



THE GWA STRIVES TO KEEP THE HISTORY OF THE GREAT WAR, AND HONOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT ITS BATTLES, THROUGH BATTLE REENACTMENTS AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS.

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On the Wire

Fall 1999

From the German Combat Commander

There has been discussion from some of our members who desire to have a 24hr. scenario. Captain Lowe and I have agreed to try it on a small scale at the fall event. Part of this scenario will be entirely voluntary. We will continue to have a Friday evening scenario as we do now. At the fall event where we are able to enter into the FRONTLINE TRENCHES ONLY, we will have a general stand down, after which fighting activity throughout the night will be limited to the trenches. Units may send out patrols, wiring parties, or establish OP's with the intent of digging more shell holes to provide more broken ground in no man's land.

Eugene has volunteered his unit to provide EMT coverage throughout the night. We will have EMTs and a doctor in his unit. Without his cooperation, the 24hr. scenario would not be possible.

Please contact your respective Combat Commander if you are interested in participating in the Friday all-night scenario. This will allow us to determine how much area we will need for this activity.

There has been some discussion among members of the WWI Internet discussion attempting to make grenades look more authentic. This is something that we would add a little more realism to what we do. An example, at the last event a discovered what can only be described as a grenade that looked something like a towel roll with a tennis ball on the end). Whoever made it, didn't even bother to notice that film canisters are beginning to reappear. While I know everyone makes grenades, it might be worth paying a little more attention as to how they look.

We are also going to be addressing many safety concerns. One important item is that grenades that are being tested, are not entirely representative of the grenades used. As mentioned earlier, after the last event we found grenades that were not dangerous material, were of unusual weight, and contained metal fittings. Also, smoke cans being tossed as grenades over the tops of berms, landing in foxholes or trenches out of view of the person throwing them. We must be careful about anything thrown and should treat the safety of grenades with the same scrutiny that we give ammunition. These are potentially dangerous items, especially the smoke cans and incendiary items.

At the last event, I watched as some allies had to quickly evacuate a foxhole after it started a fire. We also had a Russian overcoat badly burned and stained by a smoke can. Please use good judgment in everything that's done to ensure that no one gets hurt. SMOKE CANISTERS LIKE GRENADES. Don't throw them if you can't see where they will land.

A reminder that grenades do not need to detonate when thrown into an enclosure, machine gun emplacement, or bunker. If you are in an enclosed position and a grenade is thrown at that position, consider yourself killed or wounded. Likewise, after a grenade is thrown into an enclosed position, an NCO or officer may enter with one enlisted man to check on the position.

No doubt Lou Brown, our safety officer, will address other safety issues further.

I would like to urge all German unit commanders to use a fighting withdrawal rather than ambling back to our trenches. I believe it will be more fun to fight our way back, rather than reach an objective and just let it end. Retreat with honor, those of the enemy. This is an excellent opportunity to get prisoners, even wounded.

My commendations to the Allies. There has been a noticeable increase in the amount of paperwork being carried by allied soldiers. My compliments to those of you who take the time to develop this part of your impression. I have seen some excellent examples of paperwork during interrogations, i.e., pictures of the wife, mom and pop, the

We continue to hear about who is or isn't taking hits. The fact remains, I've seen good and bad happen on both sides. It comes down to a personal choice. Playing fair is fun. While it is true that we have a few supermen on the Allied side, we also have a few *Äœbermenschen* on the German side; these are few and are the exceptions. Unfortunately, repeat offenders ruin it for everyone else. However, there are also honest mistakes and we need to be careful not to make assumptions by confusing the two.

See you in the trenches,
Rob Zienta
German Combat Commander

Field Hospital

The German Red Cross will set up a field hospital at the Spring event behind the ruins of the old barn.

We encourage stretcher-bearers to bring their wounded to the hospital for "triage." Our nurses promise to treat enemy wounded with the same care as their own soldiers. A good medical impression may assist the nurses.

Triage tags will be available for unit commanders so that they may tag the wounded in combat, giving some indication of the injury suffered. Upon arrival at the hospital, stamp your Soldbuch with the proper inoculation stamps for typhus, cholera, and hospital papers for your kit.

Please note that you will need to see "real" medical personnel for actual injuries, cuts, as our medical experience is limited to peroxide and Band-Aids....

Event Schedule

Friday

13:00--21:00	Open Registration/check in (tent at gate to camp and trenches)
16:00	Historic portion of site closed to modern vehicle traffic; trench pass and membership card check
17:30	Unit Commanders meeting at the tent by the trench; Grenade safety inspection behind the tent at

18:15	Safety Meeting on road between trenches
19:00--2300	Active Friday night combat begins
23:00--06:00	Voluntary participation in all night activity designated areas.

Saturday

07:00--09:00	registration/check in at the gate
08:00	Grenade Safety Inspection
09:00	Safety meeting (Caesar Krauss monument)
09:30 until 22:30	<i>Combat</i>

Sunday

07:00	Historic area of site opened to modern traffic
07:00--10:00	Combat site cleanup; each unit responsible area

The combat commanders will be holding a Friday night tactical, with the regular scheduled for Saturday morning. Any pyrotechnics/simulated grenades being used Friday night during the tactical, must be checked before the tactical. This can be done by 5:30 PM. On Saturday all pyrotechnics will be inspected at the morning event even if they have already been inspected on Friday night.

Members will vote for elected officials (G-8) at this event. Please fill out a ballot register. Candidate statements are printed in this issue of OtW for your edification and amusement. PLEASE VOTE!

Trench Review

At the Fall 1999 event, all structures currently on the premises will be reviewed by the trench master, combat commander and relevant representative. If certified safe, the structures will remain in place. If not safe, the unit will be asked to remedy the situation, or the structure will be torn down. Following this event, all construction must be approved, IN WRITING.

respective trench master or it will be torn down. **AGAIN, THIS IS LARGE ISSUE.**

GWA-G-8 Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: **Saturday, 21 August, 10:00am**

Location: **Easton Pennsylvania**

Participants:

- **Mike Moss** President
- **Randy Gaulke** Treasurer
- **Mike LoCicero** Allied Combat Commander
- **Rob Zienta** German Combat Commander
- **Jeff Holder** Allied Representative

A. Update of Spring 1999 Event

Officers present indicated that they received very favorable feedback regarding

In spite of the delay in publishing event information, Treasurer Randy Gaulke Spring 1999 event attracted 286 participants, slightly below the GWA's average of 300-325.

The proposed amendment to increase the GWA's officers from seven to eight. The proposed amendment to allow minors to participate was defeated. Vote counts for each amendment are shown below. Article 36 of the Bylaws state: "A two-thirds majority voting shall be necessary to pass an amendment."

Text of the proposed amendments is included below for members' information. Click on the link to view text of amendment.

Amendment	For	Against	Abstain	Result
<u>Expand G-7 to G-8</u>	173	27	27	PASSED
<u>Allow participation of minors</u>	64	144	19	FAILED

Proposed Amendment #1 (PASSED)

It is proposed that the position of Vice President/Secretary in Section 15 of the Bylaws be split into two individual positions. Both individuals filling the position will be officers.

With regard to Section 16 of the Bylaws, the Vice President shall serve as Vice President of the Safety Committee and the Administrative Committee. He also appoints and supervises the Military Police Representative.

With regard to Section 18 of the Bylaws, the Secretary shall oversee all G.W.A. events and elections. It is also noted that the Secretary will work on event administration and safety and supervision. This will include ordering supplies and services used at events and reenactments.

Proposed Amendment #2 (FAILED)

Whereas, since the future of our hobby depends on the infusion of new members, the following categories of membership shall be established.

Category I: Membership be limited to males 18 or older. Members must: (a) follow all rules of the G.W.A.

Category II: Membership limited to females 14 or older. Members must: (a) follow all rules of the G.W.A., (b) limit their activities to the historical roles that women played in the hobby.

Category III: Membership limited to males between the ages of 16-18. Members must: (a) follow all rules of the G.W.A., (b) provide written evidence of medical insurance, (c) provide a signed and dated liability waiver (parent or legal guardian), (d) prior to each event, demonstrate safe handling of firearms to his unit commander, (e) limit all activities to their own trench, (f) not engage in physical (hand to hand) combat.

Category IV: Membership limited to males between the ages of 14-16. Members must: (a) follow all rules of the G.W.A., (b) provide written evidence of medical insurance, (c) provide a signed and dated liability waiver (parent or guardian), (d) do not handle firearms or handle any equipment, (e) limit their activities to their own trenches, (f) refrain from physical (hand to hand) combat while on the battlefield, be directly supervised by an adult member of his unit.

Category V: Observer members. Members limited to persons 14 or older. Members must: (a) follow all the rules of the G.W.A., (b) be sponsored by an active unit or officer, (c) pay the event fee if their activities are on the active battlefield, (d) while on the battlefield, be supervised by an adult G.W.A. member, wear period outerwear (particularly hats), (e) not attempt to camouflage modern photographic devices, (e) not interfere with the activities of other members.

B. Dissemination of Information for Fall 1999 Event

The G-8 will endeavor to have the Fall 1999 issue of On the Wire in the mail by Labor Day, although the G-8 recognizes that this will be difficult to accomplish. The G-8 is committed to having an electronic version of On the Wire posted on its www.great-war-assoc.org sometime during the week after Labor Day.

In the absence of a secretary, Treasurer Randy Gaulke will coordinate the publication. Sue Fisher (print) and Marsh Wise (web).

C. Election Process and Information

G-8 elections will take place at the Fall 1999 event. The following individuals were nominated for office at the Spring 1999 event. Under Section 37 of the Bylaws, any individual nominated by a GWA member in good standing at the National Event prior to the election shall be held by secret ballot at the National event following nomination. A majority (50% plus one) is needed to win the position. The Vice-President/Secretary oversees all elections.

The following individuals were nominated at the Spring 1999 event, and they were elected:

President	
Rob Zienta	Tom Greenfield
Vice President	
Rick Keller	John Torkos
Secretary	
Mark Dubno	<i>unopposed</i>

Treasurer	
Randy Gaulke	<i>unopposed</i>
Allied Combat Commander	
Mike LoCicero	<i>unopposed</i>
Central Powers Combat Commander	
Lou Brown	<i>unopposed</i>
Allied Representative	
Nat Sooy	Phil Schreier
Central Powers Representative	
Mike Moss	<i>unopposed</i>

Each candidate will be given the opportunity to prepare a 75-100 word statement for the Fall 1999 issue of On the Wire [click [here](#) to go to that section of **OtW**].

As stated above, Vice President Lou Brown will oversee the elections at the Fall. He has requested that each Combat Commander provide two individuals from his side to monitor the elections.

D. Gas, Artillery & Other Safety Issues

SAFETY IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE TO THE CONTINUATION OF WW AND IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL INDIVIDUALS AND UNIT COMM

At the Spring event a Russian unit member's coat was burned when a gas canister was lobbed, as if it were a hand grenade. GAS CANISTERS SHOULD BE LOBBED, NOT THROWN. DO NOT THROW A GAS CANISTER WHERE YOU CANNOT SEE IT LAND—SUCH AS INTO A TRENCH—AND DO NOT THROW A GAS CANISTER INTO A CONFINED SPACE. Gas canisters burn very hot, and the smoke released from the cylinders can damage lungs.

During the Spring event the G-8 received several complaints and a few injuries from "mortar rounds." Upon further examination by Lou Brown, it became evident that the rounds were being launched from rifle cup launchers, not from mortars. Furthermore, it was revealed that they were not built in conformance with GWA Safety Regulations. They were at both ends with plywood and they were heavier than the allowed projectile/weight.

After the last event Central Powers Combat Commander Rob Zienta also found several of the Allied grenades. ***Metal cannot be used in grenade construction. Individuals constructing mock hand grenades for the reenactment must follow the construction guidelines prepared by the gwa.***

A copy of the guidelines can be obtained by contacting your unit commander or the GWA President, Lou Brown. Vice President Lou Brown will also address these issues in the Fall 1999 issue of On the Wire.

E. Site Construction Issues

All trench work must be approved by the trenchmasters. This is done to ensure Safety and Authenticity.

The current Trenchmasters are: Jeff Holder, on the Allied Side, and Steve Kremer on the Powers side.

Trenchmaster Jeff Holder reported that the Russian Legion did NOT complete the modifications requested by Jeff Holder and his assistant, Ken Boice. At issue were the trench and ceiling bracing that is intended to keep the bunker's walls from collapsing. This is an issue, and the Russian Legion will be requested to modify the design before it is used.

Because of the importance of designing safe structure, the G-8 will prepare a report in On the Wire stating that: At the Fall 1999 event, all structures currently on site will be reviewed by the trench master, combat commander and relevant representatives. If the structure will remain in place. If not safe, the unit will be asked to remedy the structure. If the structure will be torn down. Following this event, all construction must be approved by the trenchmaster.

WRITING, by the respective trench master or it will be torn down. AGAIN, THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE.

Steve Wiser, who lives in the house and owns the backhoe, has been instructed for anyone that cannot prove that they have received WRITTEN approval from

F. Landlord/Tenant Issues

The G-8 is negotiating a purchase of the reenactment site from the landlord. A transaction will be presented to the unit commanders for their approval prior to However, the G-8 cannot make any additional comments during this period of

G. Capital Expenditure Plans

The bulk of the \$6,000 capital expenditure program has been postponed, pending the site purchase negotiations.

The G-8 did agree to spend \$2,000 before the Fall 1999 event. \$800 is earmarked for shell holes, fallen trees, obsolete trenches, etc. to No-Man's-Land. \$1,200 will be used for various improvements to the Allied lines.

The G-8's next major capital expenditure priority will be the connection of the flanks of the German lines. However, this project was shelved for 1999 because of cost, given the ongoing purchase negotiations.

H. New Member Application

An individual wants to apply for membership portraying a Sikh, and wants to know the requirement that he wear a steel helmet, as the Sikh religion forbids the wearing of helmets. The G-8 has considered the matter, and all individuals must wear steel helmets. This is a safety issue.

Furthermore, Mike LoCicero indicated that Sikhs did not serve on the Western Front. The GWA bylaws require that individuals portray roles that served on the Western Front point in 1918.

I. Website

The G-8 wants to build a photograph library to enhance its Website. All members should bring copies of their favorite event photos to the Fall 1999 event. These will be turned over to the Webmeister. [the Webmeister asks that PLEASE, if you can, bring them in color. Scanning pix takes a lot of time.]

J. Other Issues

1) Pyrotechnics. Rob Zienta and Jim Michaud are examining alternatives to h

artillery barrage at the Fall event.

2) Site burn. Jeff Holder indicated that Pennsylvania has enacted a state-wide ban on open burning. Once the ban is lifted, the G-8 will make arrangements to have the site burn.

Respectfully submitted

Randal S. Gaulke

GWA Treasurer

Friends of the Trenches

Once again the Friends of the Trenches will be hosting the Friday night "Canteen" at the steel building (storage barn) beside the front of the trench. Due to the extended Friday night combat, the canteen hours will be from 8-11 PM. No cash is necessary, and containers are necessary, and snacks and beverage will be provided. Donations are welcome, although anyone who contributes to the entertainment will be admitted free. It will be a night of FUN! Come to the "Canteen" at the steel building (storage barn) beside the front of the trench for an evening with your friends.

Look for the Friends of the Trenches to be selling sandwiches, cookies, and soft drinks. (Also, raffle tickets to help our building fund, and post cards to send to your loved ones.)

Photos Wanted!

Please bring your surplus reenacting photos to the registration tent at the event to help us build our photo library! Sorry, no photos can be returned. We need your interesting, humorous, and amusing photos for our web site, although all are welcome.

Internet Discussion Group

GWA members and other WWI reenactors are invited to subscribe to the Great War Reenactor List discussion list. This is an e-mail list, so you don't need to have unlimited internet access, just an e-mail account.

To subscribe, just go to the web site:

Great War Reenactor List -

http://www.reenactor.net/main_htmls/WW1/ww1_list.html

If you don't have Internet, write to **Greatwar@listbot.com** and put "subscribe" in the subject line.

the message.

Discussion on this list prompted the "what we would like to see done about art" later in this issue.

Clip Art Crisis

You may have noticed that there is no clip art in this issue other than the masthead because I have used all of my clip art collection several times already. Please send me any filler art to the editor (**Sue Fischer -- Loerchen2_at_aol.com**)

Scanned art should be at 700 dpi.

Candidates for GWA Elected Offices

The following are candidates for GWA elected offices. Their statements are posted on the list (candidates are listed alphabetically by office) [Click on their name to read their statement \[if there is one\]](#) [did not submit a statement](#)].

President	
<u>Tom Greenfield</u>	<u>Rob Zienta</u>
Vice President	
<u>Rick Keller</u>	<u>John Torkos</u>
Secretary	
<u>Mark Dubno</u>	<i>unopposed</i>

Treasurer

[Randy Gaulke](#)

unopposed

Allied Combat Commander

Mike LoCicero

unopposed

Central Powers Combat Commander

[Lou Brown](#)

unopposed

Allied Representative

[Phil Schreier](#)

[Nat Sooy](#)

Central Powers Representative

Mike Moss

unopposed

Tom Greenfield -- President

Fellow members,

I've been reenacting with the GWA for eight years and feel I can be an asset

I'm commander of the 5th Bn. ANZACS. The Great War is the only period I involved in all aspects of the hobby.

I am president of the Great War Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization to educate the public through living history, education, and commemoration, and support the GWA and other WWI activities.

If needed, I would resign the presidency of the GWF to better administer the

As president of the GWA, some of my priorities would be: growth of the hobby cheaper; site maintenance and development (France, not Vietnam!); make good cause participants to return and spread the word.

Both Rick Keller and I believe we can make a positive difference to the GWA with your support.

Rob Zienta -- President

I've been a member of the organization for 11 years and served in numerous positions, including current German Combat Commander. I belong to no other WWI organization.

It is the purpose of the President to provide leadership and be responsive to the organization and its members. Therefore, communication is a key element in leadership. I have demonstrated this by actively participating on both the GWA web site and the discussion group.

I believe that if the site and quality of combat is improved, membership and participation will increase. As German Combat Commander I have worked closely with Capt. I have participated in Friday night combat.

I have long been an advocate of planned site development. We have a number of sides of the line that need to be addressed.

I support the GWA purchasing the site. Purchase would encourage more development and members who would feel that they are investing in their own site.

I support authenticity standards based on historical documentation and research, not hearsay, speculation, or misrepresentation. Authenticity standards provide a baseline of historical information to members and help guide new recruits to purchase accurate uniforms and equipment.

My commitment to you if elected President of the GWA is to act thoughtfully for the good of the organization and its members.

Rick Keller -- Vice President

My interest in this hobby goes back to its inception in 1978. After 22 years, I feel for what everyone wants from this hobby, so let's get to the issues:

People want to come to the event, pay as little as possible, and have a good time without politicking and BS as possible. It is the responsibility of the GWA to make that happen. When the GWA was formed, its purpose was to put on a safe and happy event. Notwithstanding, a variety of administrations has brought us to the point where we have a safe battlefield, a 30-year lease, and a sound balance in the treasury that will assure our survival. Now we need to look at the long term.

We all want to pay less for our hobby, but the only way we can do this is to increase membership. The lower our membership, the higher the site fees must be paid. One of the next administration should be to increase membership, improve the site, and to put on one hell of a good event. To do this, we need to cooperate with other organizations willing to assist in these goals.

We do not need to give up the authenticity that we want, but this is a *unit* responsibility. We need to get members hooked on the hobby, *then* get them to improve their impressions to meet our authenticity goals. We do not want to scare away members. It is better to make them want to improve their impressions rather than to do it before they are even committed to the hobby.

The original idea of the GWA's simple set of by-laws was that it wouldn't interfere with the *units* policies. One thing that has been forgotten is that the *units* are the heart of the G-8. We must not forget that many people are on limited budgets that just desire an "instant 100% impression" to be possible.

My goal is to make our event affordable to everyone and good enough that we can bring in new people. We need to put out a positive attitude to attract new members at the crossroads in our hobby and the only path to take is one toward growth, cooperation, and a financially-sound organization.

John Torkos--Vice President

I am interested in running for the Vice President position to bring a reenactment to the in the leadership of the GWA. I am currently a corporal in the

Infantry, 27th New York National Guard AEF (re-created). I also serve as the which duties include being the unit's treasurer, newsletter editor and logistician. The 107th consistently fields sixteen to eighteen men at every event in Newville.

I have been a member of the 107th Infantry and the GWA since 1996. My other reenactment experience includes membership in the Brigade of the American Revolution 1988 of which I am currently a corporal in the 22nd Regiment of Foot and part of the WWII Black Watch of Canada 1993-95.

I would bring a strong value system to the position to encourage safety, tactical skills and better communication between participants. I believe strongly that our reenactment is for the benefit of the reenactor. That what we do at Newville for our own pleasure must be done as well as possible to portray the common soldier and his experience in WWI.

I am against women and children serving in the ranks. I want our historical reenactment to maintain its elite status in reenactment circles. I am especially concerned about uncontrolled membership and its impact on safety due to the special nature of our events. I want to work with unit commanders to develop guidelines to safely bring new recruits up to speed on trench warfare and its special demands.

Randy Gaulke -- Treasurer

Though running unopposed, I wish to comment on GWA-GWF relations. The GWA has adopted and has continued a positive and constructive policy toward the GWF. There has been some criticism of the canteen agreement, our only goal was to establish a contract governing facility construction and use. During the negotiation process the GWF was accused of procrastinating. However, our efforts resulted in a written contract. The GWF had the funds to begin construction. We met our commitment. You can read the agreement for yourself (posted on the website) and see that it is not onerous. It allows for construction and reasonably limits GWF use of the facility during GWA events. A positive approach toward the GWF will allow both groups to function as separate organizations.

Mark Dubno -- Secretary

I have been a GWA member since 1993. For the past two years, I have been serving as G-7 and assisting Randy Gaulke and Les Peters with registration. This is in addition to my responsibilities for administrative and organizational matters for Sturm Bar

and our commander Jim Michaud.

I am a senior programmer/analyst for a major northeast energy company and have been there eleven years. Prior to that I worked in aerospace, insurance, financial services, and a major university.

I believe that the past two years have seen major improvements in the way things are run. I believe that everyone will agree that registration at the show has run smoother, faster, with less frustration and greater accuracy than in the past, largely due to the pre-registration process and the automation of many functions that have been implemented by Randy Gaulke and will continue to refine it further. There is a lot of tedious work, but someone has to do it.

Fortunately the team that has been in place is up to the challenge and is building many successes.

Lou Brown -- Central Powers Combat Commander

I solicit the support of those who reenact the Central Powers in voting for me as Central Powers Combat Commander. I have spent a great deal of time studying World War I, as well as the Imperial German Army, and believe I bring to the position a degree of knowledge and realism which will build upon the excellent work done by previous commanders. Additionally, I possess the strong willingness and personal relationships needed to ensure that the reenactment is enjoyable, realistic, and safe among the CP units, as well as with the lads on "the other side" to ensure everyone has a good time. For my part, I will remain open to the units--to their needs--and ensure needs are met and concerns are adequately addressed. Thank you for your confidence, and I look forward to working with each of you.

Philip Schreier -- Allied Representative

I consider it an honor to have been nominated for the post of Allied Representative and that I will be able to bring a great deal of experience to the position and hope that you could count on your support to provide me with constructive feedback that will help me in my hobby and provide the GWA with a vision and plan for our future growth.

As to my background; I am currently a member of the 5th Bn AIF (ANZAC) and was elected to the post of Commander in 1989. I joined the GWA in 1987 and was elected three times to the post of Commander. I was a member of MW12 (a German Unit) for three years before

the Allied side last November.

My initial priorities would include a comprehensive trench development plan, a hodge-podge collection of lines and bunkers from overtaking the site. I would like to improve unit impressions and develop additional site use events such as training exercises to maximize the potential of the site. First and foremost would be responding to questions and concerns as to how the G-7 (8) can work to make the Great War better for all involved.

Thanks for your support. I look forward to working for you in the years to come.

Nat Sooy -- Allied Representative

Greetings Fellow GWA Members. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Nat Sooy, current unit commander of the 4th Middlesex, and I'm going to get right down to business. I'm running for the position of Allied Rep. So in a nutshell, here's my story.

Been a GWA member for just over 10 years, a unit commander for 7 years, a former member of the 5th ANZAC, Allied Trench Master a former U.S. Marine, self-employed businessman and I reproduce many items for the hobby.

During my command period my unit has revetted our fire bay and just finished our bunker. I know where I want my unit to go and where I'd like to see this hobby.

It's time for some new blood but someone who can remember what the "Hobby" was. The Shimpstown were. I don't care what anyone says, the hobby was Huge and fun. There was much politics and too many VERY IMPORTANT People nowadays. Let's step back to honoring those we portray that's what it was all about all those years ago.

If you want someone who cares about authenticity, the time period the hobby was, then vote for me.

Authenticity Issues on The Internet

Amidst all of the Internet traffic on our discussion list was a series of comments that would improve our overall authenticity in the trenches. These are not rules, or specific things that cost money -- just ideas on how we can be better reenactors. The feedback and anonymous comments that your editor thought were particularly to the point.

According to the members responding, the most common authentic overall seem to be:

- Farby grenades (tennis balls, film canisters, hot pink Easter eggs, etc.)
- Modern cigarette lighters. Period ones are readily available, but matches common.
- Filter cigarettes, or ones in modern packs
- Modern eye glasses
- Civil War rain ponchos
- Modern food/drink containers
- Haircuts (some of the pilots are really bad about this)
- Modern wristwatches--just take it off!
- Lack of first person impressions (using modern names, slang, talking about Civil War event, etc.)
- Poor combat impressions (standing up in plain sight during battle time)
- Lack of period ID papers

Other comments included:

"I'd also like to add the US M-1916, 35mm SLR and der Kammkorder to the list."

"IMHO [Internet shorthand for *"In my humble opinion"*], UNIFORMS would be first, followed by shitty haircuts, eyeglasses, and those who are too cheap to do a proper impression. It is not possible to do WWI on the cheap!"

"In the late 80's, the 116th came up with their own minimum standards of uniform and equipment. It was a list of the basic items needed for your impression, with all the names of items and descriptions, along with authenticity and conduct standards. This was taken directly from the U.S. Army Regs of 1917. At the next event, we had all blaringly farby gear weeded out (replace by next event). All current members have years to come up to standard.... We did make provisions for temporary variations in standards, to enable guys to play while they were still getting their kit. This was on an individual basis and the item in question had to meet the approval of the unit's authenticity "officer." The authenticity standards were mostly simple things like no anachronisms, uniform condition/type standards (remember those cute 'fuzzy' 1970's USMC blankets?), picking up after yourself, and adherence to the rules while in uniform."

"On the subject of cigarettes, if one must smoke filtered cigarettes (and there may I suggest that the standard "ciggy" is wrapped in a hand-rolling paper and (thus concealing the filter) and carried in a tobacco tin (of similar), giving the

batch of pre-made 'rollies."

"The moustache was compulsory in the British Army up to (about) 1916, It had the Queen's and King's Regs. I have a copy of an old "Punch" cartoon showing a young private speaking with a much older serjeant: PRIVATE: "Please Sergeant, the privates have to grow a moustache." SERGEANT: "No lad, You just musn't shave your roots of the moustache should not extend beyond the width of the mouth (so called "Zapatatas" etc.)."

"Besides uniform authenticity, I think each group should promote 1st person knowing that the regimental barracks were in Canterbury and that the great church contained a stained glass window commemorating the Regiment in Africa. Know names of *Gilbert and Sullivan* plays or a few *Chaplin* shorts."

One member proposed the following idea:

"1. Send each unit commander/authenticity officer a questionnaire with the list of concern items (discussed above).

2. Ask them to discuss this with their men and rate them on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being most irritable and, therefore, subject to immediate eradication, and 10 being tolerable over a period of time).

3. Returned questionnaires can be compared and a list of items of concern can be compiled of their rated importance....

4. This list should be sent back to unit commanders with a **REQUEST** to exercise over their men to correct the problem."

Wouldn't it be easier on all of us to have units police their own members and make more rules???

[Why not distribute a questionnaire after the event with say 10 questions on what was good and what was bad??]

Safety and Administrative Issues

By **GWA Vice President**

1. Launched Projectiles. During the spring event, several complaints and injuries were attributed to "mortar rounds." After stripping away the confusion, it became clear

the rounds in question emanated not from mortars, but were being launched from launchers. Examination of the contentious rounds revealed they were not in compliance with the GWA Safety Regulation, being a) capped at both ends with *plywood* and b) exceeding allowed projectile/impact weight. The following is excerpted from ANNEX A: PYROTECHNIC DEVICES, of the GWA Safety Regulation:

b. Projectiles of any type shall not be more than 10 ounces (allows for a sabot for launchers) of projected weight and 8 ounces of impact weight . . .

d. Projectile case must exhibit a palpable flexibility under finger pressure to allow for the transfer of energy upon impact. Grenades utilizing wood handles (e.g., stick or paper) must have rounded edges and be of all glued construction. Use of nails, staples, or other potentially dangerous material that can be exposed upon detonation or impact is prohibited. Handles should be made of soft (lightweight) wood.

Individuals either making their own pyrotechnic devices, or obtaining them from others, are reminded that they are ***solely responsible for those rounds and their compliance with GWA safety regulations.*** Non-compliant devices found during inspection are not for use, and *individuals discovered using uninspected devices are subject to ejection from the event.* The force attained by launched projectiles renders this an extremely serious matter. We are not sure what the regulations say—*read them*, they are posted on the GWA website. There is no excuse for non-compliance, and the cost of violations is potentially high.

2. In connection with the above, I wish to again express my sincere apologies for the *12. Minenwerfer* for any misunderstandings which arose in trying to iron out the details. Cooperation and humor in keeping things in perspective are much appreciated.

3. Grenades. Enough is enough folks—*we have let this go waaaay too far.* Grenade designs and grenades are likewise laid out in ANNEX A: PYROTECHNIC DEVICES of the GWA Safety Regulation. In addition to construction specifications, they specify that:

a. Hand thrown grenades must agree in **size and shape with a documented design used in WWI.** New grenade designs must be approved before use.

While everyone recognizes the difficulty of achieving an authentic look while staying safe, working and inexpensive device, paper cups, tennis balls on a stick, and fluorescent light bulbs are *not* the right answer. In most cases, a simple coat of paint will solve the problem, but it is a little hard to imagine oneself on one of the battlefields of the Great War when the trench parapet in front of your eyes is the remains of a fluorescent hot pin. Please make the effort to clean up the flagrant *farbisms*; your fellow reenactors will appreciate it.

On a second note regarding grenades, they are not to be used in confined spaces. If a unit carries the fight into a bunker, dugout, or covered trench, grenades will be placed **un-ignited**—this grenade will be regarded as "live" and those in the area *will cease action and become casualties*. In like manner, weapons will not be used in confined spaces. *A better solution, which avoids the possibility of injury altogether, is to allow personnel in the enclosed space to take themselves out of action when it becomes apparent they cannot withstand attack*. In either case, it remains the responsibility of all personnel to do not cause harm or, by their actions, place themselves in a situation in which

4. Smoke Grenades and Projectors. Smoke grenades produce smoke by burning a chemical compound. While that sounds simple, folks tend to forget that the compounds which are used are extremely hot—*1200° F and the exiting smoke plume is proportionally hot to a significant degree*. These devices will burn skin and ignite clothing and underbrush. Be careful with these items; they are absolutely not to be thrown at or near personnel (e.g., do not throw a smoke grenade in a shell hole unless you can **visually ensure** someone is not crouching nearby). Likewise, keep them away from inflammable items like bushes, timber, etc. Should a fire start—get help immediately and put it out before it spreads out of control.

5. Automatic Weapons/Destructive Devices. Individuals bringing these weapons are reminded that GWA policy specifies they must be able to document legal ownership and licensing of the weapon/device according to NFA or Curio and Relic licensing laws. If you are not a Pennsylvania resident, provide proof approval to transport was obtained from your home state. Possession of an "illegal" weapon/device will result in the individual being removed from the event.

Fixed positions for automatic/crew-served weapons are additionally required to have a designated safety zone in front of their position. If personnel enter this zone, the weapon operator must fire and take his weapon out of action to avoid injury. Those approaching such positions are reminded to avoid the danger area. They are additionally cautioned not to remove obstacles, etc. which designate the area; they are not obstacles but, rather, safety devices which are intended to protect you. Don't defeat their purpose.

6. Responsibility for Safety. All members are responsible for their own actions and are reminded of their responsibility for those actions which prevent injury to one's self. Unit commanders are reminded of the need to check their units--not rely on the Event Safety Meeting to ensure all members remain safe. It is also worth re-stating that the Event Safety Meeting is for those personnel who participate in scenarios *will* attend this briefing. If an individual is not at the briefing, come get me and I will brief them. There is no excuse for anyone being at a scenario without the required safety briefings from the unit commander/safety officer at the event briefing.

7. If any unit needs help in finding information, giving briefings, conducting i

please contact me; I'll be glad to help in any way I can. Injuries will happen, occur because leaders got lazy. Let's continue the effort to keep our events as possibly make them. See you on the ground!

Lou Brown

GWA Vice President

