Gewehr Über, Gewehr Ab, Präsentiert das Gewehr, Rechts Um, Links Um, Gleichschritt Marsch, Links Schwenkt Marsch, Halt, and Wegtreten.* We use all these commands at our Appell and these were basic

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FROM THE CP COMBAT COMMANDER

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commands that all Soldaten knew; so we all need to be at least proficient at it. I know we spend a lot of resources putting together our impressions, but if we can't perform basic drill, then we're missing a huge aspect of our reenacting impressions. Unit commanders, please start working on this. If you need assistance, I can provide a first class instructor for you at your request.

While I am addressing professionalism, we've had a few issues when it comes to how we treat other reenactors. Let me be clear; our female reenactors are reenactors and deserve respect. They are dues paying members and add quite a bit to our reenacting hobby. I will not tolerate crude and lewd behavior around them or directed at them or anyone else. I expect each of you to behave like courteous and respectful Soldaten and treat our women like someone's wife, girlfriend, or daughter because...they are. There are no "single" women at our event, so save it for Paris once we achieve it. In addition, we need to provide respect to ALL our reenactors regardless of impression or demographic. We are all GWA members and we are all dedicated to making our hobby the best it can be. Danke vielmals! I know that this is a very minute demographic, but it must be addressed. I will allow the GWA President to address the other issues we have in regards to this, but know that the G8 is working diligently to ensure the viable future of our organization.

Lastly, on Friday of the event, we made a few changes to our organizational structure to provide expansion to the Northern end of our battlefield. The 5. Guard Regiment was transferred from 5. Zug to 1. Zug and will be stationed within the Northern flank. RIR 236 was assigned from 2. Zug to 4. Zug and 20. MGSS was reassigned from the 4. Zug to the 5. Zug. Current structure looks like this:

1. Zug	2. Zug	4. Zug	5. Zug	7. Zug (Sturm)	General Support
Duffy Bauer	Steve Lehman	Skampi	Bob Gräbe	Eric Cleveland	
5 Garde Rgt	12 MinenWerfer	JR 23	König Bayern Leib	Sturm Btln Rohr	8 Kürassier
JR 10	JR 52	JR 92	20 MGSS	PB 13	Rotes Kreuz
FR 73	JR 63	RJR 236	JR129	PB 14	
FR 90	KuK JR 63			JR 124	
JR459					

As the Central Powers grow and expand, we will continue expanding our trenches to the North mirroring the Entente. As we grow, we will establish 3. Zug & 6. Zug and then place all Züge into 2 Kompagnien of 3 Züge each with a Sturm Zug and place it all under a Bataillon(-). Pulling 5. Garde Regt and JR 10 from the South to the North facilitates this eventual expansion. My goal is to double the CP in 5 years and I know we can do it together! We had at least 300 CP reenactors at the Fall 2024 event!

Again, I am so proud of the Central Powers reenactors. Look at what we've achieved together in such a short period of time. Our events are getting better and more dynamic. We are adding depth of experience like I've rarely seen in reenacting and it's only getting better. The cooperation with the Entente is phenomenal and it's making our events great. There's so much to talk about, but if I wrote much more no one would read it. However, I look forward to the Spring 2025 event; we're already working on the scenario and it should be just as dynamic as the Fall.

„Wir haben einen Willen; Sieg oder Todt!“

Mike Landree
Otto Landrik
Hauptmann u. Kompagniechef

6. JÄGER-BATAILLON

by Ryan Hunneshagen, IR23

At the outbreak of the war, each Jäger Battalion had one company of cyclist troops attached, consisting of three officers and between 120 and 150 enlisted men and NCOs. Their mobility offered a tactical advantage, especially on the more dynamic Eastern Front. Cyclists served many purposes: dispatch riders, fast-moving combat support, and patrols. For example, in *Storm of Steel*, Ernst Jünger mentions a period of 1917 when he commanded an intelligence unit including a squad of cyclists.

During the war, many of these cyclist companies were pulled from their parent units and re-formed into Radfahrer-Batallions, again largely for the Eastern Front. A 2nd Radfahrer Kompanie of the 6th Jägers is mentioned as part of one of these amalgamated cyclist batallions: "Radfahrer-Batallion 1 consisted of 2nd Radfahrer Company GJB, 2nd Radfahrer Company GSB, 2nd Radfahrer Company JB 6 and 2nd Radfahrer Company JB 10 (Z30-94). Presumably that means 6JB had 2 Radfahrer companies, and 1st Kompanie

source places the 6th Jägers in the vicinity of Verdun from 1915 to mid-1916. They were transferred East from Verdun in August 1916, returning West in July 1917. It seems that despite being attached to the 33rd Division, the 6th Jäger-Batallion was moved around independently which makes the unit's whereabouts more difficult to pinpoint.

The photograph which served as the main example for my impression is therefore difficult to place. I want to say it was taken during 1915 or early in 1916 due to the presence of ersatz shakos and the absence of M15 uniforms and steel helmets. They also still wear the Feldzeichen which was prohibited from wear in the field by the AKO of September 21, 1915. I am also unsure whether the 6th Jägers began the war with blackened leathers, as these fellows seem to have very well-darkened equipment.

In any case, with no background details aside from a brick building and some trees reflecting in the window glass, there is no telling where, how close to the front, or when the photo was taken. My best estimation is that the photo was taken in France early in the war before 6JB moved east and before the 2nd Kompanie of cyclists was detached from the unit.

Some items of note are the 'cyclist model' Gewehr 98's: notice that the slings attach to the side like a 98az and the bolt handles are bent down (but not flattened on the inside, unlike the 98az). I believe the idea behind these 'bent bolt' G98's was to prevent the rider's right leg from hitting the bolt handle because some models of military bicycle had a between-the-legs rifle rack. Not every Jäger carries this special model however, such as the fellow with the 1895 ammo pouches. The bicycles parked in the rack on the far left seem to have small racks over the rear fender for strapping down a mess kit as I've seen in other photos.

For my impression, I chose to go with the standard leather tschako which was by all accounts the most difficult piece to source. I have to thank Jörg Dehn for doing me a favor in his retirement and making



Jäger-Radfahrer, 1K/6 Jäger-Bataillon (2. Schlesisches), Argonnerwald, Sommer 1915.

remained with the Batallion."

The 6th Jäger Battalion, garrisoned in Oels (near Breslau) in East Prussia, began the war attached to 3. Kavallerie-Division. It was soon re-assigned to the 33rd Division in September 1914. With the 33rd Division, the 6th Jägers took part in the invasion of Belgium and the Battle of the Marne. They took up positions in the Argonne, remaining there until the end of 1914. While the 33rd Division remained in the Argonne until the summer of 1916, another

6. JÄGER-BATAILLON

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this beautiful piece, especially with the Wappen which is unique to JB's 1,2,5, & 6. I carry my standard G98, but I am hoping to collect enough parts to recreate the cyclist model- I don't expect to find an original!

I had to lean a little on photographs from other Jäger cyclist battalions, which inspired the Uberzug and the earlier pattern S98/05. There is also an East German rain cape fastened to the bike which is the best stand-in I could obtain to the cyclist rain capes shown in the Krauss volume- I don't expect to find one of these either in the near term!

This is the only photo I've been able to find of JB6 at all, let alone of their cyclists. I've wanted to build a Jäger and a cyclist impression for a long time, so when I came across this photo of a Silesian unit (as a regular member of IR23, 2. Oberschlesisches) I decided to go for it! In the future I'd like to get a more suitable bicycle, even though unmodified civilian bikes such as this one appear frequently in photos. If anyone has more photos of 6JB or any other cyclists, I'd love to take a look!

P.S. If anyone knows of allied cyclist impressions willing to accept the challenge to a race, drop me a line. You will be defeated by my superior pedaling.

Links:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/drakegoodman/3972784687>
<https://www.kaisersbunker.com/gtp/New/Jäger0.htm>
https://de.wikipedia.org/.../2. Schlesisches_J%C3%A4ger...
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/55620/55620-h/55620-h.htm...>
<https://www.pickelhaubes.com/.../german-army-order-of.../>



IR92 SINGS AN ORIGINAL 1915 REGIMENTAL SONG AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

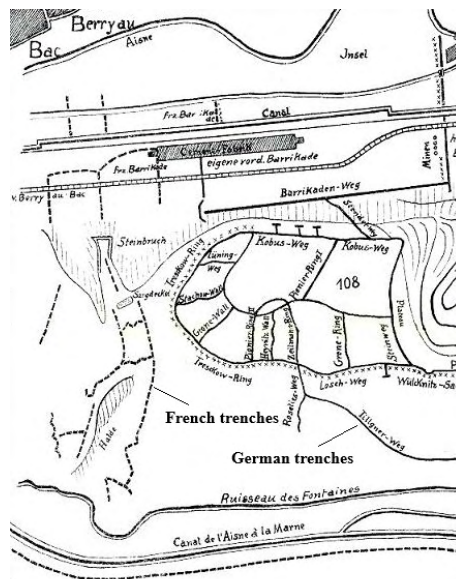
By George "Ranger" Walters, Uffz. und Adjutant, IR92

German soldaten who may happen to be walking on the CP back road at night may hear a loud chorus of German songs coming from the vicinity of IR92's Lager during any Newville event. When combat ends at Newville, the soldaten of IR92 gather around our Lagerfeuer, the large campfire area behind our Lager for camaraderie, German bier, general rowdiness and loud singing.

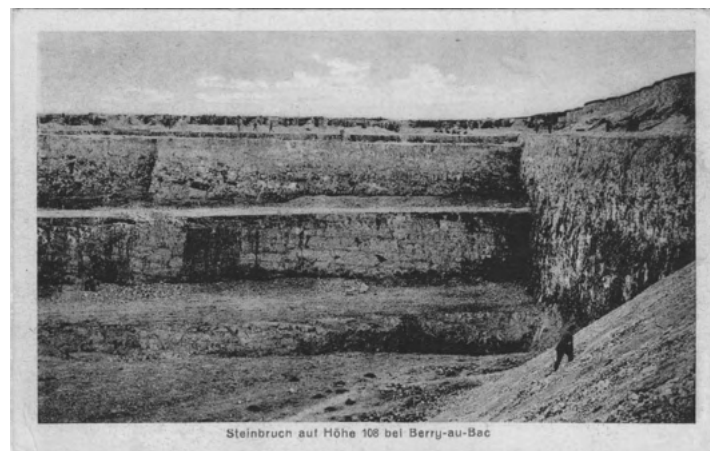
Singing in the Imperial German Army was well documented and a mainstay for the troops during the war. One of IR92's members, Unteroffizier Reinhold Klein (Rodney Schuyler) had taken the lead in forming a regiment "choir" (Regimentchor) and leading the men over the last several years in the singing of German songs of the period. The regiment has learned a number of these tunes and one song in particular stands out. It has become the regimental song and is the highlight of the unit's setlist.

The song "Berry-au-Bac" has probably not been sung since the Great War. There is quite a story about its discovery and resurrection. But first, some history:

During the war, Braunschweigisches Infantry Regiment 92 occupied Hill 108 at Berry-au-Bac in France for four months from October 1914 to February 1915. The position was on the defensive line that was established after the German withdrawal following the battle of the Marne. The town of Berry-au-Bac was located at the eastern end of the Chemin des Dames Ridge. IR92 built some of the first trenches there and these trenches would remain in German hands for most of the war. Many of the trenches were named after officers in the regiment.



Hill 108 contained a large chalk quarry (Kalksteinbruch) on the eastern side, 600 feet long and 120 feet deep with 3 terraces on the sides. IR92 had dugouts there when they weren't on the front lines. Hill 108 would be the site of fierce fighting and the site of mine warfare in 1916 and 1917, long after IR92 had transferred to other sectors and theaters of the war.



The following is an excerpt from the book "History of the Braunschweig Infantry Regiment Nr. 92 im Weltkrieg 1914-1918" written by Major Fr. v. Sobbe after the war:

"Despite all the physical exertion and mental excitement, the morale of the regiment was outstanding, a spirit of total dedication to the task

IR92'S ORIGINAL 1915 REGIMENTAL SONG

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on hand and a spirit of faithful camaraderie...The regiment's sense of humor remained high as well. A song was composed about the quarry at Berry-au-Bac, and the number of verses reached the height of the regiment number [92]. The song was sung enthusiastically by the soldiers and even set to music by the regimental band leader."

Herr Klein, our choir director, read that book passage and mentioned to me a few years ago that it would be very cool if we could find that song to add to our repertoire. I said something to the effect that the chances of finding that particular song were probably slim to none and that it was lost to history. Little did we know.

About one year later, I purchased a collection of old magazines from a bookseller in Germany titled "Die Braunschweiger im Weltkrieg." The magazines arrived shortly after and came in a leather-bound case. As I leafed through them, lo and behold, in one issue there was a story about the very song we had talked about. What are the odds? This is what the article said (translated from German):

"The song was written during the long 15 weeks during which the 92nd Infantry Regiment was stationed in the large quarry near Berry-au-Bac and had rest quarters in Conde. The men composed it in individual companies to the melody of "Der Vogelbeerbaum" (The Rowan Tree)" and in the course of time they composed one verse after the other, so that the number of verses finally reached the number of the regiment, as is claimed. Most of the verses are satire and reflect the mood of the time - merciless and thirsty rhymes hinting at some occurrence from the quarry days. For historical reasons, the editor believed that he should collect the most frequently found verses and reproduce them here."



It hit like a bolt from the blue. I scanned the article and the fifty or so verses that were included, and sent this to Herr Klein. We took it from there in a fast flurry of emails. We translated the verses first and then we compared melodies of the traditional German song Vogelbeerbaum which we found on YouTube and matched the wartime verses to the melody. Herr Klein chose 5 verses that were the most military and least offensive (some of the original verses were quite rowdy and occasionally racist) for us to sing around our campfire.

When we first unveiled the song two years ago, we stated that this was probably the first time the song had been sung anywhere in the world since the Great War and it would do great honor to the original soldaten of IR92 to know that their song had not been forgotten. Knowing that it was a historically correct and authentic song for IR92, the men of the current IR92 took to it immediately.

So, if you hear loud voices singing "Ei Jah, Ei Jah, der Kalksteinbruch, bei Berry au Bac, bei Berry au Bac" around IR92's campfire, you will know. The old boys may be looking down on us and smiling.



LET'S BUILD STICK GRENADES!

BY ERIC CLEVELAND, CENTRAL POWERS REPRESENTATIVE

We all know that not a lot of hits get taken from rifle or machine gun fire. Those bullets are seemingly always for the next guy in the line. We also know that more hits are taken from grenades. Egg grenades are simple to make and somewhat effective. The challenge is in seeing them. Egg grenades are small in the air and on the ground. The stick grenade, however, makes a picture spinning through the air that the eye just can't avoid. Once the enemy sees them, they look at them. While they're looking at them, they're not shooting at you. When they land, they've seen them coming and very often take their hits.

Stick grenades aren't terribly difficult to make, but they are a bit involved. So, I'd appreciate it if the Entente would put them on the trench parapet for us to reload, and avoid taking them home as souvenirs. I'd also appreciate it if the Central Powers would make them by the thousands.

Supplies needed:

- 2"x10 1/2" sticks (make from 2"x4"s)
- Wood lathe
- Duplicator
- 3/4" drill bit
- 1/2" drill bit (need a long one)
- Grenade Head, either 3D printed, 200cc pill bottle, 2" PVC or cardboard tube
- Green Cannon Fuze cut to 2 1/2-3"
- Blackpowder or substitute
- Powder Measure
- Postal Scale
- Baking Soda
- Non-glossy poster paper
- Wooden matches
- Hot Glue Gun
- White Glue
- Twine
- Aluminum foil
- Shish-k-bob stick
- Masking tape
- Former made from fat sharpie, marker or 1/2" dowel
- Sheets of Striker Paper, backed with Gorilla Tape

The first requirement is a lathe. Unless you're very handy with the lathe, you'll need a duplicating lathe. I've bought two but broke them both, so I made one that works much better for churning out a couple hundred grenades at a time.

All you need is a small platform to put a brace on, and make a small template to screw or clamp to it.

You can see mine in the first two pictures.

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STICK GRENADES

(Continued from p. 11)

Then I took a carbide chisel and taped a piece of rebar to it to ride against the template. That's it.



You can use any 2" board, but I find it easier to rip 2"x4"s and then cut them on my table saw at 10 1/2". You can make them longer if you like, just make sure that the length of your stock matches the length of your template. The only really important measurement on the stick is the end that will mount in the head. I'm using 3D printed heads. Please email me at eric.cleveland@outlook.com for the file. You can make your own if you like a specific model of grenade. If you make your own make the top lip thick so there's a surface for poster paper to adhere to. Use a caliper to measure the inside diameter of the head and then use the caliper to make sure you don't cut the stick too small.



Always check the fit with your grenade head.

Once you've got the stick turned, now you need to drill it hollow. There are tools to do this, but they take too long for knocking out a couple hundred grenades before an event. I put the stick horizontally in a vise and use two drills; one with a 3/4" drill bit for drilling out the fuse pocket, and one with a 1/2" bit for drilling the handle through. Bits, however, are not made to drill with the grain, so the shoulders have to be ground down to about 45 degrees and sharpened. See the photo on the right.



First, place the point of the 3/4" bit into the center of the head end and drill about 3" deep or more. You can put tape on the drill to measure your depth. Then take the 1/2" bit, starting at the same end and drill about halfway down the handle. Stop there or you'll break it.

Now go to the other end, start in the center and drill all the way. You'll meet the other hole about halfway and it will guide the bit through.

Ream it out a couple times and your handle is finished.



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STICK GRENADES

(Continued from p. 12)

Now you need to make it go boom. Just like the egg grenades, make a former from a fat sharpie or dowel, cut a 2"x4" rectangle of aluminum foil, fold it over double, and form the cup over the former. Fill it with 30 grains of blackpowder or BP substitute, cut green cannon fuse at 2 1/2"-3", put a ring of hot glue inside the top of the cup and glue the fuse into the cup.



In this part, the charge is different from the egg grenades. Take a piece of cardboard (something stiff), cut a circle about 1", large enough to cover hole in the top of the stick, and glue it on the fuse under the charge. If you do this before making the pull igniter, you can poke a hole in it with an ice pick and it's simpler. Break four wooden matches about halfway, put them on a short piece of masking tape, put a line of hot glue across them and wrap the matches around the fuse with the matchheads alternating in height around the end of the fuse. Let the glue dry before the next step.

Get a sheet of solid red or black striker paper on Amazon. Don't get the dotted stuff. Remove the protective paper off the back and cover the sticky side with gorilla tape or duct tape. Cut it into 1/2"x 3" strips, fold the strip over the matches (striker side in) and secure tightly with a small rubber band.



Glue the head to the stick with hot glue. You can also use pill bottles or PVC pipe for the heads. If you use PVC, after you cut them to length put a plastic trash bag inside, or some other spacer to hold the stick up, and fill the gap with polyurethane caulk. Using a 200cc pill bottle, put the glue into the neck of the bottle before you insert the stick. On a bandsaw, cut the top almost all the way through, making a flap, fill with baking soda and then secure the top flap with electrical tape after you've inserted the charge.

Cut a length of cotton string (twine), using a shish-k-bob skewer, wrap tape around the top to hold the twine, tie the twine to the loop in the striker paper, apply hot glue or white glue to the base of the cardboard

support, insert the stick into the handle to guide the string through. Secure the cardboard base inside the head, sealing the top of the handle. Remove the guide stick and tie on a bead. I buy bone or wood bead necklaces online and cut the string. There are about 70 or so beads on a necklace.



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STICK GRENADES

(Continued from p. 13)

We're limited to 10 ounces for stick grenades, so you need a postal scale. Weigh the grenade as they'll all be a little different, and fill with baking soda to bring it under 10 ounces. If you're using a 3D printed head, you'll need to rough the top lip with sandpaper, then use either white or hot glue and glue poster paper to cover the top. It's important that you don't use glossy paper as, it won't hold well. In the last photo, you see three different heads; 3D printed, PVC and a 200cc pill bottle.

Rinse and repeat. I've been making about 150 per event, and they all get thrown. We generally recover somewhat less than half of them, the idea being that other unit members refill them and I make new ones.

Please contact me if you need any assistance or if you have any better ideas. My email is eric.cleveland@outlook.com.



Bavarian Leib Regiment



(Photos courtesy of Joseph "Sepp" Palenchar)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANY

From: Major General Don North, US Army (donnorth.nupe@gmail.com)

Greetings, I would like to invite your WW1 American Dough Boys to attend a national event on June 14, 2025 at Fort Des Moines Iowa Museum. We are unveiling a Historical Marker Honoring the 1000 black US Army Officers Training at Fort Des Moines Iowa in 1917. We are expecting over 300 guests to attend the unveiling ceremony and your WW1 reenactors can perform a static display and tactics. We have a General Pershing and three staff members attending. I have asked and requested CSPAN to cover the event, and we will be promoting the event nationally beginning in February 2025. You will be welcome to bring weapons for demonstration after the unveiling ceremony.

Please call me if interested. I can be reached by cell at (678) 906-3077.

From: Steve McTaggart, High School Social Studies Teacher, Quarryville PA
(steve_mctaggart@solancosd.org)

Hello, Solanco High School will be participating in our WWI "Day in the life of a WWI soldier" Trench Day April 24, 2025, where we take several hundred students outside and construct WWI trenches (500 HS students outside constructing 2 opposing trenches in 1 day). Tom Worrell and others came to our first and we hope to have reenactors from your association come again this year.

Recruiting Contact Information Needed for Web Site, Please

Every week, a couple of inquiries come in via the 'Contact Us' form on the website from reenactors interested in getting involved in WWI. Some of these guys are looking for a particular unit, in which case I forward their message to the appropriate unit commander - some are just asking how to get started - but there's a better than even chance some are giving up and falling through the cracks completely because there's no way to directly contact some units.

I very intentionally do not give member contact information to anyone without permission, and that includes posting it on the website or adding a 'mailto' link unless I know specifically that it is supposed to be public. The old GWA website may have had recruiting or leadership contact information, but unfortunately since it was abruptly killed by the hosting service, we had no way to retrieve any of that.

Please communicate with me the best way for prospective members to get in touch with your unit (e.g. e-mail address, link to your website, etc.), and I will update the website accordingly. If your unit isn't currently accepting new members, let me know and I can add a note to that effect. Thank you!

Erica Miller greatwarsecretary@gmail.com

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

***On the Wire* Spring 2025 issue publishes March 23rd.**

Please submit content for the Spring issue prior to March 16th, including unit updates, feature stories, pictures, etc. Something you'd like to see? Please also feel free to pass along your ideas.

Send content / suggestions to GreatWarSecretary@gmail.com .

Musketier Gerhard Redecker (Mike Hamady IR92) in his impression of a German sniper in the trenches. It is not recorded how many kills he had.



Photo taken by Dan Curry