

# ON THE WIRE



Jougasse



SCOTLAND FOR EVER.

# On the Wire

Volume 8, #1 Spring 1997

*On the Wire*, the official newsletter of the Great War Association, is published three times a year—in the Spring, Summer and Fall. All contributions are welcomed, but we reserve the right to edit for length, spelling and content. Personal attacks are not allowed in *On the Wire*, and will not be published.

*\*\*The views expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of OtW or the officers and members of the GWA.*

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## 1997 GWA Schedule of Events

- ✱ **APRIL 18-20**  
**GWA SPRING '97 COMBAT EVENT**  
**NEWVILLE, PA**
- ✱ **SEPT 5-7 OR 12-14**  
**GWA LATE-SUMMER EVENT**  
**NEWVILLE, PA**
- ✱ **OCT. 31—NOV. 2**  
**GWA FALL '97 COMBAT EVENT**  
**NEWVILLE, PA**

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Front cover art: Drawing by Kenneth Bird of Morar, Inverness, Scotland. Wounded at Gallipoli, where he was a Sapper-Subaltern. Began drawing during the war and became a successful magazine illustrator afterwards. Most of his drawings were published in the 1920's. Took the pen-name "Fougasse" from the word for a small landmine. Art sent in by Tim Fensch, IR63.



# Ramblings from Atop the Soapbox

by Marsh Wise  
Editor-in-Chief, *On the Wire*

**W**ell, it surely must be snowing in Hell! Or, the Devil is eating flies! Or something, because in this issue, we have not one, but **TWO AMERICAN** articles—*damned amazing ain't it?* And... I have another one in reserve for the summer issue (which **WILL** go out on schedule—no matter what!). This brings me to another subject, our habitual lateness. This time we were delayed for a couple of reasons—the first of which was that my Co-Editor, **Sue Fischer** resigned, due to her job not leaving her enough time to dedicate to **OtW**. The second (and main) reason for this issue's tardiness though, was our usual forced wait for high-level articles—come on you guys [the G-7], is it *really* that hard? All you have to do is write a short article once every three months or so—Hell, it's part of your "job!"

## The G-7

This time we did get an article from all but one member of the G-7—actually not too bad, just late! At this point, I must say that the first member of the G-7 to get me an article was our treasurer, **Mike Moss** (although I don't think he realized it was going to be an article), this was followed by **Deks** and **Tim Goodwin**. I really do try and encourage the members of the G-7 to send in articles but, having said this, you should hold the G-7 responsible and if you don't find the info you need, by all means, call up the relevant member of the G-7 and let *him* hear from *you*! After all, the members of the G-7 were elected by **YOU** to do **YOUR** work! To facilitate this, I have placed a handy-dandy G-7 Roster on the back cover along with all of their addresses and phone #'s—also included with this roster is the info for both of the Trenchmasters. Another option for you to air grievances is to send in a "Letter to the Editor"—I **WILL** print them (except for personal attacks that is).

## Thanks

I want to thank a few people for their help—both **Rick Keller** and **Al Fuerst** **ALWAYS** send in stuff for every issue! Herr Fuerst also scanned the photos of Caesar Krauss that appear in this issue. At that, I have to thank **Mark Anderson** for sending in an article with photos about his grandfather, **Caesar Krauss**, the man to whom our battlefield is dedicated. **Deksheimer** never fails to have something in **OtW** (except for the time I spaced-it-out and forgot to print his article). **Mark Graef** has done a lot of the copy-editing (helping Sue Fischer) and has done the final proofreading for every issue of **OtW** I have "edited." Without Mark's help, **On the Wire** would surely look a

*lot less* professional than it does. Last but not least, I want to thank our fearless leader, GWA Prez **Marv Chadab** for his unending support and help (luckily, Marv's a local phone call for me).

## Future Stuff

In future issues, you can look for more articles on period food, some more neat unit histories, uniform and equipment how-to's and even more issues of **Deks' Guide to Better Reenacting**. Also, **Jef Fontana** of IR23 has told me he is working on an article on how to "super-detail" your German field blouse—this looks to be really great, as he has been doing a lot of research in this area. Other future articles will deal with interpreting German dog-tags and Soldbüchs. Hopefully, we will get some pearls of wisdom on **American kit, uniforms, etc.** and perhaps... the French (!!!) might wade in with a neat article? For you "Frog-o-philes," I did find some neat Frog-type photos and am publishing them in this issue. We plan on having a couple of articles on French stuff (yes it's true!) in the next issue. **Hey Brits, what about it?** Show us how hard-core and dedicated you are—send in some Limey articles! The next deadline for submission of materials is **May 31** and publication of **OtW** will be in the 1-15 **July, 1997** range. Well anyways, look for this stuff real soon and... remember, we **always** need **MORE** articles, photos, and art.

## The "Fly-In" Event and Other Related Items

It looks like the "fly-in" event will happen in September of this year, maybe they [the fly-boys] will get the airstrip done by then—but I sure hope **we're** [the GWA] not paying for it!

As to this aircraft stuff, I feel that *the tail should not wag the dog*, i.e. the GWA is an organization that reenacts the **trench fighting** of WWI, not the *air battles*. Now don't get me wrong, watching WWI airplanes whizzing around the sky is pretty cool, but who's gonna pay for this?? Are the fly-boys doing this like we are, simply for the love of it, or... are they planning to **charge** *Ye Olde Publick* to come in and watch (and then maybe us too??). And, if this is so, does that then mean that **we** will get **PAID** to help reimburse us for the costs that we have accrued in putting together our kits? *Hmmm, I sincerely doubts it.* It's not like I'm trying to cast gloom on the idea of a "fly-in," but I really wonder what is going to happen to WWI if we start letting "tourons" in to watch. I don't mean a few at a time like we have now, but instead like they do in Civil War reenacting wherein

Ramblings,  
continued on page 6



# Die Feldpost

Hi everybody-

I would like you all to know that I am resigning from the post of co-editor of *OrW*. Several new consulting jobs, plus a new project at work make it difficult to set aside time to do *OrW*, especially when the re-typing and editing always needs to be done at the last minute.

Please give Marsh your full support and cooperation so he can continue to print a newsletter that gives you the event information you need WHEN you need it. Unfortunately, this information does not always get to your editors on time, making it impossible for *us* to get it to *you*.

And for those of you who feel like making your opinions and knowledge public, keep those articles coming...

*See you in the trenches*

*Sue Fischer*

*Editors Comment:* I figured I'd better add a note to this next letter before some dipshit actually begins to think that some of the stuff Fensch is talking about here is a good idea(?!). With this letter, you will see the "subtle and dry" humor of Herrn Tim Fensch. Of course, if I believed that he was at all serious about this proposal (or any of these ideas), I would have him shot as a traitor! The day that WWI reenacting ever does turn to shit like he is discussing here, then it's time to pack it up, because WWI will be just another amusement for the tourists!—MW.

Dear Kameraden & Allies, now that we finally have our own site back, thanks to the efforts of the G7 and the generosity of Herr Anderson, it is gratifying to see our ranks swelling due both to the return of many old-timers as well as an influx of new recruits. However, as our avocation grows, we will no doubt see adjustments made to accommodate more participants and the variety of perspectives they will necessarily bring to the Great War. Perhaps we can learn from the many other reenactment periods and assimilate the best concepts from them.

First, of course, will be the change to allow children under the age of 18 to participate. Since we do not use flag bearers at our events, they can become "runners" or "couriers." Imagine the thrill of the little ones as they scurry around in the trenches (they'll learn so much that way!) in their authentically altered uniforms. After all, as the War dragged on, the continental armies did lower the draft age, and there isn't much difference between an 18 year old and a 10 year old anyway except size. They can also participate in a lot of other ways, like ammo carriers, red cross helpers, etc. And for the lucky ones whose fathers can locate reduced size cadet rifles, well, the rest of us in a spirit of fraternal indulgence can just refer to these pint-sized soldiers as "midgets" when they fall in.

After Junior joins us, we will of course want to expand the roles for the ladies. This can be accomplished in the

same way other periods of historical reenactment do it: there's plenty of room under the helmet for that hair! As for what can't be hidden, well, we can just say that those soldiers are carrying extra ammo clips in their breast pockets. However, there's always a few females who aren't really interested in the front lines, so my suggestion would be for a period dance Saturday evening. A chance to sew and wear those beautiful Edwardian gowns! Hubbies and companions can deck themselves out in dress uniforms, ceremonial swords, Pour le Mérites and other such collectible minutiae. WWI reenacting can truly become a *f-a-m-i-l-y* event!

At that point, when the event is ready for it, we'll need a family area. Perhaps we can construct a small scale French town, or better yet, a refugee camp. The kids could learn period games there, we could invite spectators in to see what life was like back then; why, the possibilities are endless. Two areas of adjustment will need to be made, however: since this will be evolving into a *f-a-m-i-l-y* activity, some soldiers will need to, how should we say, "*clean up their acts*." And, if we're going to have a dress ball, the battle will need to stop early in the afternoon so that we can all freshen up and change uniforms.

These few suggestions I've offered are provided with the best of intentions to see that Great War reenacting can become the wildly popular and *wholesome* sort of event that other reenacting periods have developed into. I'm sure those of you who see the possibilities can envision your own exciting additions to our hobby. Personally, I'm hoping to see some modern setups in the flea market at future events. You, know, one of those fresh-squeezed lemonade stands and a concessionaire that can sell me my dream items: a T-shirt that has the Imperial German flag on one side with the slogan "*Erbe, nicht Haß!*", a picture of the Kaiser on the other with the words "*Wilhelm abdicated, but I didn't!*" and possibly even a bumper sticker that says "*I'd rather be shooting Boches!*" Well anyway, these are my ideas.

*Bis Unsere der Sieg ist...*

*Tim Fensch*  
3. /IR63

Gentleman:

Please note that effective Friday November 1, 1996 I will no longer be the Russian Legion Commander. The new unit commander should be announced during or shortly after the Fall 1996 GWA event.

I wish to thank all who have given their support to the Russian Legion, especially during our fight to become a full GWA member unit. It has been an honour to working with you all.

*Charles J. Nohai*  
Brooklyn, NY



Friends, I have been a member of the GWA for 31 Spring and Fall events and have missed only 1 event in that time. The timing of many of these events have occurred at terrible times for my family (wife of 20 years and 3 children) or my business, but notwithstanding, I have still come. I am not unique. Many of our members have been in longer than I and are still coming with regularity. I am writing this editorial to suggest that the date for the fall event should be moved away from the Halloween weekend. Many of us would like to spend this time with our children and since this is like Easter falling on the same weekend as the Spring event, I propose that we move the date this year forward one week to the last *full* weekend of October (24-26 Oct.).

This will leave no interference with Halloween, it will be a little warmer and there will be no real conflicts with other events (I think) and daylight savings time. So, might I propose we discuss moving the fall National up by one week? Please discuss this thought with your unit commander and we will bring it up at the Unit Commander's meeting this Spring event. Thanks for your consideration.

*Ernst Deksheimer*

3./IR63

[I always thought the Fall event was supposed to be on the first full weekend of Nov. this is early—MW]

With the Fall 1996 GWA event now behind us, I feel compelled to relate several concerns and issues myself and other individuals have with the direction the GWA seems to be going in. These concerns relate directly towards event scenarios, individuals' and units' conduct, and the state of uniform authenticity.

Having been in the GWA for 8 years now, I have observed a steady decline in the overall state of uniform authenticity, particularly among members of the A.E.F. At the Fall 1996 event, I noticed the following uniform transgressions:

1. An A.E.F. officer whose tunic was made out of what appears to be a modern U.S. Army blanket.
2. An A.E.F. enlisted man with rubber-soled hiking boots for footgear.
3. Another A.E.F. enlisted man with *ridiculously* long hair.

These blatant authenticity violations were readily noticeable. Why were they not dealt with? I can remember 4 or 5 years ago when a member of one of the German units was instructed to cut his hair or leave the event. He chose to leave but the authenticity regulation regarding this was enforced. It seems that there is little resolve on the part of the A.E.F. authenticity inspector to enforce authenticity regulations.

The event scenarios have moved from a living history approach to a non-stop Western shoot-em-up environ-

ment. I cannot believe that a majority of the GWA membership has lost interest in the living history approach to the hobby. Many of us have noticed this shift away from living history and are deeply concerned by it.

In regards to conduct of many individuals and units, it seems no one wants to take casualties anymore. There has been exceedingly bad sportsmanship in regards to this on both sides of the line. While this is not a large issue, being overrun 4 times in one day by the same unit begins to play itself out before long and it becomes a rule of the day not to take casualties on either side. (Blame this on a No-Man's Land which is *only* 20 meters across in many places—MW) What happened to the days when, as Chris Aleo put it, "Everybody *DIES!*"?? Furthermore, instead of using the rear area access roads and communication trenches to get to the front line, many people just walk right down the middle of No-Man's Land. This is *unacceptable!* Combined with people working on top of the trenches during the active period of engagement, one wonders why we have bothered to have trenches dug.

In conclusion, I believe it is time for the membership and officers of the GWA to refocus the objectives of our association and ask ourselves whether or not we are doing the best possible job in keeping alive the memory of the men we portray.

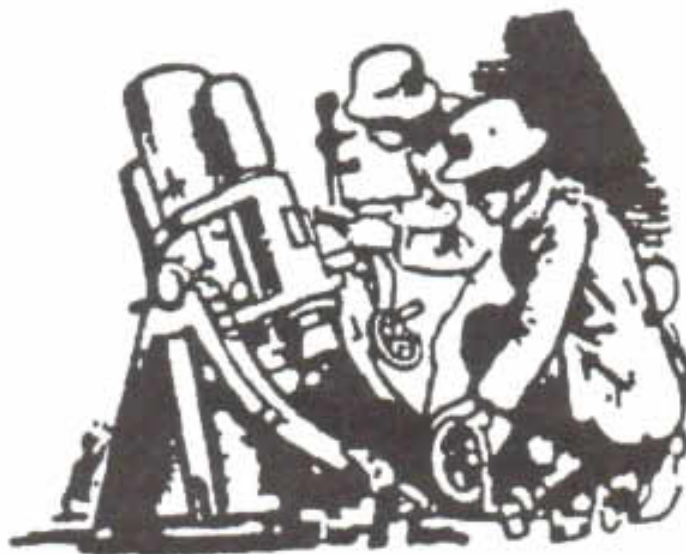
*Richard W. Moncrief*

Co. A, 107th inf. reg.,  
27th inf. div. N.Y.N.G.

[Great! I am sure that this means that Herr Moncrief is volunteering to help out with authenticity inspections and by being an MP!]

Contact the GWA VP Rick Blair to volunteer today!

Remember, if'n you wants to bitch, you gots to help!—MW]



All comments are welcome! Please send in your ideas, criticisms and suggestions for publication.



have 80 bazillion spectators and some dipshit announcer. I can see it now: "Okay ladies and Gentlemen, here come the Krauts, I wonder what they're up to?" Oh, *yee-haw*, personally, I am not thrilled with the idea of WWI being destroyed like this, but hey that's only an opinion—of course though, it's *MY* opinion and that's why it got printed here!

I just don't want to see Great War reenacting turned into the grotesque spectacle that Civil War has become. Next thing you know, guys will be wanting to bring out *Junior* and have him in the trenches with us (mini '03 Springfield and all). And how long until women will insist on fighting with us in the trenches—portraying men? Here we go with court cases, lawyers, etc.—just like in Civil War. **WAUGH!** Even though it is totally inauthentic, this BS has pervaded most of the other reenacting periods and if allowed, could happen to us—that would really be *sad* as WWI has always been the "reenactor's reenactment." To me, and the vast majority of you that I've spoken with, we do this for *US*—not for the *Publick*, nor for *p-r-o-f-i-t*. It's *our* hobby and we do it for *the love of it*. **Woe to any bastard who would destroy that which is Great War Reenacting!!**

## Honor

Mark Anderson has done a really good thing here, in making the *Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site* into a reality. Now, it's up to US to ensure that this site and our reenactments are a fitting memorial to the men who fought (and gave their lives) in the Great War. We must *never* let this endeavor, our hobby or their memories be cheapened or degraded—**NEVER!!!**

## MPs and such

Frequently, we discuss the authenticity rules, bitch about haircuts and other "infractions" of the GWA rules, but is there an answer? Yep—MPs! All armies have them just as they did "back then." There has been talk of forming an MP corps before and I know from conversations with you that we have members interested in doing this kind of impression. Why not get together and start an MP group on each side—volunteers first and, if needed, say one man per unit could be drafted (not for the whole event of course). I know that there are Limeys who want to be a snarling "Red Cap" just as there are Germans who want to be a "Kettenhunde". Obviously, MPs could be a big help to the administration in the operation of events. Not only could they check passes to keep scumbags from "sponging-off" of the GWA, but they could also help by catching the more blatant authenticity and haircut violations and then bringing them to the VP. Of course this is only an idea, but in some of the conversations I've had,



Training French Red Cross dogs in the trenches. (R. Weiß collection)

members have expressed an interest in this. We have many members who are in law enforcement and some who were even "real" MPs. Well, if you're interested, contact GWA VP **Rick Blair** and he can help you get it formed up.

Now I'll step down off the soap box and say that WWI is my favorite time period and I really enjoy reenacting it. In my humble opinion, WWI *is* absolutely the best and most authentic time period being reenacted today. It is a real privilege to be in the trenches with the caliber of men that we have here in the GWA.

Remember, *OtW* is produced for you and can only get better with your input. I hope to see you here in the trenches and if you get a chance, please give me your input about *On the Wire!*

*Your comrade in the trenches,*

*Marsh Wise*

Editor, *On the Wire*



# Guidelines for Submission of Material to *On the Wire*

We encourage, in fact, absolutely need, contributions of material to this publication if it is to continue. This includes, but is not limited to, articles, letters, fiction writing, practical tips, interviews with veterans, reports on events, historical research, original or duplicated art work and photographs. Just about anything to do with WWI and WWI reenacting can be used. While we *prefer* that you submit articles in electronic format, type-written work is fine.

The editing, design, layout and pre-press production of *On the Wire* is done by Marsh Wise, Mark Graef and staff on their own desktop publishing equipment, in this case IBM PCs running Windows and output on a Okidata OL410e printer. PageMaker 5.0a, MS Word 6.0, Photoshop 2.5.1, and CorelDraw 4.0 are the primary applications used to produce this publication. This allows for a lot of different options in submitting material.

The following is a list of our submission guidelines and policies. These will give you an idea of how to best prepare stuff before you send it, and what will happen to it after we get it.

## Written Material

**General:** It is the policy of *OTW* to proofread all articles or letters and edit them for length, grammar, spelling, punctuation, clarity and taste where necessary. We appreciate receiving material that is as finished as possible, however, do not worry about getting everything perfect—*just get it done*, and we will take care of the polishing! If you are concerned that our editing might affect something important or sensitive, we will be glad to mail or fax you a proof galley of your article if requested.

## Electronic Format

The following are the preferred media and software for the transferal of articles written with word processing, in order of preference:

1. In **MS Word** on a 3.5" IBM-format disk
2. In any other software on a 3.5" IBM-format disk
3. Text files done in any Mac software on a Mac disk
4. In any other software on a 5.25" IBM-format disk

If possible, please send a hardcopy with all electronic files. Articles may be sent as E-mail to us, our E-mail address is: [joepeter@erols.com](mailto:joepeter@erols.com).

## Hard Copy Format

The following is the preferred format for hard copy articles submitted (in order of preference):

1. Typed, double-spaced using upper and lower case style (please, not all in capital letters)
2. Neatly hand printed.
3. Cuneform writing on clay tablets.
4. Written in legible handwriting

## Artwork

Xerox copies of line drawings will work fine. Pen and ink (with black ink) drawings work best; pencil sketches don't reproduce as well. Artwork will be returned on request.

## Photographs

Black and White 5" x 7" matte finish photos work best, however, color photos or photos of different sizes or finishes will also work. Photos will be automatically returned to the sender after the publication of each issue—*please mark the back of the photo with your name and return address* (SASE's are *greatly* appreciated).



# Words from the GWA President

**D**ear Friends, it has been one year since I sat down and penned my first communication to you for *On the Wire*. One year ago, Newville was just coming to fruition. We were still in midst of negotiations with Mr. Mark Anderson, and trying to finalize our lease. Since that time, I am pleased to report that our long-term lease has been finalized, signed and recorded by our attorney in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The memories of Shimpstown both the good and at the end, the bad, will soon recede into folklore. Expensive investments in bunkers and revetments now decaying, useless and since bulldozed-under will not be repeated in Newville. Units committing money and sweat into bunkers can feel confident that these investments will not disappear. The past two events have gone well thanks to the efforts of many. Although injuries have been minimal safety is still a major concern.

Combat was suspended on Saturday night of the November event because of an eye injury sustained by a German reenactor. Based on my recent conversation with him, I believe that this injury was due to a leveled revolver which was fired too close to its victim. I am sure that the wielder of this pistol believed that he was far enough away to avoid injuring his foe with the muzzle flash. It turns out that unburned powder caused the injury. The moral of this incident is that there is no reason to level any firearm at any range. Keeping your firearm at a forty-five degree angle does not detract from the realistic effect and will insure that this type of incident is not repeated. Let me take this one step further. Putting a century old firearm with a blank which contains God only knows how much powder against your cheek and pulling the trigger with your eyeball an inch away from the breech is taking an *unnecessary* risk. I strongly recommend that you keep your face away from the breech, a habit which is as important as keeping the muzzle out of our friendly foes face. The investment in shatter-proof lenses for your period eyewear is small compared to a plastic surgeons bills. Our organization literally dodged a bullet by a fraction of an inch in this incident.

A second safety issue needs to be addressed. Grenades and mortars that have not been inspected during the safety meeting have been found during the Sunday morning clean-up. It need not be said but anyone using an unapproved grenade/mortar round will be told to leave the event and will not be welcomed back to future events. This past event also turned up remnants of hard plastic Easter egg grenades that shattered rather than popped. This results in sharp plastic shards posing a significant safety risk. These grenades can be safely constructed, but over the years there have been too many incidents of examples being too tightly taped and then shattering. I am instructing our safety officer to disapprove all plastic egg grenades so don't waste your time

and effort by bringing them to the next event. Greg Peck, our mortar magnet, asks that mortar bombs be as soft and frangible as possible, it is not true that he will issue a Kewpie-doll to the next mortar crew that beans him again.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to the participants in the dedication ceremony held at the last event. I also thank the entire membership for their respectful decorum during the ceremony. We once again proved that we are a band of Gentlemen (and Ladies). My association with you all is a source of pleasure and pride.

For the past year I have been occupied with finalizing our lease, maintenance of the site and the dedication ceremony. The second year of my term will devoted to more fundamental issues. I am in possession of authenticity regulations for the American and German forces. We need similar documents for the B.E.F., the French and the Austrians. The Russian legion is currently being reorganized and seems to be in capable hands. Once these standards are received and approved there will be *no* excuses for "farbisms." Some things don't need to be published to be in effect, such as: If your hair length is not appropriate for your unit, you *will* be asked to find a barber before you can participate. If you wear Vietnam jungle boots to the next events, you *will* be asked to find a Vietnam reenactment to participate in—*not ours!* Correct boots, weapons, etc. *can* be easily found—don't embarrass yourself, your unit and those veterans who you seek to depict, by showing up looking like a clown. I was particularly disappointed in the A.E.F. over the past year. I know what is right, and what isn't, for an American impression and during this event I will gladly inform my fellow Doughboys as to what needs improvement. I encourage unit commanders and G-7 members to do the same for troops that do *their* impression. I would also remind you that even though I am the President of the GWA., I hold the rank of Private First Class in my unit. As such, I obey the instructions of the officers appointed over me. If I want kindness, respect and tenderness, I would spend the weekend with my wife. For events, I want my corporal to tell me how worthless I am. I never served in the military so I appreciate the efforts of those who were (are) to recreate an authentic military atmosphere and include me in their brotherhood.

I am doing my best. If there are any issues or concerns that you wish to discuss, please seek me out the event and I will be pleased to discuss them with you. If for any reason you can't find me at the event I can be reached at home most evenings at (703) 360-9537.

*See you in April...*

*Marv*





GWA President Marv Chadab places soil from the graves of Doughboys killed in France onto the memorial during the site dedication ceremony, November 1996.



Above: French soldiers stringing barbed-wire over a communication trench at (Oisé?). (R. Weiß collection)

Below: French soldiers advancing through a communication trench. (R. Weiß collection)



# Raiding and assaulting, the German perspective

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By Rick Keller  
12. MWK

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On July 3, 1917, a sergeant major of the 261st Reserve Regiment was captured on an Allied raid south of Souchez. In his possession was a notebook containing information taken while at a school of indoctrination on the subject of "trench raiding." These notes and their subsequent translation for use by Allied forces are the basis for this article. Additional information came from another captured German document of 1917 and dealt with preparations for assaults and trench raids by machine gun companies. Dennis Connors supplied the documents and will be happy to share them in their entirety to anyone who wishes to delve into the subject in greater detail.

Small raids were well planned and executed in a swift manner, withdrawing before the enemy could recover and counterattack. Soldiers were given the basic articles prescribed for the task, along with general guidelines for their transport, but the ultimate decision and method of transportation was left to the discretion of the individual, with efficiency and comfort of paramount importance. In an assault, supplies were constantly brought by runners braving the shell swept area between the two lines.

For this article, the term "raid" is used to designate a short term operation, while an "assault" was of a longer duration. Besides duration, the major differences between the two types of operations were the quantity of supplies initially taken, and whether there were subsequent steps taken for holding captured enemy territory and supporting the soldiers given that task.

## Raids

"Raids" had two purposes: to obtain prisoners for interrogation, and to obtain "booty"—everything that one could snatch for intelligence purposes since many items taken would not reveal their worth until carefully examined long after the raid.

It was imperative that accurate knowledge of the positions chosen for raiding was obtained through patrols and aerial or ground observations. Successful raids could only be carried out on a narrow front under favorable conditions such as dark nights, bad weather, or twilight, and if the habits and weaknesses of the troops manning an enemy position warranted the chances of

exploitation. A "weakness" could be a change of troops, which meant that the new men were not accustomed to the defense procedures, or low morale resulting from exposure to extreme elements, constant shellfire, or lack of essential supplies such as food and water. Raids had to penetrate the enemy area rapidly at several places to cause confusion all along the line, getting in and out in the allotted time with minimum casualties, since a counter-attack or shelling of the captured areas was inevitable.

## Preparations for the Raid

In preparation for the assaults or raids, gaps in the wire had to be created by shellfire or other raids designed solely for that purpose. German machine gun and artillery fire then had to be concentrated on that area to prevent repairs to the wire prior to the planned attack. Signals had to be well established and rehearsed, with flares fired only from the German lines to ascertain their validity.

The raiding teams were divided into specialized "parties" responsible for **assaulting, mopping-up, blocking, mobile explosive charges, escorts for prisoners, and stretcher bearers**. The team removed all identification, including shoulder straps, ID disks, letters, maps, notebooks, etc. Soft caps were preferred over steel helmets and armbands were discouraged, due to their visibility. A password specific to the raid was then established.

Extra tent shelters were taken to carry back "booty" and also any wounded. Flashlights, luminous watches, tape, and wire cutters were a must, along with Very-light pistols. The pistol was to be hung around the neck and the "bombs" (grenades) kept in the handiest places (bags, pockets, etc.). Daggers and knobkerries were considered the best possible trench raiding weapons.

Small intelligence gathering raids were performed without artillery preparation, so as not to announce the position intended for raiding. If, as in larger assaults, artillery was used, it changed to a "box" barrage at an agreed-upon time, once the attacking party was established in the enemy position. Although shelling would announce the intentions of the attacker, it also demoralized the enemy and obliterated his men and defenses. The Germans firmly believed that isolated pockets of Allied resistance would melt or surrender under an efficient, swift, and overwhelming attack, with defense seeming useless under such odds.



## Preparations for Assaults

It is important to note that front line troops did not do the initial assaulting or raiding. All preparations for the specific task at hand were made in the rear lines with the prepared troops moved to the front for "jumping-off". These men had to be well-rested, well-equipped, and well-fed for the difficult task ahead. Special squads within the attacking parties were designated and trained to take out enemy machine gun emplacements.

Troops were given instructions to smear their helmets with mud or clay to dull the helmet sheen. They were also ordered to use extra sandbags to carry rations, ammunition, and other supplies, in place of the pack which was considered too bulky and heavy. The extra sandbags, having served their original function as carrying containers, were then added to the defenses of the newly won position. Greatcoats and Zeltbahns were encouraged, while blankets were to be left behind.

No mention is made of the special assault-pack configuration, but it was probably in widespread use, with the restrictions noted. Each soldier then deciding the method he would employ to transport his allotted material. Each man was required to carry a shovel, with every section also carrying a pick-axe and other Pioneer building materials—as well as cold rations for three or four days.

Rifles were to be covered at the breech with the issue breech covers, or any suitable waterproof material. Orderlies, runners, and carrying parties were to be armed with pistols for ease of running from shellhole to shellhole. Lighting equipment (flares, etc.) was important for heavy defensive engagements, so once the lines were taken, extra flares were supplied in large quantities.

## Rations

Food which caused thirst was avoided, and each man was instructed to carry two canteens full of tea or coffee, with "mineral water" carried in separate containers in the sandbags. Rations were to be bacon, sausage (which would keep), bread, rusks (light sweetened bread usually crisped or browned in an oven), chocolate, tinned meats, and thinned fat. Each man was to pack his rations so as to be independent of others for survival. Tobacco and cigars in large quantities were encouraged, as was alcohol in cold, wet weather. To avoid the misuse of concentrated alcohol, it was advised to mix rum and red wine with the tea. Solidified methylated spirits were carried to heat food for their "traveling" kitchens. Candles, carbide lamps, and electric lamps with spare batteries were a necessity.

## Relief

In major assaults, the troops who had carried out the assault were not immediately removed or relieved—with the correct belief that the troops who took the enemy position would fight more tenaciously to hold on to the possessions they had so dearly won. Relief was usually done within 2 or 3 days, depending on the condition of

the men and the severity of the initial fighting, casualties, etc., and often the front line troops of the positions from which the assault was made would accomplish the relief.

## Machine Gun Squads

Machine guns played an important role in containing the enemy on the flanks of the major assaults. Officers of machine gun companies entered the captured area as quickly as possible to reconnoiter positions for machine gun emplacements. Once determined, they rapidly moved the needed guns and equipment forward. Special attention was given to prepare the machine gun squad for the assault. Gun teams were trimmed down to one NCO and seven men. The gun commander carried the water can, a telescope attached to his belt, one reserve gun barrel in a "roughly made wood box" or wrapped in a waterproof cloth or Zeltbahn, one condenser tube (steam condensing hose), one spare lock in his trouser pocket, one "folding" cleaning rod (which I have never encountered), and a pair of pliers (possibly the cartridge retrieval tongs), along with a sandbag which was used to carry some of the equipment. The Nr. 1 man carried one "auxiliary mount" (the wood "artisan" trench mount, the "sled" being left behind), and one flare pistol with a large supply of flares. The Nr. 2 man carried the machine gun itself, wrapped in a Zeltbahn, a tool bag attached to his belt, and one spare lock in his pocket. The Nr. 3 & 4 men each carried one 500 round double box of ammo, oil, grease, and tow (barrel packing & cleaning material) in sandbags. The Nr. 5, 6, & 7 men each carried one 500 round ammo box and a number of hand grenades in their sandbags.

The three Section Commanders (with two orderlies each) carried flare guns, cartridges, and water cans. The first orderly carried a water can and oil can in his sandbag; the second orderly carried one water can and a belt filler in his sandbag.

The Company Commander's first orderly carried a belt filler in his sandbag, the second orderly carried one oil can in his sandbag, and the 3rd orderly carried tow and a belt filler in his sandbag. The one assistant armorer carried a "No. 11" tool box in his sandbag, which is more than likely the one pictured in *The Devil's Paintbrush*, page 188, which can now be seen in the *GWM Museum* collection.

As one can easily see from the above examples, each man's full load was carefully planned, with the needed supplies for the initial phase of the assault and the resultant follow-up action to hold the position.

## Conclusion

There can be no doubt that the American forces learned their trench raiding from the Germans by use of captured and translated documents, as well as through costly and bloody mistakes, but by the end of the war, even the Germans acknowledged the Allied Forces' comparable ability to wage this type of warfare.



# History of the Washington Guards during the Great War

Company K (2<sup>nd</sup> Virginia Volunteers),

3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion of the 116<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division

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by Glenn E. Hyatt  
Fredericksburg, VA

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Seventy five years ago Virginians, many the sons and grandsons of men who served with the Lee's gray legions defending the southern cause, answered another call to defend their country. In the two years that followed, the men of Fredericksburg's Virginia Militia, Co. K, The Washington Guard, would be called to service on the Mexican border and the World War One battlefields of France.

The Great War of 1914-1918 began in 1914 with a single shot from an assassin's pistol slaying the Crown Prince of Austria. Although the causes were many this single incident became the catalyst which drove the civilized world to the brink of destruction and consumed nearly an entire generation of the flower of European manhood. It set into motion a series of events which shaped the history of the civilized world and would even draw the sleepy southern town of Fredericksburg into the maelstrom.

## Mexican Border Service

The story of Fredericksburg's Washington Guard begins in 1916 with the influence the War in Europe was having along our southern border with Mexico. Political unrest and meddling by German agents resulted in violence, bandit raids and bloodshed spilling onto American soil. The U.S. Army mounted a punitive expedition under the command of General John (Black Jack) Pershing to drive across the boarder and capture the bandit/revolutionary Pancho Villa. Villa eluded capture but there were confrontations with Mexican regular troops. The situation deteriorated until a near state of war existed with Mexico. On June 19, 1916 the War Department called out the State Militia, mobilizing 145,000 National Guardsmen, including the Virginians.

In a dramatic flare, Co. K commander, Capt. Gonyard M. Harrison, had the bell at the city court house sound the alarm for the men of the Washington Guard to assemble. The papers ran announcements that volunteers were needed to fill the ranks, uniforms were issued and the men of Co. K mobilized to defend the southern border from the Mexican threat. On June 23, 1916, Co. K left Fredericksburg for the mobilization center in Richmond and by July 6 they were on their way to the Texas border town of Brownsville.

The time passed with the volunteers of Fredericksburg spending their days in camp drilling and trying to cope with the boredom of camp life. War failed to materialize and in February 1917 the National Guard troops were withdrawn, ordered to return to their homes. Co. K returned to Fredericksburg on February 28, 1917 and the returning heroes were honored with a parade through the city to the tune of "*Carry Me Back to Ol' Virginny*." They were mustered out on February, 28, 1917 with a company strength of 55 men.

## The Second Call

No sooner did the men of Co. K begin to settle back into their roles as civilians than their lives again faced disruption. Germany resumed its campaign of unrestricted submarine warfare, attacking all shipping entering specified war zones without warning, resulting in the loss of American lives. German spies were found active within the U.S., many slipping in from Mexico, and were credited with several catastrophic munitions accidents. A final insult to neutral America came when the British released the content of a secret German communication to the Mexican government. The "Zimmermann Communication" promised to cede American territory back to Mexico if she would enter into the war as an ally against the U.S.

It was time to finally stand with the Allies in Europe. Once again, the call to the colors went out on March 26, 1917 and Co. K was mustered for service. On April 6, 1917 President Woodrow Wilson—left with few alternatives—asked for a Declaration of War between the United States and the Central Powers of Europe, including Germany, Austria and Turkey. In almost the same stroke the National Guard across the United States was federalized for training and service in France.

On April 12, in response to the perceived spy threat and sabotage, Co. K moved to Culpepper, Virginia to protect the bridges along the route of the Southern Rail Road. Capt. Harrison posted his command at Culpepper and former 1st Sgt—now 1st Lt—Alexander Stone took a contingent to Lynchburg.

In August of 1917 the Virginia troops began moving to Anniston, Alabama for training. The first arrivals in this sleepy southern town found only 1900 acres of rough wilderness. They were formed up and marched miles through the dust to a hillside covered with brush and told this was



their home, Camp McClellan. The men set to work, building quarters and erecting huge tent cities.

Co. K was assigned, along with the other Virginia NG troops, to the 116th Infantry organized from the 1st, 2nd and 4th VA Infantry. These were the pillars of the Commonwealth, directly tracing their lineage to the immortal Stonewall Brigade of Civil War fame. The Virginians joined with the Maryland, New Jersey and Washington DC National Guard to be organized as the 29th Division. Since the 29th was composed of units tracing their lineage to regiments which faced each other on the great battlefields of the Civil War, they chose as their nickname "the Blue-Gray Division" and selected the Korean good luck symbol, twisting a blue and gray flash together, as their logo.

Camp building and training kept the volunteers busy throughout the winter and spring of 1918. Co. K, initially composed of the Fredericksburg Washington Guard volunteers, was filled out to a strength of 250 with other volunteers from the Covington Virginia area. Under the command of Lt. Alexander Stone they were assigned as part of the 58th Brigade, Third Battalion of the 116th Infantry.

More than ready to be "Over There," the 29th struck camp on June 13, 1918 and made their way by train to the ports of embarkation on the East Coast. They finally sailed for France on June 15, 1918 aboard the *U.S.S. Finland* to join the AEF (American Expeditionary Force).

## France

The 116th first set foot on the soil of France at St. Nazaire, June 27th, 1918, after an uneventful voyage (although there were some submarine scares). On July 2 they were loaded into box cars marked *40 Hommes—8 Chevaux* (40 men or 8 horses) and shipped to a "quiet zone" in the Alsace Sector near the town of Geuvenheim. Here they moved into the trenches for their final phase of training in modern trench warfare.

## St. Mihiel

By September 1918 the new 1st American Army finally began operating solely as an American unit under General John J. Pershing's command. Pershing's AEF was responsible for the area northeast of Paris between Verdun and St. Mihiel in the Alsace sector of France. It was a shell torn nightmare, reduced to lunar landscapes and salted with the bones of hundreds of thousands of men lost in the titanic struggles of 1915-1917. In this area the war had ground to a stalemate behind mile after mile of hardened fortifications sheltered by forests of barbed wire.

The 29th, still new to the lines, was kept in reserve during the initial campaign centered around St. Mihiel.

In this campaign the AEF proved itself in a dramatic stroke, capturing the St. Mihiel salient in a matter of days. The French were immediately impressed, having wasted the blood of *tens of thousands* of its best soldiers in one unsuccessful attempt after another to capture the same ground.

## Meuse Argonne

On Sept. 25th the 29th moved north near the town of Bar-le-Duc, 70 miles behind the Verdun lines, however, they were still kept in reserve. The AEF was repositioning itself for a British, French and American coordinated push aimed at striking a final blow before the winter of 1918-1919 set in.

When the storm broke at Zero Hour on Sept. 26 1918, men of the 29th reported seeing the horizon for miles east and west alight with the flash of blazing cannon. The vibrations shook the very structures of the buildings they were in. The curtain was up on the final phase of the Great War.

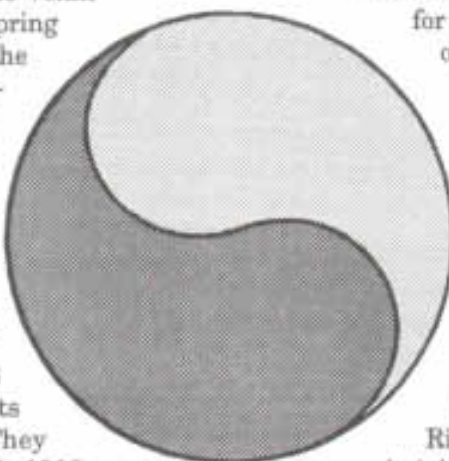
Assault on Malbrouck Hill October 8, 1918

Finally, on Oct. 3, the 29th was released from reserve and assigned to the command of the French 17th Army Corps. On Oct. 5th they received orders to join with the French 18th Div. for a push east of the Meuse River. Their objective was to attack the heights along the river and drive the enemy from the Consenvoye Woods, and the ruined towns of Haumont and Ormont. From these heights the enemy guns were targeting the American positions beyond and around Montfaucon to the west.

The 29th and the 18th French divisions were ordered to anchor their right on the Meuse at Samogneux then sweep east and north. They were to assault the heavily entrenched positions at Malbrouck, Consenvoye, Ormont, Molleville Farm, Haumont and Etraye.

The 116th had as its objective Malbrouck Hill and Co. K was a part of the assaulting battalion. Their initial front was a quarter of a mile with penetration to be 4.5 miles. The key position was Malbrouck Hill, 336 meters high. It was rough country, rolling from deep wooded ravines to steep thickly wooded hills and ridges. The assault would be over open shell torn ground to enemy lines hidden in brush and woods along the crest. They were to drive through the woods toward Molleville Farm some 2500 meters in the rear then on to the Grand Montagne, clearing the enemy from their fortified positions.

Zero hour, 5AM Oct. 8, 1918, the 3rd Battalion set out in assault formation: Co. I, (Capt. Robert Conrad) on the right, Co. M, (Capt. Barksdale) following 600 meters in support. Co. L, (Capt. Ewart Johnston) on the left, Co. K, (1st Lt. Alexander H. Stone of Fredericksburg) following in support at 500 meters of interval. For further support, a platoon of





4 machine guns on the right and left along with the Stokes mortars between the assaulting support lines. Total strength was 1,100 men and 21 Officers.

The artillery opened at 0500 with a fixed barrage on the enemy positions and 300 meters in advance of the assaulting companies to keep the enemy down. The barrage walked up the hillside moving forward as a shield to protect the assaulting Virginians until they could get through the wire and into the enemy lines. The men advanced with rifles at the high port. At the same time, the 115th Maryland on the left and the 66th French Colonials on the right joined the assault.

It took the enemy artillery 20 minutes to react, but by that time some of the lead elements of the assaulting units had reached the enemy wire and cut their way through. The enemy barrage raked the 3rd Battalion front to rear, and flank to flank but the wide disbursement of the men was an advantage and allowed them to surge forward.

The enemy advance line extended in front of the hill crest and, as was their custom, thinly held and fell readily to the skirmishers without much of a problem. By Zero+2 the 2nd line had been taken, again without much resistance.

The crest of Malbrouck was the enemy main line consisting of a series of trenches and fortification which wove through the wooded expanse on the crest overlooking the Meuse River Valley. The assaulting units reached it by 0930 and found a determined foe, holding a superior and heavily fortified position. Additional problems developed when the French on the right were held up, leaving an exposed right flank. To complicate matters contact with the Marylanders of the 115th on the left had been lost.

From just beyond the crest, the Virginians began to receive heavy machine gun, rifle, grenade and *Minenwerfer* fire. The advance began to slow and the men coming up from behind began to bunch up before the wire. The situation they were in was taking a rapid turn for the worse. With a determined, dug in enemy in their front, they began to take sudden heavy artillery fire from the heights of Bois D' Haumont now almost directly in their rear. As if things could not get worse, the Virginians began receiving long range rifle and machine gun fire from the right rear in the direction of the Ormont Farm in the French sector. Enemy planes dropped from the sky and began to sweep the lines of the 116th now bunched before the wire on the crest. Lt. Dinges, the only surviving officer of Co. I, turned and led an assault on the Haumont Farm, wiping out four of the enemy heavy machine guns and driving the artillery away. (For his effort he was awarded a Silver Star)

With the fire subsiding from the Haumont area, Capt. Ewart Johnston (Co. L) launched an attack on the flank of Malbrouck Hill. Lt. Alexander Stone and Co. K of Fredericksburg lunged into the foray. Stone took an enemy MG emplacement by himself using a pistol and grenades. Co.'s L and K overran the positions on

Malbrouck at the point of the bayonet. The two companies destroyed several key positions, and captured 210 prisoners. In addition they captured 18 heavy MGs, many light MGs (Lewis type), two 6" guns, three 77mm guns, as well as a food and ammo dump. For their heroism in action Capt. Johnston and Lt. Stone were each awarded the *Distinguished Service Cross*, a gallantry award which is second *only* to the *Congressional Medal of Honor*.

By the end of the day the 3rd Battalion cleared out the crest of Malbrouck and began to move west through the woods toward the Molleville Farm. The cost had been 22 killed and 65 wounded.

October 9th through the 14 was spent mopping up the enemy positions and preparing for the attack against the enemy dug in on the edge of the Molleville Farm clearing. One of the keys to the position was a ridge known as Bultry Woods which stretched from west to east into the Molleville clearing from the Gran Montagne woods on the other side. Driving like a wedge toward the 29th line it was heavily defended by enemy MG nests and provide sweeping fire across the entire farm area.

### **Assault on the Molleville Farm, October 15, 1918**

Cold rains fell intermittently all day and night of October 14th. As dawn of the 15th broke, a dense fog shrouded the farm clearing. From the mist rose the ruins of the Molleville Farm just in front of the 116th lines. At 0800 the first line advanced into the open and soon was enveloped in the fog. The second wave followed at 100 meters but as the 2nd wave emerged from the woods into the field the fog began to lift. The enemy opened from the wooded ridge on the right with rifle and MG fire. The left advanced steadily but the right was in serious trouble, taking intense fire from their front and the wooded ridge. The men pressed on, with the right in difficulty, the woods ahead on the opposite side of the clearing had to be taken; they could not be pinned in the open.

Battalion commander Maj. H. L. Opie recognized the developing emergency and brought forward the Battalion HQ Co. complete with all its runners, scouts, signal men, volunteers from the Sanitary Detachment and the crews from the Stokes Mortar company. He formed them into a skirmish line and they advanced toward the Montagne Woods opposite the Molleville Farm clearing.

Co. I, with Co. K following, secured a foothold in the woods to the front left but they were facing bitter resistance, repulsing several counter attacks and in desperate need of support. The HQ detachment, armed primarily with pistols, advanced in short rushes without firing—their pistols being ineffective at anything except short range.

As the HQ group closed within 200 yards of the woods they began to receive oblique fire from enemy guns to the left of the Montagne Woods. Opie wheeled the line and drove straight into the wood on the left of the farm. The



drove straight into the wood on the left of the farm. The enemy, believing they were facing a heavy attack under cover of the fog, panicked and hastily withdrew. Although the pressure on the left had been relieved, the 3rd Batt. HQ was completely shattered. As they gained the enemy positions it had become a "every man for himself" scramble as the merciless MG, sniper and Minenwerfer fire began to pour-in. Battalion Adjutant Wilks was the only remaining unwounded man with Maj. Opie's unit. He was ordered to make a dash for it and get help. The men of HQ company were packed into the ditch along the road boarding the woods intermixed with the dead and wounded. Men escaped with their lives by being buried beneath the bodies of their comrades.

Maj. Opie finally made his way across the front to a sheltered zone where men from Co. I and K were fighting under the command of Lt. Stone. The remainder of these two companies had crossed the clearing and penetrated the woods on the left. Maj. Opie (even though painfully wounded with the loss of several fingers) and Lt. Stone gathered about 18 men and drove into the woods across the flank. They cleared the enemy from the woods and routing the MG nests, saving the remainder of the HQ company.

Through the woods ran a small 60cm rail road, branching in a "Y" with lines running east and west. Lt. Stone and a small group made up of Co. K and I survivors encountered a large group of the enemy at the Y. The Americans immediately attacked, destroying the German position and routing the enemy back down the RR line. Lt. Stone and his handful of men dug in on the eastward fork of the RR, fighting for hours in a nearly continuous action until the line was built up and the front extended. All afternoon efforts to extend the front held by Co. I and K were met by intense counter attacks. Ammunition was exhausted and they were ordered to hold the line with

the bayonet if necessary.

Late in the afternoon there was a break, Cpl. John J. Mezoff of Sussex Co., Va. and 3 men of Co. E reported to Maj. Opie with 19 prisoners of an enemy MG unit. The 4 heavy MGs had been in position south of the Montagne woods along the ridge. These were the guns which shot up the 3rd Battalion so badly when they crossed the clearing. The enemy Lt. explained that he had held his post until they had been cut off and almost surrounded. Finally opting to save himself and his men by surrendering to Cpl. Mezoff and his squad. Cpl. Mezoff won the DSC and the French *Croix de Guerre* for his action.

As darkness closed, the southern half of the Montagne Woods was securely in the hands of the 3rd Battalion. Machine Guns were brought up and defensive positions prepared in the shambles of the forest. Before daylight the morning of the 16th, the 3rd Battalion and the survivors of Co. K were relieved by reserves of the 1st Battalion. Although the 3rd Bat. returned to combat two days later and continued to participate to some extent in subsequent actions, the assault on the 15th was the high tide of their advance and activity in the Great War. The 29th remained in reserve until the Armistice on November 11, 1918.

### Armistice, Winter and Return

After the Armistice the 116th remained in camp until March 15, 1919. The spring brought the long sought return to home, departing on May 10th aboard the U.S.S. *Matsonia*. They landed at Newport News on May 21, 1919. After a series of reviews and parades, the veterans of the Great War

were released on

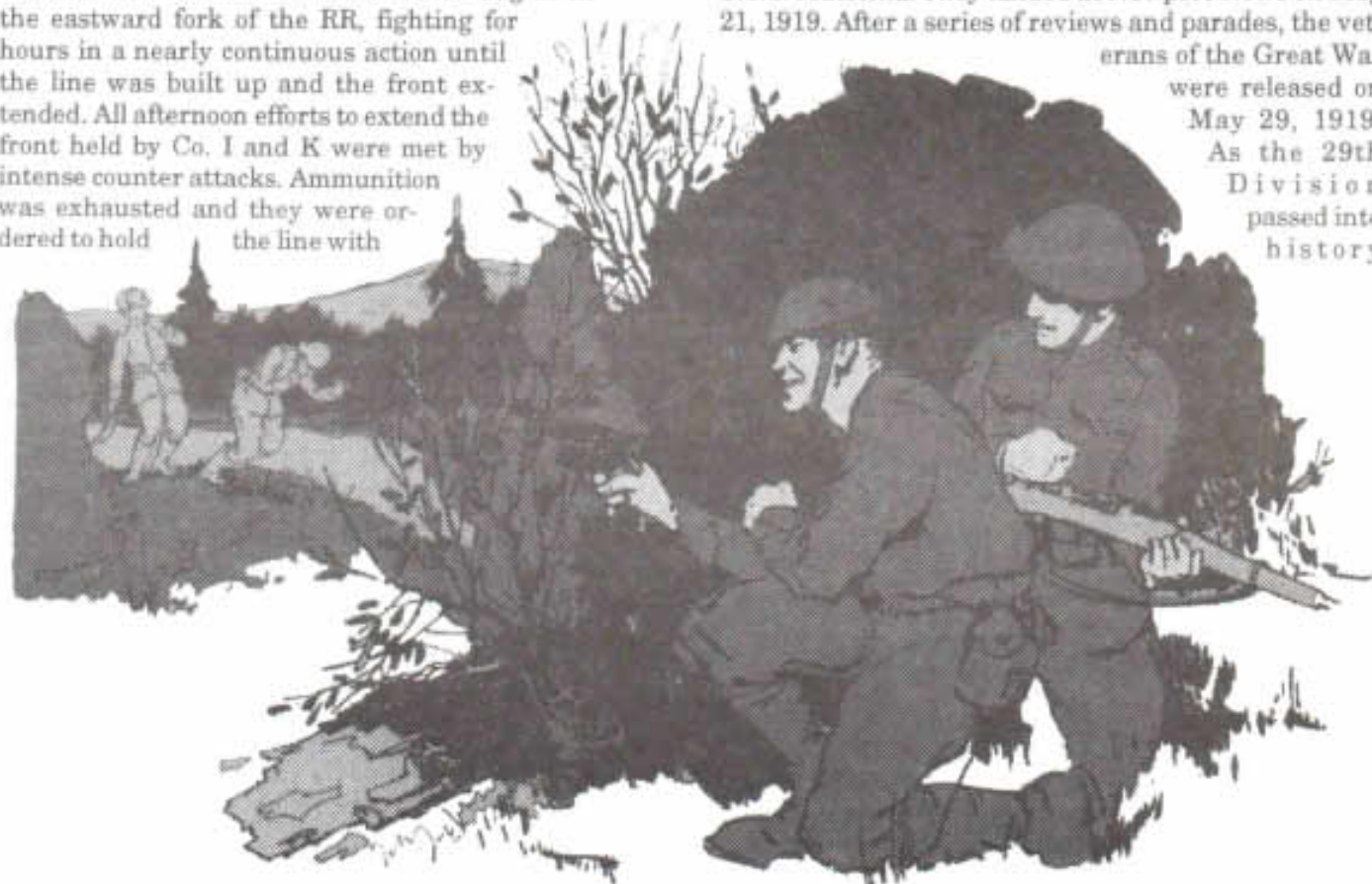
May 29, 1919.

As the 29th

Division

passed into

history



Art from "The 77th Infantry Division, 1917-1918"



the veterans returned to their communities, many to become the leaders for the next half century. Capt. Alexander Stone of Co. K was decorated in France with the Distinguished Service Cross. After the War he became the Fire Chief of Fredericksburg, retaining the post until his death in the '60s. Co. K, the Washington Guard, was dissolved, replaced by Battery F, 111 Field Artillery in the post WWI era.

## The Final Count

The battles on the 8th and 15th had been pure infantry actions with special weapons and artillery having little effect. The success was attributed to the unsurpassed acts of individual bravery and leadership of both officers and men alike. However, without the heavy fog cloaking the movements of the assaulting waves from enemy fire on the 15th it is doubtful a single man would have made it across the Molleville Farm clearing alive. The fog had equalized the enemy advantage of position, shelter, field of fire and that grim reaper of the battlefield, the Machine Gun. Eight days of almost constant fighting had reduced the battalion to a mere skeleton of its former strength. The strength reports for the 3rd Battalion the morning of the 16th when relieved demonstrated the intensity of the fighting.

Co. I had 1 officer and 86 men, Co. K had 1 officer and 50 men, Co. L had 2 officers and 85 men, Co. M had 2 officers and 54 men, 3rd Bat. HQ had only 3 officers left.

This brought a total of 9 officers and 275 men surviving out of the original complement of 24 officers and 790 men. They had been reduced to nearly 30% of their original strength.

Fredericksburg lost the following sons in the desperate action:

**Olive O. Olive** of Co. K, was operating a captured MG, holding out against one of the counter attacks. As described by one of his comrades to his family after the return of the veterans from France: *"Ollie climbed into a tree to have a better line of fire on the enemy with the MG. His position was located by the enemy and a withering fire cut him down. He didn't suffer but was killed outright."* Ollie fell at the age of 19, defending his comrades.

**Pvt. Harry L. Bowen**, another son of Fredericksburg, died of wounds received at the Molleville Farm only 16 days before the Armistice.

**Pvt. Guy R. Hall**, also met his fate, *killed in action* at the Molleville Farm.

**Pvt. Robert L. Jenkins**, a veteran of the old 2nd Va. and service with Co. K on the Mexican Border, *killed in action* at the Molleville Farm.

For the period of 10/8 through 10/16 the Virginians of the 116th were awarded 1 Congressional Medal of Honor (Sgt. Earl D. Gregory, HQ Co.), 39 Distinguished Service Crosses, and a variety of foreign decorations.

The men who went "Over There" to fight the War to End all Wars are nearly all gone now, those once great

legions of Doughboys of the AEF have faded into a thin line of frail men all in their 90's. We cannot let their deeds and valor be forgotten and we cannot let the memory of their sacrifice fade into the dust of time.

## A Return to the Battlefield

Over the past few years I have had the opportunity to visit the battlefields where the men of Fredericksburg fought so desperately in October of 1918. Malbrouck Hill and the Molleville Farm lay much the same as they did in 1918 with only the forest covering the scars of 1918.

The enemy positions on Malbrouck Hill lay blanketed under the jumble of a recent logging operation. However, a stroll through the remaining trenches and the debris of the logging operation lend a particularly eerie realism to the events that took place there long ago. Trenches are still defined and shards of barbed wire jut from the forest floor. The remains of craters blanket the area and rusted iron splinters can be found where the logging operation has cut into the earth beneath the forest. Along the old battle lines lay the remains of one time entrances to the enemy under ground galleries and bomb proof dugouts. They lay partially collapsed, the rotted timbers of the tunnel supports jutting upward like rotted teeth. The sound of the guns and the din of combat has been replaced by the pastoral scenes of the French countryside.

The Molleville Farm has risen from the ashes and been rebuilt. However, the farm clearing is the same as it was in 1918. Along the southern edge of the clearing the 29th jump-off point was just within the edge of the woods. As you step into the cover of the forest the evidence of the battle is everywhere. The 29th occupied this position the night prior to the assault and it is still strewn with American gear and abandoned ammunition. I found a pile of US Stokes Mortar rounds stacked like logs next to one of the mortar pits, its crew pressed into action by Major Opie. Abandoned grenades, still at the ready, lay on the top of the foxholes dug by the 3rd battalion overlooking the farm. I picked up a German helmet pierced by a bullet and abandoned along the woods edge as the enemy fell back to the north of the clearing.

On the far side of the farm clearing lay the enemy positions assaulted by the Virginians. They still lay in shambles, ruined concrete bunkers ripped open by some great force and the area pocked marked by shell craters. While kicking the leaves in a MG nest I scuffed up a German bayonet abandoned by its prior owner in the haste of battle 75 years ago. I located the area where the MGs had been surrounded by Cpl. Mezoff and his squad from Co. E. There in the dark pines after all these decades a rusted "Sled Type" German MG mount still stands silent vigil over the Molleville farm clearing. Behind it, the empty ammo cans lay where they were

Washington Guards  
Continued on page 19





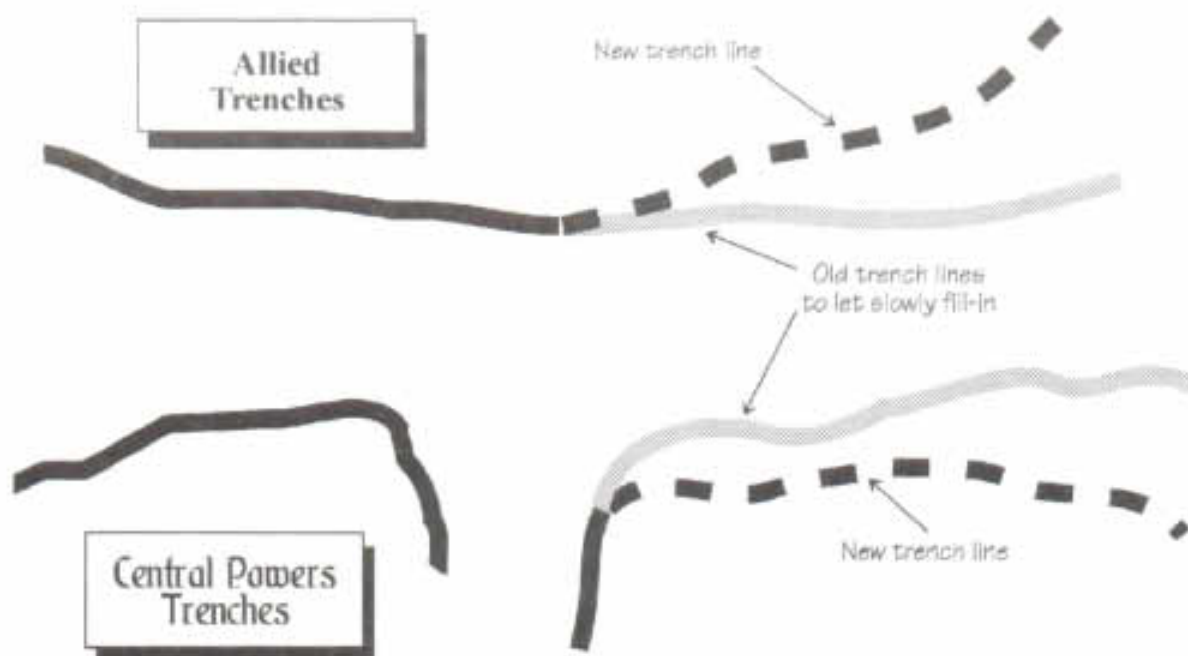
# Central Powers Rep Corner

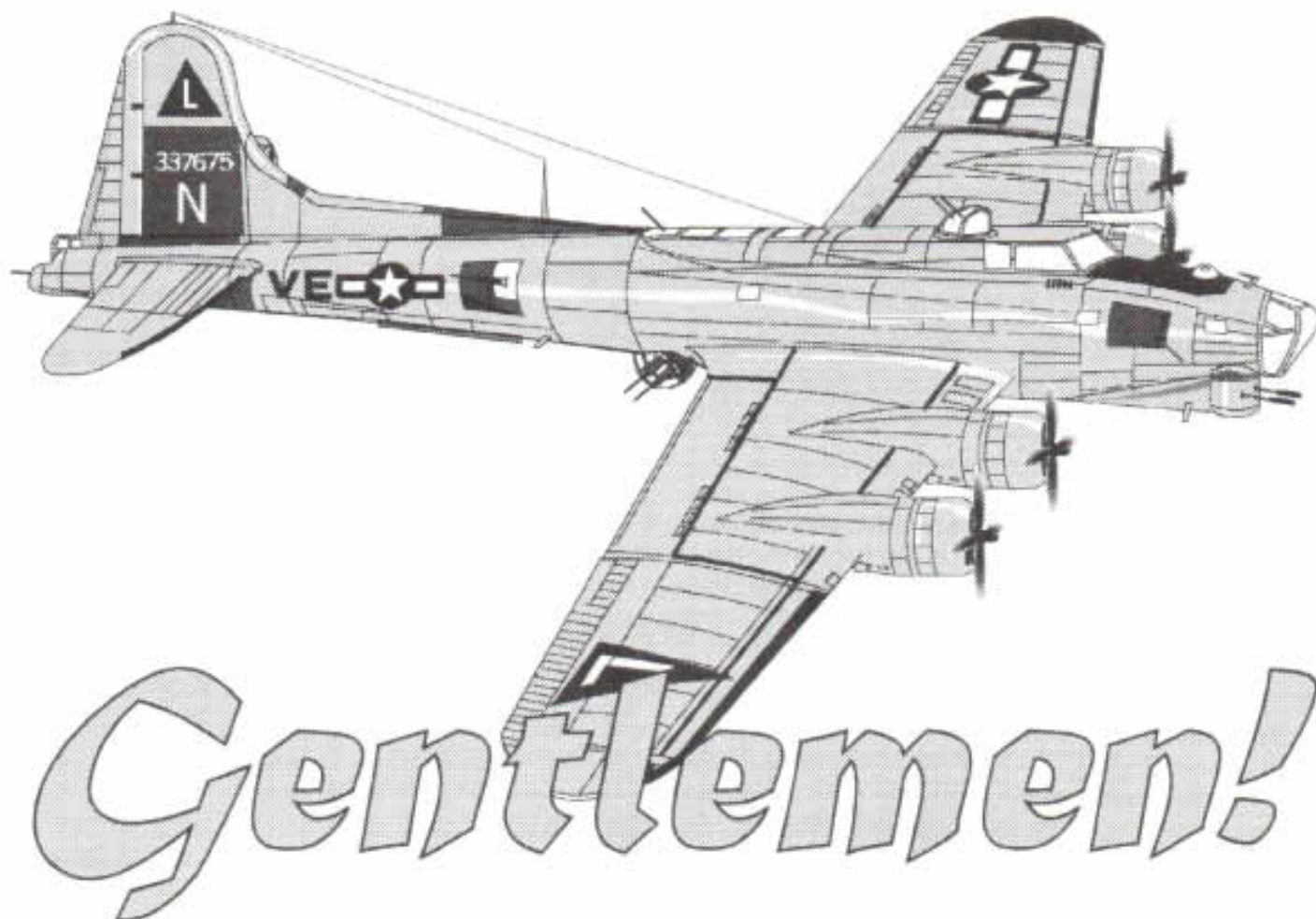
by Ernst Deksheimer  
Central Powers Representative

There has been a fair amount of activity since the last OTW for me to report. The most significant has been the memorial service to dedicate the new site. I was privileged to speak for the Germans at the ceremony and greatly enjoyed dinner with the Anderson family the evening before. Mark Anderson's mother (the daughter of Caesar Krauss) and father, along with other family made for a memorable time. On behalf of the Central Powers, I would personally like to thank Mark Anderson (for the gift of the property), Rick Keller and Phil Schreier (for working so hard on the memorial details) Ernie Cowan (for the site preparation and monument) and our hard working president Marv Chadab (who dreamt up the way the ceremony should go). These men had truly enabled our hobby to go forward with a bright future. On other notes—we have one bunker basically finished (MW12) and another dug and well on its way to being built (IR63). I have received a request from IR92 to begin construction of their bunker which they are requesting to be next to IR63. Central Powers Units, as you have the funding and the drive to get a bunker underway, please know that you must submit, *IN DETAIL*, your request (including desired location, building type, construction plans and materials) to the Central Powers Rep **BEFORE** you can proceed. I will forward copies on to the site committee and upon approval

you can proceed. A bi-partisan document entitled "**Site Regulations for the Great War Association**" has been completed, approved and sent to your unit commander and/or unit representative. In order that the site be developed with consistency and historical accuracy, these regulations are vital and folks—mandatory. Please be warned, if you or your unit build outside of these guidelines or do not get Site Committee approval, your trench or bunker improvement will be removed. We simply must develop this site correctly and with a careful eye to the landowner's concerns. The last area I would like to briefly discuss is the trenches. Both Jeff Holder (the Allied Rep) and myself have received numerous comments on how the trenches are too close to each other. We have discussed this and would like to propose changes which should remedy this situation somewhat. Basically, the left of the German line (right of the Allies) would be left alone. The main change would be in the left and center of the Allied and German lines. To these we would abandon the front line and curve the line away, creating a larger no-man's land. When finished, the left and right of the line would have larger no-man's land, with the center coming closer together. See the drawing below:

Both Jeff Holder (Allied Rep/Site Committee Chairman) and I would love to have your comments. It is our intention to work with the site committee on this idea and make it happen. Thus, if you have any thoughts, please contact Jeff Holder at 717-764-0649 or Deks at 513-522-1131 ASAP.





The Frederick, Maryland-based "Stars and Stripes Wing" of the Confederate Air Force is in need of Volunteers to help man key positions for the 1997 "Wings of Freedom" airshow at the Frederick Airport, to be held 23-24 August, 1997.

This is the fourth year for this huge display of WWII aircraft. Last year over 25,000 people attended the 2-day show, and this year, we hope to improve on that figure.

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We need help every day for a week before the show and at least 2 days after, setting-up and tearing-down. You'll have an absolute blast, and get some great stories to tell.

*If you'd like to sign on and be a part of a great organization, please call or write:*

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# Words from the Central Powers Combat Commander

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by Tim Goodwin

*Central Powers Combat Commander*

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**G**reetings! Everyone I have spoken with seems to have had an enjoyable time at the Fall Event, although this probably won't be ranked as one of our more memorable events. There were several things which detracted from the combat phase, specifically the lengthy safety meeting (which necessitated a late start), the early standown and the unusually high rate of injuries (which broke up several good scenarios). The first two things involve scheduling, which can be handled between myself and the Allied Combat Commander. It is the safety issue that I would like to address.

Our hobby is growing at a rapid pace and there are a lot of new faces on the battlefield. Many of our recruits are new to reenacting and don't fully comprehend the dangers associated with GWA sponsored events. I observed several safety infractions in the Fall, the most serious of which involved two recruits who had **NEVER READ** the Safety Rules. (Not knowing the safety rules is inexcusable) I am asking everyone to stay alert with regard to safety and correct any infractions as they occur. Should anyone give you a hassle, then report it up your chain-of-command and it will be dealt with! I realize some of the Safety Rules are a bit trivial, but we don't want anyone injured. Trench warfare is a lot different, and in many ways more hazardous, than any other type of Living History. Our objective is to go to Newville, have a great time and do some serious living history, all without anyone getting hurt. Enough said—I'll now get off my soapbox.

Planning has already begun on tactical scenarios for the Spring Event. It is still my desire to keep the combat going well into the night, so plan to dress warmly.

Utilizing the Chain-of-Command for controlling tactical evolutions seems to be working and will continue to be emphasized. Please keep in mind, for our overall strategy to be effective, participants must follow the orders of their Unit/Abteilung commanders. We must also keep everyone up and down the Chain-of-Command informed as to what is happening. We have many serious reenactors in this hobby whose sole desire is to act out WWI living history to the best of their ability! Thus, whenever we are on the battlefield, let us all strive to maintain a serious first person impression!!!

I would like to commend GWA President **Marv Chadab** and **Phil Schreier** for all their hard work in putting together the dedication ceremony for the **Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site**. This took a lot of work and was well received by everyone! From what I understand, Mrs. Anderson (this site is dedicated to her father) was in tears by the time we had the laying of the wreaths. **Good Job!**

Congratulations to **IR92** in capturing Capt. LoCicero, the Allied Combat Commander! Per my challenge, I personally delivered a case of good German beer to IR92's campsite Saturday evening. I think we all had a great time downing it and singing around the campfire.

As a final note, I also would like to thank **Dennis Connors** and **Les Peters** for their efforts in setting-up and coordinating the field telephone system linking the Abteilungen together. On their own initiative, they obtained the equipment, strung the wire and manned the phones. The Spring 1997 event will soon be upon us, so begin thinking about your impression. Should anyone need to contact me for any reason, my home telephone number is (614) 427-3544. See you in April!

*Hauptmann August Hein*

(a.k.a. Timothy E. Goodwin)

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## Washington Guards, continued from page 16

thrown out behind by the crew. At the "Y" of the small RR I found the foxholes from which Stone's group defended the flank, a rotted Doughboy's boot remained along with discarded ammunition and spent cartridge cases.

The pristine condition of this battlefield is not a unique, much of the Argonne Forest remains as it was abandoned after the War. The practical French farmers in

this rural area look upon the "relics" as just so much rusted junk. Even though there were post-war salvage efforts, the tremendous expanse of the Western Front has left many pockets just as they were when the boys came marching home again. These battlefields will not remain forever and I recommend that anyone who has an interest in this period of our heritage make the trip "Over There" and enjoy a near time travel experience.

# Caesar Krauss—

## The Man Behind The Memorial

by Mark Anderson

Caesar Krauss was my maternal grandfather. He was a member of the National Army from Sept. 30 1917, until his honorable discharge on June 7, 1919. Being from Maryland at the time of his enlistment, he became a member of the 79th Division in Col. Claude Sweezey's 313th Infantry Regiment ("Baltimore's Own"). His basic training was completed during the particularly harsh winter of 1917-18 at Fort Meade, Md. He eventually earned his Corporal stripes and was assigned to the 3rd battalion 4th platoon of Company M.

Born in Eastern Germany in 1889, my grandfather eventually went on to serve in the Czar's Hussars at the age of 21. It is likely that his Russian military service resulted in his promotion to corporal in the A.E.F.. Grandad immigrated to the United States either late in 1911 or early in 1912. As we are all aware, America's Army, at the onset of the war, was willing and enthusiastic, but was short of military experience. Grandad's military background would have been recognized and appreciated.

The 313th embarked for France on July 8, 1918 aboard the luxury liner *Leviathan*, converted into a troopship and resplendent in its dazzle camouflage. The transatlantic crossing took six days. On the division's arrival in Brest France, on July 14, the inexperienced doughboys were given combat training by experienced Allied veterans and lasted until early September. On Sept. 7, 1918 they were committed to the inferno. They proceeded to the front traveling along the well worn "Sacred Way". The 313th relieved the 371st Inf. Regiment, who were American Black troops assigned to the French Army. On Sept. 13 the regiment took part in a defensive action.

The 79th went on the offense on the 25th of Sept. Their assignment was to capture the towns of Montfaucon and Nantillois. This action was the first phase of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive which



Caesar Krauss before he moved to America. Shown during his service as a Hussar in the Russian Army.

involved simultaneous attacks by four army groups, American, Belgian, French and British.

My grandfather's picture album which is one of my prized possessions shows many photographs of the ground that his unit covered during the offensive. There are photos of Montfaucon Woods in which Company M captured its first German



prisoners. There are also photos of the destroyed Montfaucon church, which are essentially unchanged to this day. The town was rebuilt a mile from its original location during the Great War. When I visited Montfaucon in 1985, I found the ruins to be as the pictures taken in 1918 depicted them. The album also contains photos of Chateau Montfaucon used by the Crown Prince as an observation post during the battle for Verdun. The 313th reached Nantillois by the end of September. Their struggle was intense and casualties were heavy and Company M lost two sergeants, three corporals and thirteen privates.

Most of the month of October was spent in defensive positions. The 79th was ordered to the offensive on Oct. 27. The 313th was to launch an attack on Nov. 6, but was their sector was subjected to an intense artillery bombardment (high explosives and shrapnell).

My mother remembers that every year, the week before Armistice Day, Grandad took the day off from work. When questioned about this he told her that he had been in terrible battle and did expect to survive. He prayed that if God saw fit to spare his life he would honor the occasion as a Sabbath day. (Grandad was a member of the Choptank of the Masonic lodge). To our knowledge, Grandad never worked on that day again.

Caesar Krauss died on his 58th birthday when I was only thirty months old. He is buried in the Baltimore National Cemetery. Of all the souvenirs and mementos that he had collected and saved from the Great War, only his picture album and his medals remain. The rest was, after his funeral, picked up by the junkman. Much to the delight of Rick and Dean of Great War Militaria, I have been trying to replace this loss for most of my adult life.



Corporal Caesar Krauss, shown here as a member of the 79th ID, most likely at the end of the war.

This site is my lasting tribute to my Grandad and his comrades as well as to his allies and adversaries. The purchase and development of the **Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site** in Upper Muffin Township, Pa. will provide a "living" tribute to be used by Great War historians and enthusiasts forever.

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# A Guide to Better Reenacting

by Ernst Deksheimer

3/1963

I don't know about you, but I am tired of playing "bang-bang, your dead!...No I'm not, you missed!" at combat events. Maybe it stems from my passage into middle age or possibly that I have played our game in the trench for fifteen years now. I don't know...but while I must confess my favorite times at WWI have been and still are the living history that goes on in the trenches and bunkers...I still like to go "over the top." But something must change. Admittedly, we used to have more land between the trenches where surveillance and sneak attacks could form and where before we had less men to hold the line or make the breakthrough occur. However, now we have other opportunities such as mass attacks, artillery bombardments, plane strafing and larger, more realistic units. Dog-gone it! Now I went and said the "R" word, "REALISTIC!"

What is missing in our trench warfare? I know we are still shy on bunkers and definitely need more work on the field, but it is the **REALISM** that the individual brings to the event that has really slipped!! Many of us are historians, by trade or by sincere love. We know the statistics...between a third and a half of those committed became casualties!! We know the effect of machine gun fire and grenades...how the Germans would use their MG's to fire in a diagonal pattern which created a web of fire that crisscrossed the field and was almost sure death; or the simple fact that a single hand-grenade could wipe out an entire squad in a confined area. What about gas...an awful weapon which killed and maimed where the wind blew? Comrades...I think many of us either do not grasp the effect of these weapons or perhaps more basic here, what we are trying to create at this field.

Over the next issues of *On the Wire* we will discuss the effect of some of these weapons of destruction that were so successful on the field of battle. It is important that we know their effect in order that we can respond in a manner of realism. It is to the second portion of my thought—that perhaps many do not know what the GWA is trying to create at the **Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site**—that I would like to briefly discuss.

Many, if not a majority, of the members of the GWA have and still do participate in other reenacting units and periods. But what made WWI reenacting so special, so different, was the realism that we brought to this one period of history. Look at the uniforms of Civil

War, WWII, Rev War, etc. Only here in WWI have I ever been challenged on my kit. We have great debates, squabbles and out and out fights over how authentic in appearance we can make ourselves. This is the only organization I know that enforces a haircut rule! And why...because we have the desire to make ourselves into the best! It is what drew me and many others to this reenactment society. We have trench masters to ensure our bunkers and trenches are reproduced in an historical manner and authenticity inspectors to correct our uniforms. Then we walk on the field and blow the whole thing with a lack of attitude and a "bang-bang" mentality! We have to some degree always had this problem, but with increasing numbers and a lack of bunkers, it is becoming an epidemic.

Let's talk specifics. **Trench life.** Soldiers of the period did not talk about battles much from what I can tell; they talked about everyday life...home, family, career, politics, religion, crappy food, poor leaders, and just common occurrences. I can't tell you how annoying it is to spend tons of money to get outfitted and drive for ten hours to stand in a trench and then hear people talking about how neat the last Civil War event was! We only live in the trenches for three days, twice a year folks...make an effort!!! Put your mind in the early 20th century while the uniform is on. **Bullets.** If the bullets were real, would you be walking in a short section of trench standing upright? I would be on my knees, crawling! **Casualties.** When you have an enemy aim right at you and fire, you probably would have been hit. Go down, scream or lie still. I hate it when I see casualties, kneeling or sitting talking with each other during an attack. If you are hit, stay down until the battle passes you. It is incredibly annoying to see the dead rise up as you pass them by and shoot you. It makes it very difficult to have a successful attack when there are no absolutes. A dead man is no longer your enemy! By all means, once the action has passed by, get up and rejoin the battle. However, you must start from behind your own men. In other words, remove yourself from the heat of action, get behind it and start again. This simple rule would remove 80% of all the childlike games played during battle scenarios.

**The "Bang-bang" rule.** At this last event, I laid among the dead in the enemy trench and watched with astonishment at a German who had a jammed rifle, dispatch three Americans with a simple yell of "bang" and the

Better Reenacting  
Continued on page 25.



# Lew Ayres, Actor, Dies at 88;

## Conscience Bound His Career

by Mel Gussow

from *The New York Times*; January 1, 1997

Lew Ayres, the movie actor who skyrocketed to fame as a disillusioned German soldier in *All Quiet on the Western Front* in 1930 and was also celebrated for playing the title role in *Young Dr. Kildare* and the series of films that followed it, died on Monday in Los Angeles, where he lived. He was 88.

In a case of life imitating art, Mr. Ayres was a conscientious objector during World War II and for that reason became a Hollywood outcast. Before the war, he had been one of the most popular leading men in the movies. But when he announced his pacifism, which had a religious basis, he was shunned by the studios, and in some cities exhibitors refused to show his movies. He said that to bear arms would cause him "to live in a nightmare of hypocrisy."

After two months in a labor camp, he entered the Army as a noncombatant, serving for three and a half years in the Medical Corps and winning three battle stars. After the war, he resumed his career and made scores of movies, but never reached the peak of his early Hollywood stardom.

On screen and off, he projected a sincerity and strength of character, all which suited him well, especially when he played doctors. He was also cast as a lawyer or journalist and occasionally played a gangster, but his archetypal role was as a wise and compassionate physician. In *Donovan's Brain* in 1953, he mixed two worlds: he was a doctor transformed into a fiend.

He played opposite many of Hollywood's leading ladies, including Lana Turner, Laraine Day, Ann Sothorn, Ann Sheridan and Alice Faye. On-screen he did not always marry his co-star, but off screen he married Ginger Rogers; they were later divorced. His first wife was the actress Lola Lane. He is survived by his third wife, Diana, and a son, Justin.



In *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1930), Lew Ayres's portrayal of a sensitive soldier made a riveting impression on the moviegoing public.

In his career, which spanned more than sixty years, Mr. Ayres seesawed between stardom and character roles, and often seemed to be in a state of constant revival. There were many high points, beginning with his first major movie role in 1929, opposite Greta Garbo in *The Kiss*, and including a performance as the sweet-tempered alcoholic brother in Philip Barry's *Holiday* (1938), with Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn. For his role as a doctor in *Johnny Belinda*, he received an Academy Award nomination; Jane Wyman, who starred in the film, won an Oscar as best actress.

In 1962, under the direction of Otto Preminger, he became President of the United States in the movie *Advise and Consent*. When the President (Franchot Tone) died, his Vice President (Mr. Ayres) was elevated to that office. For the director and the actor, there was a certain justice in that event. More than many actors, Mr. Ayres seemed to suffer from the moral judgements of the movie industry.

Lewis Ayres was born in Minneapolis and went to high school in San Diego. At the University of Arizona, he studied medicine, a career that he later undertook with dedication on the screen. At Arizona, he also played in a university jazz band, and he continued as a musician in Los Angeles, where he was discovered by and agent who had seen him dancing with actress Lily Damita. Within a year, he was playing Garbo's youthful lover.





Lew Ayres in 1977

Cast as Paul Baumer, the sensitive young soldier in Lewis Milestone's disturbing film version of Erich Maria Remarque's antiwar novel *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Mr. Ayres made a riveting impression on the movie-going public. The scene on the battlefield in which he reaches for a butterfly remains one of the most heartbreaking in screen history.

Many of his subsequent films were lighter and less demanding. In typical studio fashion, he simply went from movie to movie. In 1933, he was a reporter in *State Fair* and a plumber who bets on horses in *Don't Bet on Love* (with Miss Rogers). He also played opposite the English actress Lillian Harvey in the musical *My Weakness*. Though his movies were often minor, he seemed to approach them with ease.

*Young Dr. Kildare* in 1933 was a popular breakthrough, followed by eight more Kildare films. In the first film, the young doctor turned his back on his father's small-town medical practice and became an intern in a large general hospital. Earnest Dr. Kildare came under the tutelage of the irascible Dr. Gillespie (Lionel Barrymore). Years later, television was periodically flooded with hospital dramas, from adaptations of *Kildare* and *Ben Casey* through *St. Elsewhere* and *E.R.*, but the big-screen *Kildare* was there first: unassuming but filled with expert medical knowledge.

After the war, Mr. Ayres returned to the screen, playing, naturally, a doctor: opposite Olivia de Havilland in *The Dark Mirror*, directed by Robert Siodmak. He followed that with *The Unfaithful* (with Ann Sheridan and Zachary Scott) and *Johnny Belinda*, in which he played a doctor who teaches sign language to a deaf young woman (Miss Wyman).

He left the screen in the 1950's to direct a religious documentary, *Altars of the East*, returning in 1962 at the request of Mr. Preminger. He continued acting for almost 30 years, appearing in, among other films, *The Carpetbaggers*, *Battle for the Planet of the Apes* and *Battlestar Galactica*.

It was often suggested that as an actor he sacrificed his career for his principles. Once, thinking about the highs and lows, Mr. Ayres said, "A fellow's never through 'til he quits trying."

This article was sent in by Dr. Donald Crosby. Many of us will mourn the passing of "Paul Baumer." Although Mr. Ayres was not really in WWI, his performance is what drew many of us into this hobby in the first place. Also, as he goes, so do many of the "real" vets that we honor with our hobby—Let's remember them too!

## Better Reenacting, continued from page 23

genital-like thrust of his useless rifle at the enemy. Many have heard of the "bang-bang" rule. It was the invention of those who wished to see more safety in close quarters. The problem with the rule is that it creates a rifle with an endless supply of ammo and one that can be fired as fast as an MG-08. I would like to propose that we go back to equally safe rule of "when in the trench with an enemy present, all weapons must be fired straight up in the air." In this way, realism to a greater degree is maintained with safety. **Grenades.** We all know that the Allies do not have a quarter of the number of MGs that the Germans do. They have made up for this discrepancy by use of the grenade. While I do wish the manufacturers would at least spend an additional one minute and paint the grenades (please!), it is understandable why the Allies have so many. However, the result of this plethora of exploding devices is the almost universal ignoring of the results of the explosion. I can not tell you the number of times I have seen Germans receive a grenade at their feet which leaves them, amazingly, still standing after detonation. They scream, laugh and go on. Likewise, the Germans feel frustrated, because after spending almost an hour per grenade in turning the handles, making friction fuses and carefully constructing grenade boxes, they see the Allies treat a grenade in the same way. If a grenade explodes within three feet of you, (I realize the effect would be greater, but....) you **ARE** a casualty. Go down and stay so for a period of time. **Gas.** There are many more areas and we will talk in depth in future issues, but the last one I wish to talk about is gas. It's very simple. In the presence of white smoke you are in smoke. In the presence of any colored smoke, you are in gas. You must put on your gasmask in a gas attack. If you don't, you're a casualty if the smoke rolls over you. It really bothers me when I am killed sitting in my trench with my mask on by an enemy who shoots me while standing in gas with no mask.

I close by referring to my opening comment...I'm tired of playing "bang-bang, you're dead!" WWI combat has been and will be great fun and very realistic if we but follow some simple rules. Come with a 1917 attitude in speech and thought, respect that bullets can kill from 50 meters, if you become a casualty...stay that way until the action passes, then get up and re-enter the battle from your own side, be careful of your weapon and don't turn it into a MG when someone comes around the corner, treat grenades as the real thing, and put on your gasmask when a gas attack comes. If we will follow these rules, we won't find all the historians playing skat in the bunkers while all the children play army in the trenches. With the new numbers we have, it is incumbent upon the older members to enforce and exhort us all to more realism in combat. Otherwise, let's come in blue-jeans and fight it out hiding behind sheaves of wheat.

# German Cooking in the World War— or ... Making the Best of One's Situation!

by Musketier Rolf Gaulke

2/1R 111

The meal presented here is typical of what industrious German soldiers can concoct behind the lines. It represents the soldiers' ability to scavenge food locally as well as the negative impact that the British blockade, the inefficient domestic rationing system (as demonstrated by the thriving black market), and several years of war are having on the nation's food supply.

The meal includes: *Kartoffelpuffer* (potato pancakes), *Apfelsuppe* (Apple Soup), *Kriegskuchen* (War Cake), *Rosinenbrot* (Raisin Bread), and *Ersatz Kaffee* (Ersatz coffee). The recipes and their sources are listed after the explanation below.

The scavenger portion of the meal is represented by the potato pancakes and apple soup. Potatoes and apples are both fairly easy to find behind the lines in the fall of the year. The typical soldier might need a little more ingenuity to find the other ingredients (boullion, eggs, etc.), but the combining of resources and "trading" with supply depot workers and cooks can yield the necessary ingredients.

The war cake and raisin bread represent two types of food that are often shipped from home. The two provide an interesting contrast. The war cake, with its numerous ingredients, perhaps has greater appeal to the palate. However, as the war continues and rationing becomes increasingly stringent in Germany, the Hausfrau certainly finds it easier to locate the ingredients for the raisin bread. Hence, the inclusion of both breads in this meal.

Ersatz coffee—essentially a mix of chicory, barley, and other grains and ingredients—completes this wonderful meal.



## The Recipes and their Sources:

**Warning:** The conversion of dry ounces to wet ounces varies by product being measured. For example 1 pound of sifted flour, i.e. 16 dry ounces, approximates four cups, or 32 fluid ounces.

However, 1 pound of sugar, i.e. 16 dry ounces, approximates two cups, or 16 fluid ounces. When attempting to make these recipes, bakers should use a mini scale for measuring dry ounces and the standard measuring cups for measuring fluid ounces!

### *Kartoffelpuffer* (Potato Pancakes)

#### Ingredients:

- ☑ 2 pounds of peeled potatoes
- ☑ 1 tablespoon salt
- ☑ 100 grams (3.5 dry oz.) potato flour
- ☑ ¼ liter (about one cup) milk
- ☑ 2 eggs
- ☑ cooking fat

Place the grated potatoes in cold water. Pour the water off shortly before baking and drain by patting potatoes with a kitchen towel. Add the salt, flour, and egg yolk. Then, add the stiffened egg white. Using a spoon, make the thinnest possible cakes (average diameter 9 centimeters (3.5 inches)) in a pancake pan filled with hot oil. The pancakes should be turned and baked until crispy. [Back home] They would be eaten as soon as possible with salad (lettuce), asparagus, or topped with stewed or preserved fruit.

Source: *Kochbuch der Koch- und Haushaltungsschulen*, 10. Auflage (10th Edition), 1925.

### *Apfelsuppe* (Apple Soup)

#### Ingredients:

- ☑ 3 cups of applesauce sweetened
- ☑ 2 boullion cubes
- ☑ 3 cups of water

Boil and serve hot. Pear soup is made in the same way.

Source: *Germany in War Time: What an American Girl Saw and Heard*, Chicago, Open Court Publishing Company, 1917. (Note: This book provides typical recipes and Pension (boarding house) menus in Germany.)



## Kriegskuchen (War Cake)

### Ingredients:

- ☑ 1 pound sugar
- ☑ 2 eggs
- ☑ ¼ liter (about one cup) milk
- ☑ 2 table spoons cocoa
- ☑ 150 grams (5.25 dry ounces) of nuts (finely chopped)
- ☑ 40 grams (1.4 dry ounces) of citron
- ☑ 40 grams (1.4 dry ounces) of orange peel
- ☑ 120 grams (4.2 dry ounces) of sultanas (raisins)
- ☑ 1 package of Dr. Oetkers baking powder (probably two teaspoons)
- ☑ 1 pound of sifted flour

Beat the sugar and eggs until creamed. Then add the milk, cocoa, finely chopped nuts, citron, orange peel, sultanas, and the baking powder and shifted flour. This dough is placed in a bread loaf (Stollen) pan and baked for 1.25 hours on medium heat (probably 350 degrees Fahrenheit). (It can also be baked in a cake pan.) After cooling, cake can be cut in half and filled with marmalade.

Source: *Kochbuch der Koch- und Haushaltungs Schulen*, 10. Auflage (10th Edition), 1925.

## Rosinenbrot (Rasin Bread)

### Ingredients:

- ☑ ½ cake (¼ packet) yeast
- ☑ 1 cup potato flour
- ☑ 2 tablespoons of raisins
- ☑ 1 pound flour

Set sponge at night: To activate the yeast, dissolve ½ packet of yeast in 1/8 cup of water that feels warm to the touch. (Be sure water is not too hot, or you will kill the yeast.) Allow to stand three to five minutes. Bubbles should appear on the surface. Then, beat in a cup of flour to make a smooth batter—the sponge. Cover and let rise in a warm place overnight (or until doubled in size.) Then mix in the other ingredients, toss the dough on a lightly floured board and knead until smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a greased bowl and let rise again. When it has doubled in size, punch the dough down and form into a loaf. Bake for one hour at 350 degrees.

Source: *Germany in War Time: What an American Girl Saw and Heard*.

## Ersatz Kaffee

Many U.S. health food and natural stores sell products which are produced from the same ingredients found in Germany's Ersatz Kaffee—Chicory, Barley, and other grains and roots.



A revealing photo a group of quite young German soldiers at meal time. Note the grey-colored „Drillchanzug“ worn by three of the men and the striped trouser suspenders. They also are wearing the camouflage bands on their Feldmützen—the tunics being worn are of the 1907/10 and Transitional varieties. (R. Weiß collection)

# Allied Rep's Corner

by Jeff Holder  
*Allied Representative*

**G**reetings fellow Allies. I hope you all weathered the winter and this communication finds you in good spirits and good health. I have been to the trenches twice in the last few weeks and everything is for the most part just as we left it in the fall. I will be working at the site every weekend from now until the event. I hope to have the road behind the Allied line repaired, as well as an area cleared and barb-wired to hold POWs.

Mike LoCicero and his staff are planning to build a CP for the Spring event. Most of this year's improvements will occur during the summer. These improvements will include more trench digging as well as the assignment of locations for units that want to build bunkers. All unit leaders should have received in the mail a packet containing the new site regulations. If you did not get one, please see me at the event. In this issue of *OtW*, Deks has given an overview of these regs, and explains their importance. Please read his column. I will give more detail to the Allied Trench Committee plans at a meeting during the weekend of the event. Check the schedule for details.

*Your Friend in Reenacting,*

*Jeff Holder*



Doughboy mess at the U.S. Camp at Lake Longemer. (R. Weiß collection)



French artillery observation post. (R. Weiß collection)

## Words from the Allied Combat Commander

by Mike LoCicero  
*Allied Combat Commander*



**Nothing received  
nothing printed!**



# German Regimental Flags

Have you ever wanted an authentic German regimental flag for your unit or even for yourself? Well, here's your chance!

My flags are 5' x 5', hand painted on silk. I research each flag to insure that it is authentic and correct.

I can generally custom make any flag from the Prussian Army—drop me a line or call for a quote!

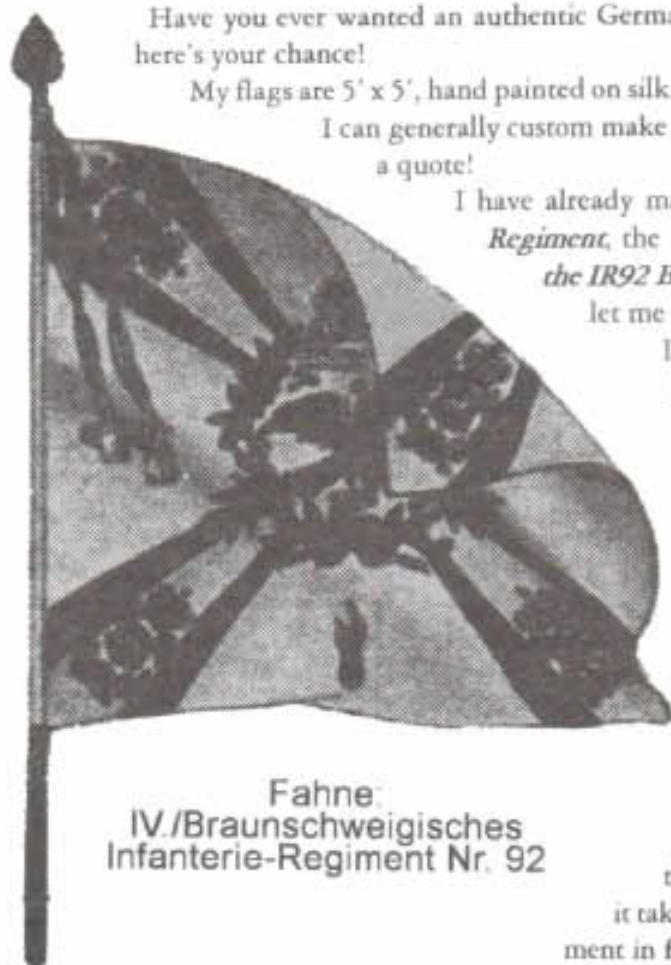
I have already made the colors for the *Kaiser Alexander Guard Grenadier Regiment*, the *1885 Pattern for Landwehr Fahne* and the *IV Bataillon of the IR92 Brunswick*. I am also able to do non-Prussian colors, so please, let me know your needs!

I can also do flags from other nations and eras; Czarist Russian for example. Another specialty is flags from the American Revolutionary War era; I have already done a *Hessian Leibfahne* and a *Royal Hannoverian Fahne*.

I am offering a special deal for the first four flags purchased (not ordered, but purchased)—a \$50 rebate on each flag. So, if one person orders *four* flags and pays before anyone else, he will get a \$50 rebate on *each* flag for a total of \$200, and of course, if four individuals, are the first, then they will each get the \$50 rebate.

Basic guidelines for ordering: Each flag costs \$550 (painted on one side). If you want the reverse painted also, it is an additional \$150 for a total of \$700.

I request a \$100 non-refundable deposit, in advance, due to the cost of the materials involved and the over 60 hours of labor it takes to produce each one of these flags. When finished, upon payment in full, the flag will be sent by **Insured—Registered Mail**.



Fahne  
IV./Braunschweigisches  
Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 92

Please address all inquiries to:

Brent Mikulak  
151 Diane Ln  
Bristol, CT 06010-7848  
tel. 860.589.7107

# The Feldmütze Controversy

by Musketier Frank James

3/1963

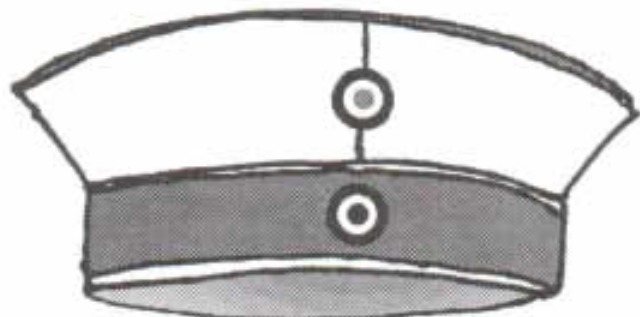
**K**ameraden, this article is not to criticize nor judge anyone's impression. Its purpose is simply to inform. It is completely up to the individual to correct his own impression, if he deems it necessary.

After the Spring 1996 Event, I started comparing photographs of Great War events, both of recent events and those from the past, to my collection of original German postcards. The results of this comparison were quite amusing (to myself anyway). Although the faces of the reenactors were different, the equipment was basically the same with one real exception; the shape of the Feldmützes was starting to change.

This last Spring we had four new Rekruten, and it was remarked by one of our „Alte Kämpfer“ that one of the new men's Feldmütze had „wings“ and that if a strong wind were to come up, Gefreiter Wachelevski and I would have to grab onto that man's legs to keep him from blowing away.

Well, this comment piqued my interest enough to start digging through my own library to see what the common German infantryman might have actually been wearing. Was it the classic „Pillbox“ shape our Alte Kämpfer referred to, or... was it the now common, reenactor-style Mario's Brothers, „Pizza Chef“ shape?

In the photos of Great War reenactments I studied (pre-Pt. Pickett, Ft. Pickett, and Newville photos), 85% of the Feldmützes being worn had the „Pizza-Chef“ shape,



Mario's Brothers, „Pizza Chef“ style Feldmütze

while the rest had the „pillbox“ shape to them.

Now what, you ask, does this prove? Well, to me, it showed that in the process of trying to accurately portray the common German infantryman, we are making great strides in many places while we appear to be falling behind in other areas.

I decided to begin a „James-Study“ and so started to minutely examine all of the German „Feldpostkarten“ in my collection. These Postkarten range from early to

late war, and as you can guess, the results prove nothing, but as they say, „Curiosity killed the Katze!“

In my study, I quickly came up with some interesting findings. Out of 100 Postkarten, 93% were the classic „Pillbox“ shape, 5% of the Mützes were pulled over to one side and resembled a beret (and in



Normal-style Feldmütze

fact, could have been of either shape). And the remaining 2% were not recognizable as either style and were not a factor in my survey.

In the countless volumes of Great War books, I found that almost every photo of a German Soldat who was wearing a Mütze showed that it had the „pillbox“ shape. I then made an appointment with a local museum, the War Memorial Museum of Virginia. The curator of collections (a good friend) brought out five examples for me to study. I immediately compared these examples to my Feldmütze and Einheitsfeldmütze. The first thing I noticed was that the wool being used today is much thicker than what was used back then (but this could be from the originals being „well worn“ as opposed to being worn every now and then like ours are). I also noticed that three were of the „pillbox“ shape, one was the „Pizza-Chef“ shape and the last one was an Einheitsfeldmütze. All of the Mützen were marked, but due to their being „well worn“ I could only faintly see the makers mark and to which Armeeekorps they belonged to. Only one of the Mützen had both Kokarden on it and it was a Prussian Feldmütze.

Now you ask, what can we do to end this problem? The first thing to do, is not to take my word as gospel, because of the thousands of Feldmützes that were made, I only saw a mere handful. Instead, dig into your own library, scrutinize the photos in your collection (and those of your Kameraden) and then make the decision for yourself. Another idea is to visit a local museum and study any examples they might have. See how it is made and (if possible) carefully make a pattern from it or... purchase a pattern from Historic Reproductions (AKA: Ken Boice), for a mere \$10.00, which is a good investment towards really improving one's impressions.



**GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Semi-Annual Treasurer Report**  
 Submitted by: Michael D. Moss, Treasurer, GWA

DATE	DESCRIPTION	CHECK#	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE	INCOME & EXPENSE DESCRIPTION
8/27/94	Balance Forward				\$16,151.25	
8/94	Dues/Fees			\$20.00		Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
8/94	Interest			\$25.76		Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
9/94	Interest			\$23.53		Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
10/94	Interest			\$24.10		GWA G-7 Conference Call, purchase of mailing labels, property photographs, mailing costs
10/24/94	Tim Goodwin	119	\$378.65			Stamps, copies, purchase of trench manual
10/24/94	Steve Fisher	120	\$37.33			Postage "On The Wire" labels
11/8/94	Tim Goodwin	121	\$13.95			Income from dues and event fees Nov '94 GWA Fort Pickett
11/22/94	Dues/Fees			\$6,335.00		Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
11/22/94	Interest			\$25.52		Copies, printing, toilet paper
12/6/94	Tim Goodwin	122	\$52.58			Dues Income
12/6/94	Dues/Fees			\$20.00		Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
12/6/94	Interest			\$32.77		Mailing & Printing Expense "On The Wire", purchase sandbags
12/6/94	Craig Nordquist	123	\$343.13			Reimburse expense from site location work
12/6/94	Ken Boice	124	\$15.00			Reimburse food catering Nov '94 GWA Ft. Pickett event
12/27/94	Combat Catering	125	\$1,470.00			Refund duplicate dues
1/5/95	Marc Baetsch	126	\$20.00			Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
1/16/95	Interest			\$30.47		Purchase postage stamps
1/16/95	Steven Fisher	127	\$11.60			Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
2/28/95	Interest			\$30.95		Insurance for GWA members through NRA
3/1/95	NRA	128	\$2,270.10			GWA, NRA dues for 3 years
3/1/95	NRA	129	\$95.00			Purchase white flares
3/1/95	Steve Fisher	130	\$32.86			Printing, mailing G-7, unit commanders
3/1/95	Tim Goodwin	131	\$24.88			Interest Income On Funds In Checking Account
3/27/95	Interest			\$32.35		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,765.08</b>	<b>\$6,600.45</b>	<b>\$17,986.62</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 3/27, MARCH BANK STATEMENT</b>
3/27/95	Steve Fisher	132	\$19.20			Purchase postage stamps
4/30/95	Interest			\$31.31		
4/4 - 4/25	Dues/Fees			\$5,085.00		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$19.20</b>	<b>\$5,116.31</b>	<b>\$23,083.73</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 4/30</b>
5/2/95	Veterans of WWI	133	\$100.00			Donations to Veterans of WWI "The Torch"
5/22/95	Tim Goodwin	134	\$625.20			Printing & Postage "On The Wire" Spring 1995
5/11 - 5/31	Dues/Fees			\$910.10		
5/31/95	Interest			\$39.73		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$725.20</b>	<b>\$949.83</b>	<b>\$23,308.36</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 5/31</b>

6/12/95	Anthony Sattigro	135	\$42.00			Reimbursement for purchase of flares.
6/13/95	Tim Goodwin	136	\$198.42			Reimbursement for purchase of flares, printing - passes, regulations, forms
6/15/95	Mike Whalen	137	\$55.00			Reimbursement for purchase of flares
6/5 - 6/7	Dues/Fees			\$120.00		
6/30/95	Interest			\$38.19		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$295.42</b>	<b>\$158.19</b>	<b>\$23,171.13</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 6/30</b>
7/17/95	Sveve Fisher	138	\$25.60			Postage stamps
7/17/95	Tim Goodwin	139	\$342.38			Smoke grenades, unit commander mailing
7/19/95	Tim Goodwin	140	\$72.90			Postage, copy of rosters
7/11 - 7/17	Dues/Fees			\$157.00		
7/31/95	Interest			\$39.14		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$440.88</b>	<b>\$196.14</b>	<b>\$22,926.39</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 7/31</b>
8/28/95	State of NJ	141	\$45.00			Commercial recording office State of NJ
8/8 - 8/22	Dues/Fees			\$120.00		
8/31/95	Interest			\$39.05		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$45.00</b>	<b>\$159.05</b>	<b>\$23,040.44</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 8/31</b>
9/8/95	Sveve Fisher	142	\$26.19			Postage stamps
9/11/95	U.S. Army	143	\$817.62			Ft. Pickett, use of barracks U.S. Army Administration
9/28/95	U.S. Army	144	\$247.50			Ft. Pickett, trench construction
9/18/95	Tim Goodwin	145	\$595.09			GWA G-7 Conference calls
9/15/95	Mike Gonzales	146	\$12.80			Postage stamps
9/29/95	Eugene Myers	147	\$1,010.00			Backhoe work on trenches, Newville site.
9/20 & 9/26	Dues/Fees			\$1,430.00		
9/30/95	Interest			\$36.97		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,509.20</b>	<b>\$1,466.97</b>	<b>\$21,998.21</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 9/30</b>
10/9/95	Emile Cowan	148	\$900.00			Construction work, Newville site.
10/9/95	Void	149	Void			Backhoe work at Newville site.
10/9/95	Eugene Myers	150	\$1,200.00			Postage G-7/Unit commanders information.
10/9/95	Tim Goodwin	151	\$35.35			
10/13/95	Void	152	Void			Mailing and printing expense for "On the Wire"
10/13/95	Tim Goodwin	153	\$692.61			Purchase of sand bags
10/17/95	Kane Bag	154	\$1,250.00			Reimbursement for next day postage for Kane Bag check.
10/17/95	Intercontinental Dist	155	\$10.75			
10/27/95	Dues/Fees			\$25.00		
10/30/95	Interest			\$34.37		
10/26/95	Eugene Myers	156	\$1,200.00			Backhoe work at Newville site.
10/26/95	Robert Hall	157	\$5.00			Reimbursement for overpayment of dues.
10/28/95	Tim Goodwin	158	\$241.05			Reimbursement for purchase of flares.
10/27/95	Emile Cowan	159	\$1,100.00			Construction work at Newville site.
10/31/95	Sveve Fisher	160	\$22.70			Reimbursement for postage, copies
10/31/95	Murray Insurance	161	\$2,439.00			Payment for insurance
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$9,096.46</b>	<b>\$59.37</b>	<b>\$12,961.12</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE AS OF 10/31/96</b>



11/24/95	Chamberlin Septic	162	\$300.00			Payment for portable toilets - Fall '95 Event
11/24/95	Tim Goodwin	163	\$429.56			Reimbursement for smoke grenades, bales of straw
11/24/95	Mark Anderson	164	\$2,570.00			Payment according to lease for Fall '95 Event
11/95	Dues/Fees			\$7,655.00		
11/95	Interest			\$32.04		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,299.56</b>	<b>\$7,687.04</b>	<b>\$17,346.60</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE OF 11/30/95</b>
12/15/95	Ernie Cowen	165	\$440.00			Payment for bulldozer work at site
12/22/95	Montgomery McCrackin	166	\$4,169.50			Payment for legal expenses to negotiate lease for new site
12/22/95	Eugene Myers	167	\$1,410.00			Payment for back hoe work at Newville site
12/95/95	Dues/Fees			\$20.00		
12/95	Interest			\$28.04		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,019.50</b>	<b>\$48.04</b>	<b>\$11,377.14</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE OF 12/31/95</b>
1996						
1/15/96	Dues/Fees			\$20.00		
1/15/96	Interest			\$16.93		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$36.93</b>	<b>\$11,414.07</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE OF 1/31/96</b>
2/10/96	Tim Goodwin	168	\$140.00			Reimbursement for NRA insurance bill
2/10/96	Murray Insurance	169	\$587.25			Additional payment for additional insured M. Anderson
2/96/96	Interest			\$15.82		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$727.25</b>	<b>\$15.82</b>	<b>\$10,702.64</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS, AND BALANCE OF 2/29/96</b>
3/15/96	Great War Militaria	170	\$288.00			Reimbursement for purchase of flares
3/15/96	Cumberland Waste	171	\$200.00			Payment for garbage removal Spring '96 Event
3/15/96	NRA Liability Insurance	172	\$1,518.00			Payment for NRA insurance policy
3/15/96	Chamberlin Port. Restlm	173	\$300.00			Payment for portable toilets Spring '96 Event
3/96/96	Dues			\$160.00		
3/96	Dues			\$20.00		
3/96	Interest			\$14.94		
4/1/96	Eugene Myers	174	\$1,475.00			Payment for backhoe work on Newville site
4/10/96	Rick Blair	175	\$441.76			Reimbursement for purchase of membership cards & flares
4/11/96	Tim Goodwin	176	\$678.31			Reimbursement for printing & postage "On the Wire"
					<b>\$5,996.51</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS AND BALANCE OF 3/31/96</b>
4/26/96	Eugene Myers	177	\$2,545.00			Backhoe work done at Newville site
5/2/96	Newville Ambulance	178	\$300.00			Ambulance services April Event
5/2/96	GW History Society	179	\$3,080.00			Site rental fee from M. Anderson April event
5/2/96	Rick Blair	180	\$441.01			Reimbursement for copying, toilet paper, forms, etc.
5/2/96	Ernie Cowen	181	\$780.00			Backhoe work done at Newville site
4/96	Dues & fees April Event			\$8,970.00		
4/96	Interest			\$11.69		
					<b>\$7,822.19</b>	<b>INCOME AND EXPENSE TOTALS AND BALANCE OF 4/30/96</b>





# Units of the Great War Association

## Allied Forces

### British Expeditionary Force

#### Commander

LT. Chris Aleo  
5410 Jamie Ct.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407-1618  
(703) 858-0370

#### 5th Bn. ANZAC

Guy Gormley  
2109 Oak Hampton Pl  
Richmond, VA 23233-3564  
(804) 740-1445

#### 6th Bn. Black Watch

Bob Baker  
RR1/Box 853/Odon Rd.  
Harrison, ME 04045-8601  
(207) 583-2658

#### 8th Bn. Winnipeg Rifles C.E.F.

Paul Shipper  
317 West Dr.  
Connersville, IN 47331-1208  
(317) 825-7857

#### 17th Lancers

Dennis McGuinn  
10609 Hookberry Way  
Beltsville, MD 20705-2054  
(301) 585-2456

#### 27th Bn. C.E.F.

Todd Galle  
2727 Butler St.  
Pentbrook, PA 17103-2032  
(717) 236-8035

#### The Buffs

Scott Hall  
RR1 # 201  
White Plains, MD 20695-9801  
(301) 843-0591

### American Expeditionary Force

#### Commander

Rick Whitaker  
8060 Tributary Ct.  
Springfield, VA 22153-2924  
(703) 440-5723  
RWhit1048@aol.com

#### 33rd Division

Pete Tuttle  
5005 17th St N  
Arlington, VA 22207-2084

#### 372nd Inf. Regt./93rd Div.

Rick Ford  
1109 Clark Ave.  
Waldorf, MD 20602-2969  
(301) 645-7859

#### 29th Division

118th Inf. Regt./Aidpts Co.  
Al Fuerst  
8086 Powder Brook Ln  
Springfield, VA 22153-2926  
(703) 866-6179

#### 27th Division

Scott Fairb  
226 Brookside Ave.  
Cresskill, NJ 07625-1133  
(201) 569-6820

#### 28th Division, 109th Inf. Rgt./A. Co.

Tony Battilano  
216 Henry St.  
South Amboy, NJ 08879-1717  
(908) 721-6257

109th Inf. Regt. /A. Co.  
Kenneth Bennett  
1193 East Schullkill Rd.  
Pottstown, PA 19464-7003  
(215) 327-1259

#### 30th Division/AEF

Richard Avery  
4512 Ivanhoe Pl  
Charlotte, NC 28205-4841

#### 5th Marines, 49th Company

Richard Smallwood-Roberts  
1208 South Fourth St  
Stoughton, WI 53589-2519  
(608) 873-1799



### French Army

151<sup>st</sup> Régiment d'Infanterie  
Armée de France  
Brett V. Johnson  
1500 N Rhodes St Apt 5  
Arlington, VA 22009-2919  
(703) 516-9656

#### Русская Лейб Гвардия

Legion Russe  
(the Russian Legion)

Eugene K. Poplinsky  
614 Second St  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-4979  
H: (313) 662-5881  
Fax: (313) 662-5997  
E-Mail: Segemot@aol.com

### Probationary American Units

1st Division  
Keith Schaeckel  
433 S Cass Ave  
Westmont, IL 60558-2316  
(630) 663-1054

## Classified Ads

As a member of the GWA, you are entitled to one (1) free classified ad in *OtW*. The ad is limited to members of the GWA *only* and is limited to one column-inch of type. This offer does not apply to Dealers. If you are a dealer, you must take out a regular ad in *OtW*.

❖**Wanted:** Photocopies of your German Soldbuch(s) for a future series of in-depth articles—to appear in *OtW*—on the German Soldbuch. Please copy the book itself and any paste-ins and items which are included with the book (if you have the man's Militärjaß, that would be good too).

Also, I have been told that someone in the GWA has a Soldbuch from IR63; if this is true, I would really appreciate a photocopy! In fact, a photocopy of a Soldbuch from *any* of the original units that are being represented would be great.

Send the copies to: On the Wire c/o Marsh Wiese, P.O. Box 1408, Annandale, VA 22003-9408. My phone number is: 703.642.2267 if you want to call and can help with the articles. Thanks for your help on this!

#### ❖**Repro U.S. M1907 Winter Hat**

Made to measure. \$45 post paid, payable when finished. Send head measurement, down-payment, full-payment or letter-of-intent to buy to:

M. J. Shea, 4842 Bowser Dr, Toledo, OH 43613-3004

#### **Cool Period Fonts for *your* computer!**

These fonts are available now, and many more are under construction. Call me with your needs, if I don't have it, possibly I can make the WWI period font of your dreams.

Sue Fischer

5002 Audrey Cir #203  
Indianapolis, IN 46251738  
(317) 328-7861

# Units of the Great War Association

## Central Powers Units

### German Army

Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 63  
(4. Oberschlesisches)  
Mark Graef  
PO Box 3106  
Falls Church, VA 22043-0106  
(703) 448-0831

Königlich Bayerische Leib Regiment  
Keith Allen  
PO Box 117  
Haw River, NC 27258-0117  
(910) 578-2701

Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 120  
(2. Württembergisches)  
Marc Benedict  
207 Spring Ln  
Enola, PA 17025-2122  
(717) 732-1181

5. Sturm-Pionier-Bataillon (Rohr)  
Jim Michaud  
18 Walnut Ave  
Rockville Centre, NY 11570-2911  
(516) 678-5156

Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 111  
(3. Badisches)  
Steve Fischer  
5002 Audrey Dr #203  
Indianapolis, IN 46254-1738  
(317) 328-7851

Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 92  
(1. Braunschweigisches)  
Charles Lindvig (Field Commander)  
1831 Howard Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54703-1848  
(715) 835-3754  
Jim Nelson (Admin Officer)  
3216 Maplewood Rd  
Two Rivers, WI 54241-9330  
(414) 794-1072

20. MG-Scharfschützen-Kompanie  
Don Hongel  
25801 Prescott Rd  
Clarksburg, MD 20871-9159  
(301) 253-4533

12. Minenwerfer-Kompanie  
Ernie Cowan  
PO Box 562  
Chambersburg, PA 17201-0562  
(717) 264-0665

Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 23  
(2. Oberschlesisches)  
Jef Fontana  
3104 NW 22nd St  
Oklahoma, OK 73107-3018  
(405) 948-1362

Landwehr-Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 25  
(1. Rheinisches)  
James Miller  
410 N Granada St  
Arlington, VA 22203-1229  
(703) 522-1586

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