

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION



SPRING 2000

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 18-19	Military Through the Ages Jamestown, VA
April 15-16	Marching Through Time Marietta Mansion, MD
April 28-30	GWA Spring Event Newville, PA
May 12-14	WFA Conference on the German Army 1914-18 St. Louis, MO
June 23-25	GWA Media/PR Event Newville, PA
Sep. 29-Oct. 1	Dawn Patrol Airshow Dayton, OH
Nov. 3-5	GWA Fall Event Newville, PA

Contact your editor for more information on any of these events. (317)328-7851 or Loerchen2@aol.com

CARTES DE VISITE

On Friday, 28 April, Barbara Glaeser (Glaeser Photography, Silver Spring, MD, Ph. 301.565-4900) will be available in the vendors' area to make photographic images of individual reenactors or groups. The images will be in the style of popular Cartes de Visite produced during the period of the Great War. Price for a single image is \$35.00; price for group photos of 5 or more is \$15 per person. Additional copies ordered at the same time are available at reduced prices.

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FROM THE EDITOR

You probably noticed the new look of "On the Wire" with new masthead and typefaces. The logo was suggested and sketched by Rob Zienta, and is now featured on our new GWA brochures, web site, and advertising materials. Thanks to all those who submitted ideas for the logo--it was a difficult decision. thanks also to everyone who sent in photos for the brochure. The new "corporate" look reflects the winds of change in the GWA as we start the year 2000.

Please include your e-mail addresses on the registration form(s) so we can contact you quickly about events or GWA issues. We would also like to offer an e-version of OtW to anyone who requests it, to save money on postage and printing.

FRIENDS OF THE TRENCHES

The Friends of the Trenches will be unable to participate in the April Event this year, due to schedule conflicts. We will miss baking cookies and hosting the "Canteen," but we will be back in November with a number of new ideas that we hope will add to the enjoyment of the reenactors.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

DEAR MEMBERS:

There are a number of issues that I would like to address.

SITE ISSUES:

We have changed the dates for the spring event to **April 28, 29, and 30**. This was done for several reasons: 1) to allow time for completion of site improvements (shell holes, birms, trench digging, etc.); 2) to allow a window to spray a weed killer prior to the event, with a second spraying during the summer; and 3) to provide time to complete the agreement for the possible purchase of the site.

I have asked Jeff Holder to get rid of the metal junk on the site and oversee completion of the site improvements, including the weed spraying.

SITE PURCHASE:

Many of you may not remember the days of Shimpstown and the loss of this site. Several units had just completed brand new bunkers when we lost it and we became like the Israelites wandering in the desert looking for a home. This took its toll on membership and put a tremendous strain on our organization.

As a result of these circumstances, the GWA members and leadership began looking to the day when we might have our own site. That has been our organization's goal and our dream. Through Mark Anderson's cooperation and Mike Moss' leadership, we are in a realistic opportunity for us to purchase this site.

Since, Mike Moss began negotiations with Mark just prior to our elections in November; we felt he should continue working with Mark to negotiate a purchase agreement. Both of them have worked hard and done a great job to make this possible. The G-8 has reviewed and approved the initial proposal for the site purchase. Final drafts are currently being reviewed by our attorney.

This is one of the major reasons for delaying the event, to provide us the time to get the materials together, refine the terms and then get them to you. This takes time and I was concerned that we might not be able to get everything completed and to you PRIOR to the event.

This is a very serious issue for us as an organization. Owning the site will make us unique among reenactment organizations and give us a home. The G-8 has looked at many of the issues and addressed them: event fees and dues NOT be raised; financial ability to pay for the site; and scheduling of additional events.

THIRD EVENT:

If the site purchase is approved at the spring event, we will then hold a third event on June 23, 24, and 25. Our intention is to make this a timeline event and open it to the public. We would have mostly training activities during the day, possibly a brief mock battle, and a regular combat event on Friday and Saturday nights.

In addition, we are also working on developing some additional off-site events as well.

COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED:

I have established two committees; PR and Membership. Jon Kulaga chairs the PR committee. He and his committee are doing a great job in working in developing media guidelines and contacts. All media inquiries are to be sent to Jon.

Mark Anderson chairs the Membership committee. This committee is developing a membership packet and contacting past members to return to the site and our organization.

Both committees are producing excellent results.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

We have developed a new logo for the organization. We are also working to upgrade our website.

Change takes time and I am seeing some positive results. For the first time we went to another event to recruit and met with positive results. We are looking at other events for recruitment as well. We have also met with success contacting former members and letting them know of the many changes we are making and asking them to get involved in our organization once again.

I am excited and encouraged by many members willing to serve on committees and help our organization move forward.

Sincerely,

Rob Zienta
President
GWA

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SAFETY AND ADMINISTRATION

John Torkos, 107th Infantry, 27th Division NYNG, AEF

To: All Members of the Great War Association

The Vice President's role at the site will be concerned primarily with safety & site regulations & issues. I will continue to give the pre-event safety talk and demonstration with the assistance of the Safety Committee and to oversee the policing of the site at events.

The example of the units and their membership at the last event was exemplary both on and off the field. I am an active participant who falls out as a common soldier so I get to see a lot of who is playing right and who isn't.

The last event the play was the best I have seen on the site since I started attending in the spring of 1996. The all night scenario was great (I wished more folks stayed up all night) and everyone had a good time.

Now with over three hundred participants and the nature of our events there is always problems and I got to be involved in some of these which I will shortly highlight so they will no longer be problems.

FIRST: THE MILITARY POLICE ARE NOT RECEPTIONISTS OR BABYSITTERS!

I got to see first hand the hard job the guys from the German Field Police have up front while we play. I am now in charge of the military police as the VP and I am going to make their jobs easier with two simple rules that do not need to be voted on because they are common sense. (We are looking for an Allied MP Unit)

#1 This is not a day care. Children are not allowed to participate in WWI events.

Children are only allowed with adult supervision in the parking lot area.

If I have to deal with an unsupervised child I will stop the combat, find the parent and throw you out of the event. Simple as that. This is not a Rev War or Civil War event. There is no room for youths under eighteen who are unsupervised by their parent.

#2 The Military Police are not your personal receptionists. If you have recruits, friends or family coming to the site to see you, we will not go find you. I will also give orders to the MPs not to accommodate anyone wishing to contact a GWA member at the site unless it is a REAL EMERGENCY. Repeated problems will be handled by the MPs contacting you and throwing you out of the event.

Now that I got that off my chest, I am sure everyone who may not have realized that these two issues were serious will know that they are, and will follow protocol as outlined.

I am not saying you can't have a child here or a visitor. I am saying it is your responsibility to make proper arrangements so the volunteer G-8 and the MPs can concentrate on running a great event, not a day care center or reception line.

The new third event is envisioned to allow public to see what we do as it is developed. This would be the time to invite people and the event will be set up to accommodate this.

It takes a lot of work to put on a great event; please respect the people who are putting in the time for everyone. I apologize to the members who are responsible in regards to the abovementioned issues.

SECOND ITEM – BUNKER SAFETY

The G-8 has decided not to add any more regulations than we already have to our safety rules. The G-8 is advising that the use of smoke detectors, carbon monoxide monitors, and fire extinguisher should be part of the construction guidelines for all bunkers used as sleeping quarters. It is strongly recommended that all bunkers be outfitted with these safety devices to insure against unnecessary casualties from fire or faulty heating devices.

THIRD ITEM – PRESS & MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR SITE

The G-8's new PR Committee headed by Jon Kulaga will handle all requests for access or use of our site for Press or Media related activities.

Jon's E-Mail is: jjkuluga@aol.com

The basic idea is to have one point of contact to review and handle requests in advance of our events. All requests will be presented to the G-8 for approval, once developed.

Also, if the membership agrees to purchase the site, income earning media opportunities can be effectively realized to the benefit of our organization.

All Press & Media personnel must be pre-approved by the PR Committee prior to being allowed access to the combat area at our site. All safety regulations and conduct rules apply to Press and Media representatives.

Press or Media present at our Spring or Fall events must be dressed in WWI uniform consisting in minimum of at least a period helmet and overcoat. These personnel are to be identified by the wearing of a white armband at the event. They must have a GWA sponsor present with them at all times in the combat areas. Also, they must pay a \$15.00 entrance fee and sign a safety & rules waiver.

LASTLY – BUDDY SYSTEM FOR NEW RECRUITS

This is the most important safety procedure that can be followed for our hobby.

Most accidents and injuries usually involve a new guy. The units that have shown the best recruiting and retention rates employ this simple method. Each new recruit has a veteran member assigned to them for the duration of the event. It is recommended that it usually takes two events for most recruits to become a veteran WWI reenactor.

This allows the new guy to have someone to teach him the basics of trench warfare during the event. This will make the WWI experience better for the recruit and all GWA members who come into contact with the FNG during his first event.

All units should utilize this procedure for their new guys. This will free up the unit commander so he can concentrate on leading the unit at the event.

The men assigned to take the recruits under their wing will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills so that as the unit grows, subordinates will be there to handle the future growth of the unit.

I will be having a longer safety program for recruits after the usual safety meeting to insure that the new recruits can at least load a WWI bolt action rifle and to answer any of their questions prior to going into the trenches. A veteran from each unit with recruits will be needed to guide these men back to their units in the trenches.

I will be expecting to see this procedure become standard policy for new recruits in all GWA units. If any unit commander has a better alternative to handle new recruits for their safety and ours I welcome it. (Let me know.)

See you in the trenches!

FROM THE CENTRAL POWERS COMBAT COMMANDER

I wanted to pass on a few thoughts as we prepare for the upcoming event. Foremost, please feel free to contact me either telephonically (301.942-7008), or via E-mail at <Steiefeln@AOL.com>, with thoughts, concerns, or ideas. While I am not on the “lists,” I am readily accessible.

Site Purchase: Please consider the information you have been provided—and urge your unit members to do likewise—on its merits. I have looked at the proposed agreement and terms with an extremely critical eye. As an opinion, I offer that Mark Anderson has offered an eminently generous and fair deal in the purchase of the site (when is the last time you’ve seen a deal in which the mortgage rate is 0%?) which deserves unbiased consideration of the merits vice rumor, assumption, or innuendo. I believe the purchase of the site is in our collective best interest, is a prudent investment, and represents a “win-win” situation for both Mark and the GWA. I personally support the

proposal, and recommend your unit members do likewise. (It is also important to note that the “feasibility study”—basically, “can we afford this”—was based on a premise that dues and event fees remained constant—there is no plan to raise basic costs to buy the site.)

The Central Powers Line: The CP lines are not, presently, a textbook example of sound, military tactical ingenuity. In fact, our lines basically suck Given trenches and revetments and unit investments in time and materials, this is not going to change overnight. I am, nonetheless, working with several units (through their commanders) to—if only temporarily—balance out our front and present the “bad guys” something sensible. More on this at the unit commanders’ meeting, but for now, the cooperation of individual units in “being flexible” is appreciated.

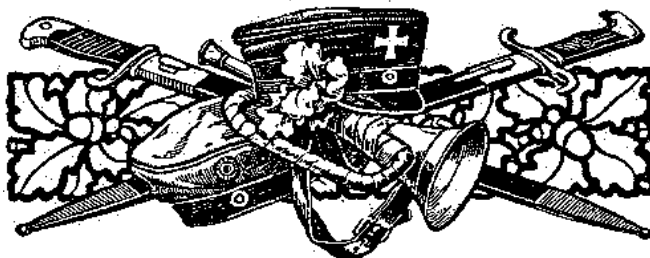
Staff: While many view this as “unnecessary overhead,” our opponents do it extremely well, and it is a significant “combat multiplier.” I am not looking to build an empire; rather, the Central Powers needs a cogent, consistent, and somewhat permanent organization that can help the Combat Commander (whoever he is, whenever) “fight the battle.” As many military text attest to, staffs help win battles. I don’t want this to become burdensome, and I certainly don’t want to hurt any individual units by taking away people, but I am looking for folks who can contribute to the overall effort. My goal is to establish a staff that provides a constant—one that keeps the myriad “balls in the air” no matter who is elected to the post of CP Combat Commander. If individuals in your unit are asked to be part of that, please consider making them available if you can; it will benefit us all.

Finally: We need to work together, irrespective of the numeral or cipher on our individual shoulder straps/boards. The underlying theme is that we are wearing *feldgrau*, and—despite unit affiliations, which are fine in camps and bunkers—we represent the Central Powers forces when we take the field. That is the front we need to present to the “heinous enemy.”

Regards,

Lou

Lou Brown



PR COMMITTEE REPORT

Jon Kulaga, Chair

In reality, we are extremely lucky in what we are involved with and just don't know it. First off, our time period is approaching its century mark, we have a way to go but ours is the next big century epoch - a selling point to the media and the public.

Next lucky fact - we really have a war that is politically correct in every sense of the word. Think about it - we don't carry any of the political baggage of any conflict of the past 125 years. Every ethnic minority was represented and each gender involved fully - this also is a selling point for participation.

With the idea of GWA public relations being relatively new, the concept needed some bodies. After being "drafted" by Rob Zienta, the first objective was to solicit help from the membership. The PR Committee consists of ...

Jon Kulaga – Chair; Sue Fischer, Frank James, Chris Reed, Peter Geyer, James Burrill

Next step was to define what needed to happen to make a public relations impact. The group developed the following....

PR Committee activities and objectives:

- ads in Reenactors and Military history mags
- invitations to the press/media to view a combat event (the press, in the line in uniform much like was done with the reporter who wrote a complimentary article on us)
- attendance at other period reenactor events for recruiting purposes. Persons doing this should be encouraged to set up displays, booths, recruiting info much like was done during WWI - this would be fun too - GWA could provide funds for info, display material etc...
- increased links to vendor and organization websites

These objectives lend themselves to a short and long-term approach which break down as follows....

- Creation of Brochures and Posters to advertise the GWA at selected Gun Shows and reenactment events. Sue has created a great brochure for use at public events. This will go a long way in sending out our message. She is also working with creating a poster that could be used both as a traditional poster and as a stand up display that would hold our brochures. Sue has agreed that this is something that is needed and is looking into making a few prototypes.
- Identification of events we would like to target to distribute materials. The PR Committee is looking into the following but will also attempt to assist anyone doing a WWI living history event or militaria show where

potential recruits could be found:

a. Battle of the Bulge WWII reenactment Indiantown Gap Jan. 28-30. – Implemented! Rob Zienta and John Torkos spent their Saturday as "the Gap" in a recruiting effort. Way to go guys!

b. Military Through the Ages - Jamestown VA. March 18 & 19. the ANZACs, the Irish Guards, IR63 and the Salvation Army will be on hand with a period recruiting "station" complete with the new GWA brochures.

c. Military Antiques Extravaganza Militaria Show - Pittsburgh PA Sept./Oct. date to be determined and vendors to be identified. This would be a good place for sympathetic vendors to pass out our brochures. This is a worldwide show with big money being spent.

- Advertising in Magazines - this depends on the magazine and the rates charged for advertising....some preliminary searching of magazines where an ad from us may be appropriate has generated the following potential list of publications....

"Broad Arrow" a magazine for WWII British reenactors

"American Association of Military Uniform Collectors"

"Military Vehicle Preservation Association"

"National Rifle Association"

"Cameraderie Journal", the publication of the Western Front Association

"Camp Chase Gazette" ACW reenactor publication

The "Camp Chase Gazette" is being approached with an inquiry as to a "reciprocal" advertising arrangement, space in their publication for advertising space in "On the Wire". Likewise, contact has been made with "Broad Arrow" and an article will be written detailing the GWA for that publication. Obviously, the ad rates for some of the bigger mags will be expensive while for some of the lesser-known ones we might be able to spend the same amount and get a bigger ad. The G-8 has given us a budget of \$500 for advertising. This is not much in the world of advertising but is a start.

For this concept, computerized artwork needs to be created. Again, Sue Fischer has been approached to explore the possibility of completing this. Creation of the ad artwork is the first step in our advertising campaign.

- Creation of a video - Very long term. This is potentially a year 2001 project. The video piece is fairly important in contacting news organizations about covering GWA events and generating further interest at the selected events

we choose to cover. This would be used to send to news organizations and would provide a quick accurate visual reference to our activities, much like a marketing video would be used to "sell" concepts, ideas and products. This could also be used as a recruiting tool at events. Length of such a video should not be longer than 10 minutes. Our options with this may be limited as a quotation received about production costs from a company that specializes in marketing videos quoted \$1500 per finished minute! The PR Committee will be exploring any and every possibility to lessen the cost of producing this project to include talking to a University into developing this video now as an educational piece for their students in film creation and letting us have the by product.

In summary, the three target areas end up as follows....

1. Creation of Brochures and Posters/Displays – brochures completed

Thanks to the hard work of Sue Fischer, we now have brochures. These are intended to be distributed to various GWA members for events. Posters would be the next graphic that we could spend some time on.

2. Advertising – ongoing

I'm working on this to spend the \$500 wisely and to try and get some free publicity. I will be writing an article explaining the GWA that I will eventually send to all PR Committee and G-8 members. These individuals will be free to forward this article on to any potential "approved" organization where we might generate some free press.

3. Video – future

Forward to me any requests any of you receive to film WWI events. The committee is working to qualify such requests and is looking into another reciprocal arrangement where the GWA could keep the end results of any filming involving the GWA.

I have not mentioned the website, right now, our primary PR tool. Marsh has done a great job in making this an eye-catching place to go on the Internet. I urge everyone to join the GreatWar List Bot to keep current with what's going on within the GWA and to provide assistance when assistance is requested (i.e. furnishing photos for a GWA Photo Gallery, being available for living history events etc). This is a great way to maintain timely contact with GWA activities and to be able to respond to requests for assistance, participation in films and photo shoots etc. Please join today if not a member of this computer forum.

More updates will be provided on the GreatWar ListBot as well as in "On the Wire" as events occur.

(greatwar@listbot.com)



This cartoon originally appeared in *Stars & Stripes*, June 28, 1918. Thanks to Kurt Johnson for sending it in!

X-MAS TRUCE FILM

Jon Kulaga of the PR Committee has been approached about the possibility of filming a Christmas Truce movie on our site this fall. The director needs about 15 Germans and 15 Brits with 1914 impressions. If you are interested, please send your e-mail address to:

Jjkulaga@aol.com

and he will contact you with the details.

With regard to lessons learned from past film experiences, past issues and problems will be addressed prior to making any agreement with the film people.

SCHEDULE -- FROM THE COMBAT COMMANDERS

Based on the bulk of comments received, the all-night combat from Friday night into early Saturday morning was a success and is something a majority wants to see continued. Some members did, nonetheless, point out that Saturday afternoon combat was somewhat slackened by those who, tired from the previous night's activities, left the trenches for rest (historical note: that's not altogether inauthentic—with the exception of large scale operations, weapons lethality during daylight forced most soldiers to curtail moving around until after dark). Additionally, the questions of “When do units get to train?” and “When do you get the chance to go to the flea market?” also arose. Clearly, there is no single right answer for everyone.

In discussing the pros and cons of event scheduling, we have decided to try the following general schedule for the next event:

Date	Time	Event	Location
28 April	1800	Unit Commanders' Meeting	To Be Announced
	1900	Assemble for Safety Meeting and Night Combat	Sector Center Road ¹
	1920-2200	Night Scenario	First Line Trenches in designated Sector(s) ²
	2200-2400	Night Scenario continues	No Man's Land
29 April	0001-0400	Night Scenario continues	No Man's Land
	0400-0600	Night Scenario continues	Full Battlefield, no restrictions
	0600-0630	Safety Meeting	Memorial
	0630-1030	Stand-down	Unit Areas, etc.
	1030-2200	Continuous Scenario	Full Battlefield, no restrictions

The thought in actually standing down for 4 hours vice allowing units/individuals to depart the trenches in “rotations” is to provide an opportunity for individuals to do what they need/want to do without affecting the quality of the overall scenario. During the standdown, folks can go buy/sell at the flea market; sleep; have unit meetings; conduct training, etc., without taking “combat power” away from either side during a scenario. Breaks during the active scenario would otherwise be “tactical”; i.e., units, or portions of units, rotating to the rear to recover, eat, etc.

Again, we recognize there is no single ideal plan which satisfies everyone's wants/needs, and we appreciate your feedback in assessing whether this is a step forward or backward. Please let us know your thoughts.

Michael Lowe
Captain, Cornwall Lt. Infantry
Commanding

Plack
Hauptmann d. Res. u. Abteilungs-Kommandeur

¹ Grenade/pyrotechnic inspections will be conducted at the safety meeting

² At the conclusion of this phase, enemy terrain in the hands of either side will be held until resumption of full combat operations. For example, if the Anzacs are holding a section of German trench at 2200, when the scenario reverts to No Man's Land only, they will retain that section of trench until the Germans can mount a counterattack, sometime after 0400 Saturday morning.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Membership Committee is up and running, and is staffed by Mark Anderson, John Torkos, Mark Dubno, Pete Geyer, Eugene Poplavsky, Guy Gormley, and Jim Kidd.

These GWA members bring perspectives from German and Allied points of view, as well as a variety of re-enacting experience- it seems all the bases are covered.

We have generally agreed that a sustained growth rate of 10% per year for the GWA is doable without creating assimilation confusion or deterioration of unit authenticity standards. A lot of the ability to grow will rest where it has always rested and that is with the individual units.

Some of the activity currently being done by Committee Members includes calling previous members who have "dropped by the wayside" to convince them to "re-up" and join in the fun at Newville. So don't be surprised to see some familiar faces at the Spring Event. A recruiting packet has been developed to give to interested parties, including a new brochure recently produced by Jon Kulaga's PR Committee, as well as a good introduction to WWI re-enacting. Furthermore, as the GWA's website continues to upgrade to being a super WWI re-enacting resource, membership links will be installed. In this regard, all units are encouraged to participate in upgrading the appearance and content of their respective web pages in the GWA Website. Some units like IR63 and the Legion Russe, have outstanding unit web pages, very appealing to potential recruits. The GWA will be represented at other period re-enactments, such as the recently held WWII event at the Gap in January, 2000. We stirred a lot of interest in what we do among those WWII guys.

More such outreach is planned. Several units who do an outstanding job of ongoing recruiting are being asked to share their "secrets" of success so that other units interested in growth can model their efforts after proven strategies. For instance, the IR63 assigns a "big brother" to every new recruit for two events to make sure the new guy has fun, has the correct uniform and kit, and they even publish a unit manual for reference by new members. Many units assist their new guys with "loaner" materials to soften the initial financial costs for entry into the hobby, again a great idea!!

The Membership Committee also has taken a responsibility in the area of member retention. We are in the process of developing a post-event survey for the participating members to critique their experience (what was good, what could have been done better, etc). These replies, when returned by snail mail, will be assimilated, and the results given to the G-8 for their responses, all of which will appear in the next On-The-Wire. President Rob Zienta has committed to this process of "bottom up" feedback in or-

der to have another mechanism to make this hobby more fun through open dialog and a more responsive G-8.

The Membership Committee is very enthusiastic about the new vigor we see for WWI re-enacting and the "can do" attitude promoted by the new G-8. We're about getting out the good news.

Mark A. Anderson

Membership Chairman

GWA

CARTOON CORNER



"Say there, Hans, this is the first time since the war started that I've seen the Leutnant marching in front of us!"

This cartoon appeared in the French publication *La Baionette* in 1916. Caption translated by your Editor.

DAWN PATROL FLY-IN: REENACTORS WANTED!

Ever wanted to swing the prop of a Fokker Triplane when the pilot yells "Contact!" Play ground crew for a Sopwith Camel? Or just enjoy the sights and sounds of replica WWI airplanes for a weekend?

The Great War Aeroplanes Association (GWAA) and the USAF Museum in Dayton, OH. are holding the third Dawn Patrol Fly-In on Sept. 29-30/Oct. 1, 2000. The fly-in is held right on the front lawn of the museum, which will serve as the airstrip for the weekend.

Nearly 50 airplanes are already registered for the event, which is double the number from the previous fly-in. Historic car clubs will also bring in a number of period vehicles. The big star of the show is expected to be the replica of the Vickers Vimy, a British biplane bomber with a wingspan of about 60 feet.

We would like to field about 80 top-quality reenactors for this event. This is a chance to put together that pilot, officer, or ground crew impression. Infantry are welcome too, of course. The Museum expects more than 40,000 visitors to the show, so this is a great opportunity to show off WWI.

We will have two camps, one Allied, one German. If enough American, British, French, or Russians show up, additional camps may be possible. Some of the airplanes will be on static display either in or next to the camps, and reenactors may "guard" them from the public. *Important: smoking is not permitted in camp, due to the proximity of fuel, oil, and very flammable aircraft.*

The idea of the camps is to provide a living history experience for the visitors. Reenactors shouldn't just display their artifacts and weapons on a blanket in front of a tent, but try to make an authentic context for the whole camp.

Day activities include R/C model flying, real airplane flying: mock dogfights, flour bombing, balloon bursting, etc. There will be a fashion show for women with period clothes, an antique car display, and talks /demonstrations by reenactors.

We also are planning some activities that will involve both pilots and reenactors, like a "scramble" race to see whose ground crew can get its pilot ready for takeoff first.

Evening activities include a reception on Friday and a participants' dinner on Saturday. The Saturday event is planned for the WWI area of the museum. Staff will show a film (probably an IMAX movie, but we're trying to get "Wings" or "Blue Max" instead), and we will be allowed to climb under the ropes to get a closer look at many of the planes.

Red Baron Pizza will probably provide lunch for the participants again this year. If anyone knows a sponsor that would donate \$100-200 to provide breakfast for the reenactors, let me know!

Camping is permitted on site, either in the period area or in the back lot. There are some motels nearby, and the Dayton Chamber of Commerce has lists available. No showers on site, but you can wash up in the Museum restrooms after 8 AM.

Everyone attending **MUST** fill out the registration form on the following page. Anyone not pre-registered will not be allowed on site by the USAF security. Reenactors are asked to arrive Thursday evening or early on Friday morning. Since the planes take off over the museum's access road, it may be closed during event hours

Public hours are:

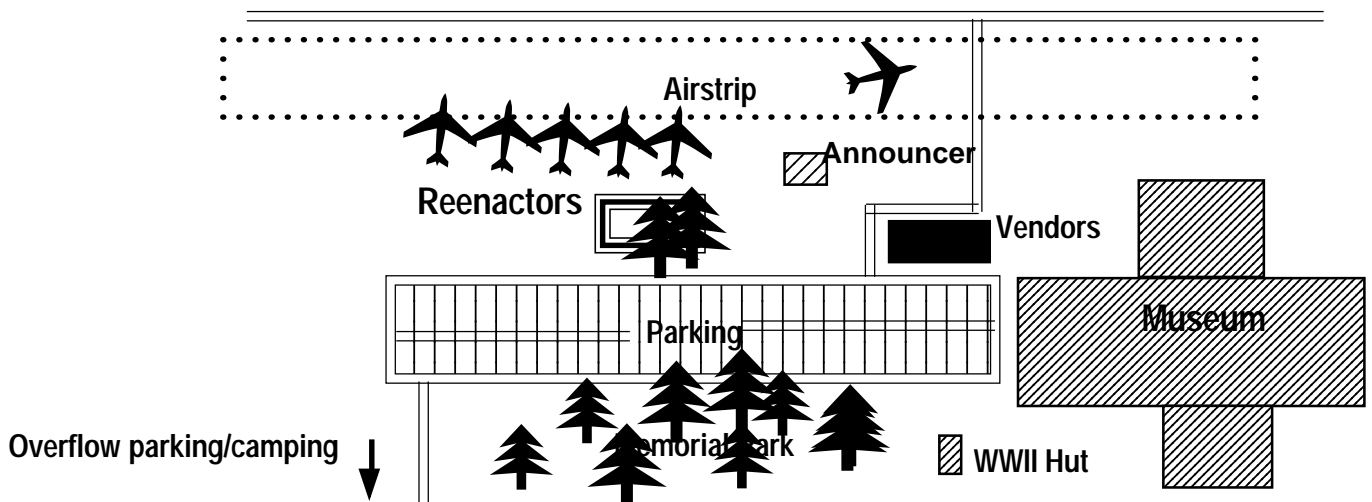
Friday 9/29: 9 AM to 5 PM

Saturday 9/30 9 AM to 5 PM

Sunday 10/1 9 AM to 2 PM

Directions: Take I-70 to Dayton, then follow the signs for the USAF Museum. Park in the main museum lot. We will be in the grassy area near the solo trees on the front lawn.

For more information, contact Sue Fischer (Loerchen2@aol.com) or 317-328-7851 evenings.





DAWN PATROL FLY-IN REGISTRATION FORM



Please mail to Sue Fischer, 5002 Audrey Circle #203, Indianapolis, IN 46254 OR e-mail info to Loerchen2@aol.com before Sept. 1, 2000

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Will you be bringing non-reenactor family members? _____ How many/ages? _____

Will they be wearing period costume? _____

Impression (Nationality/type, GWA unit if applicable) _____

Are you bringing anything special to display, like a MG, airplane parts, full medical display, etc.?

Do you have a period tent that you will bring?

Pup _____ Wall _____ Sibley _____ Wedge _____ Other _____

Do you want to be part of a ground crew, if pilots want one? _____

Any experience with aircraft? _____

Do you have any kind of talk or demonstration that you would be willing to do for the public, either in our area, or over the PA system? If so, what is it about? _____

The media are very interested in this event and the participants. Before the event, we will have a media day and will give out a press kit with information about the planes, pilots, cars, and reenactors. The announcer also wants to know about us. Please tell them something about yourself: how long you've been reenacting, why you do this, what is your special area of interest, what is unique or interesting about your impression, etc. If you have a photo of yourself in uniform, please enclose it. _____

Let me know if you have any ideas for activities or the camps! If you need a response, please enclose a SASE or your e-mail address. _____

G-8 MEETING MINUTES

for the 15 January 2000 Meeting

Officers Present

Rob Zienta	President
Lou Brown	CP Combat Commander
John Torkos	Vice-President
Mike LoCicero	Allied Combat Commander
Randy Gaulke	Treasurer
Mike Moss	CP Representative
Phil Schreier	Allied Representative (via phone)
Mark Dubno	Secretary (via phone—post meeting)

A) Site Purchase Agreement

Mike Moss provided a summary of the site purchase agreement that he has negotiated with the landlord.

The major terms of the proposed purchase are shown below, HOWEVER, CURRENT GWA MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND A DISCUSSION OF THE GWA'S FINANCIAL STATUS IN FEBRUARY. MEMBERS WILL BE ASKED TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSAL AT THE SPRING EVENT, WITH A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THOSE VOTING NECESSARY FOR THE G-8 TO CONTINUE WITH THE PURCHASE.

- The GWA will purchase 80 acres +/-.
- The purchase price is \$100,000.
- The mortgage will be a 10-year, simple mortgage, with 0% interest.
- The owner will receive an extra \$1,000 at closing and an extra \$1,000 at the end of every six months, until an additional \$5,000 of principal has been paid.

Closing costs are estimated at \$4,000-\$5000, and taxes would run another \$800-900 annually.

The G-8 believes that: 1) the proposed purchase price and terms is a fair purchase, 2) the GWA can afford to make the purchase, given its treasury (see below), and 3) that outright ownership of the land will encourage more units to develop the site.

The land purchase would effectively change the GWA's land cost structure from a variable cost (\$10 per member per event) to a fixed cost \$10,000 per year plus taxes and extra payments outlined above.

However, it is the intention of the G-8 that the purchase will be financed by: 1) the current GWA treasury balance, 2) a third event, 3) periodic calls for voluntary contribu-

tions, raffles, etc., and 4) any film revenues. Furthermore, article 13 of the bylaws state that: "Any request for a fee change or charge...shall be brought before the Unit Representatives at the next National Event for a Vote." However, it should be noted that the G-8 is opposed to any fee increases and is not considering this option. The information provided above is to confirm and assure members that any fee increase REQUIRES member approval.

In addition to obtaining membership approval, the G-8 must take the following steps before the sale will be closed:

1. Review of the survey line to make sure that the G-8 is in agreement with the proposed boundaries
2. Review/Revise GWA insurance policies to reflect ownership of the land
3. Have a lawyer draw up closing documents, mortgage, etc.

The G-8 members thank Mike Moss for his role in the negotiations and Mark Anderson for his support and dedication to the hobby.

B: Treasurer's Report

Randy Gaulke submitted his annual review of the GWA's financial position. A copy has been attached to the meeting minutes.

As of 1/14/00 the GWA's treasury has a balance of \$22,155.43. This amount reflects an operating surplus of almost \$6,800 in 1999. Key reasons for the surplus include the following items:

- Approximately \$2,000 of revenues over budgeted revenues. (In part due to the \$15 gate registration fee and interest expense. Neither of these items were included in the budget.)
- Administrative expenses were lower. Specifically, the GWA had no legal expenses, the GWA has not yet purchased officers & directors liability insurance, and communication expenses were minimal.
- The GWA did not fund its \$1,000 obligation for the GWF canteen, as construction has not begun.

A detailed budget for fiscal 2000 will be prepared and will be sent to members along with the proposed purchase agreement.

G-8 members voted unanimously to use the current treasury balance to pay closing costs for the land purchase and to hold the balance as a reserve that can be drawn

down in future years to cover budget shortfalls resulting from the increased annual cost associated with the land purchase.

The bulk of the \$6,000 capital expenditure program has been placed on hold, given the costs of the proposed land sale. However, prior to the Fall 1999 event, \$2,000 was earmarked to improve the Allied lines and to increase the number of shell holes in No-man's-land. \$1,300 was spent in 1999. The remaining \$700 will be spent prior to the Spring 2000 event.

C: Event Dates

The following dates have been set for reenactments in 2000 and 2001. This information will be posted on the website, and it will be mailed in the February mailing regarding the land purchase:

Spring 2000	28-30 April
Third Event	23-25 June
Fall 2000	3-5 November
Spring 2001	20-22 April
Third Event	Undetermined
Fall 2001	2-4 November

D: Pre-Registration Fee

Randy Gaulke has proposed, and the G-8 has approved a modification of the pre-registration policy: Members who pre-register, but who are unable to attend an event, will now receive a refund of the \$25 event fee within four weeks of the last day of the event. In past years, members would receive credit toward attending a future event. The refund will simplify record keeping.

Note that the \$25 dues payment will not be refunded—only the event fee will be refunded.

E: Media Passes and Film Committee

Members of the press (i.e. newspapers, magazines, journals) must obey the rules printed below:

1. Publicity Officer Jon Kulaga must be notified of all press attendees PRIOR to the event.
2. They must pay a \$15 event fee.
3. At a minimum, they must wear a helmet and overcoat.
4. They must make every effort to camouflage their cameras and other gear when not in use.
5. External lighting, reflectors, etc. may not be used.
6. They cannot interrupt combat or other activities by requesting "staged" shots.

7. They must review the GWA's safety rules and sign the waiver of liability.
8. Once past the gate, they must be escorted at all times by a GWA member, PR committee member, MP or Feldgendarme. They may be assigned to a unit or individual as deemed appropriate.
9. They must wear a white armband, identifying them as press agents.

Failure to follow these guidelines, will result in the expulsion of the reporter/photographer from the property.

A separate policy is being established for people wanting to film on site. A committee consisting of Rob Zienta, Randy Gaulke, Jon Kulaga, and Vince Stasolla will prepare the policy prior to the Spring 2000 event.

F: Membership Cards

The G-8 is designing membership cards and trench passes that will look closer to items carried by individual soldiers. The combat commanders (Lou Brown and Mike LoCicero) will design the cards for their respective sides.

G: Officers & Directors Liability Insurance

The G-8 has approved the purchase of officers & directors liability insurance. Randy Gaulke is examining options to purchase officers and directors liability insurance, and he will report his findings to the G-8.

H: PR Committee and Membership Committee Budgets

In the fiscal 2000 budget, the G-8 authorized the spending of up to \$500 each by the PR committee and the membership committee. These funds will be used to publish ads in magazines and to print brochures.

I: Telephone Costs

The G-8 approved reimbursing Mike Moss' business, IDI, for the cost of having Phil Schreier participate via telephone.

J: Site and Unit Issues

Scrap Items: Jeff Holder has been authorized to remove the scrap items (farm implements, old cars, etc) from the site.

He has also been asked to oversee the remaining digging of shell holes and site preparation and to provide the G-8 with a cost estimate for spraying a weed control agent on the field.

He is also to oversee providing a drive path to the period camping area and the cutting of the grass. This is to alleviate any concern of vehicles passing through the memorial gardens area, while providing access by units to the camping area.

5th Sturm Pioneer House: At some point the G-8 will consider knocking down the house currently used by the 5th SP. However, this is not a near-term priority, given the proposed land purchase.

IR 92 Bunker: IR92 has purchased corrugated metal to construct a Siegfried bunker, that was initially approved by the prior G-7 administration. However, upon further review of the thickness of the steel and construction, it was deemed unacceptable by German Trenchmaster, Steve Krentler. The structure was determined as unsafe due to the regiment's intention to bury it completely. IR92 is currently obtaining a second opinion, regarding the hut's strength, and the G-8 and trench master will review the findings of the second opinion.

It is the G-8 and trench master's position to work with IR92 to find a safe solution, as the regiment has already purchased the hut. Thus, the G-8 and trench master will also consider any revised plans submitted by the regiment.

IR 23: IR23 has raised the issue that it is difficult for units situated in the Midwest (or further away) to work on bunkers, site development, etc., because of the great travel distances.

While these difficulties are recognized, it is not possible for the G-8 to "subsidize" regiments whose members live further away. These units should try to partner with units who live closer to the site. Perhaps, they could exchange financial support for work, or they could build a joint bunker.

Marvin Chadab Bunker

Marvin Chadab's unit has purchased the bunker constructed by Battery C. The G-8 has requested that the bunker be covered with earth before the Spring event.

K: Bunker Safety Comments

Unit commanders (and all those sleeping in bunkers) should consider the possibility of having availability of fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide poisoning warning systems. Vice President, John Torkos, will emphasize this in his letter in OTW.

L: Understrength Units

The new administration will take a harder line on member units going forward with little or no attendance. Under Section 9 of the bylaws, "Member units which field less than 6 members at a National Event shall be brigaded with another similar unit. If a member unit fields less than 6 members at three National Events in a row, it shall appear before the Administrative Committee to explain how it intends to get its membership up. The Administrative Committee and the unit shall make an arrangement to bring this unit back to strength. If the unit remains under minimum fielding standards after the period specified in the arrangement, the unit shall be disbanded and its members put in another unit."

Following each National Event, the count of participants by units shall be posted in OTW and on the website.

M: Registration Table

The G-8 administration needs help in manning the registration table. Phil Schreier and Mike Moss will canvas the units for volunteers.

N: MP Sections

The G-8 wants to publicly acknowledge the MP work done by the Leib Regiment. These guys have done this for several years in a row.

However, the G-8 is still looking for an Allied MP section. Mike Moss and Phil Schreier will also be canvassing units for volunteers.

O: Children on Site

Unsupervised children are not allowed on the site. Anyone bringing unsupervised children onto the site will be asked to remain with the children behind the registration gate, or they will be asked to leave the property.

At the fall 1999 event, two young children went beyond the registration gate after being told by the MPs that they were not allowed to do so. They were also playing with a BB gun. This could have resulted in an injury, property damage, or a confrontation with a reenactor.

P: Mission Statement

President Rob Zienta has asked the G-8 to develop a mission statement. This will be developed further.

Q: OTW Deadline

The G-8 plans to have OTW in the mail by February 15. This means that articles must be sent to Sue Fisher by February 5.

R: Third Event

The GWA will have scheduled a third event for the weekend of 23-25 June. While the possibility of high heat temperatures was discussed, a major consideration was that the time of year not be scheduled to conflict with the already established spring and fall events. Participation in this event will be evaluated and changes, including the date, will be made for future years.

The purpose of the third event is to provide an opportunity to show the hobby to potential new members, to allow the public to view our activities, to provide a work weekend for units, and to provide another outlet for WWI reenactors to socialize with one another. While the exact format of the event is still being developed, key events will include:

- Mock combats, trench tours, and living history demonstrations that can be viewed by the public
- Time for drill, training, and site development work by individual units
- Nighttime combat after the public leaves the site.

The goal in year one is to make the third event budget neutral. Treasurer Randy Gaulke will be analyzing the costs of doing this event. The long-term goal is to make the third event a revenue building opportunity. The event fee for the third event will likely be \$15 for GWA members and \$5-10 for the general public. (Remember, our additional costs will include an ambulance (@\$25/hour), additional port-a-johns, etc.)

S: Other Events/Living History Programs

There are numerous living history events offered by other institutions. The representatives (Mike Moss and Phil Schreier) will be responsible to collect information on these events and publish the information on the GWA's website.

T: Membership Committee and PR Committee Reports and Authenticity Discussion

Rob Zienta presented reports from these two committees. The reports are attached as appendices. *[these reports are presented separately in this issue -- Editor]*

The membership committee report generated great discussion regarding the potentially conflicting goals of maintaining a high level of authenticity while growing membership. It is the G-8's position that growth at the expense of authenticity is not acceptable! This is why the Central Powers has developed authenticity regulations, and this is why the Allies are currently developing authenticity regulations.

The G-8 also disputes the belief that the cost of the event is a reason for low attendance. The cost of the events reflects the need to maintain a permanent site.

One very possible explanation for the small size of WWI reenacting is that WWI is not a well-known or "popular" war in the eyes of the American public. The Western Front Association, for example, has 4,000-5,000 members in the U.K., but it has only been able to recruit about 400 members in the U.S.

Another concern in recruiting WWI reenactors from other reenactment periods is risk of scheduling conflicts with events from other time periods. Units whose members do multiple time periods experience this already.

Building on the experience of some of the more senior reenactors in the G-8 should take the following advice to heart: Generally, the most successful units at membership growth have a specific individual designated to handle recruiting (i.e. delegation), and assign a sponsor to train and help the new recruit get his uniform and equipment.

Under Section 35 of the Bylaws, "The Authenticity Committee shall develop and implement a set of standards for authentic uniforms, equipment and weapons for the GWA...The Authenticity Committee is Co-Chaired by the Allied Representative (Phil Schreier) and the Central Powers Representative (Mike Moss.)" Members of the authenticity committee include the Allied Combat Commander (Mike

LoCicero) and the Central Powers Combat Commander (Lou Brown.)

U: Other Items

Cemetery on Site: Mike LoCicero advised the G-8 that a tombstone was apparently found near the farmhouse. He will provide the G-8 with an update as soon as possible.

Yankee Division Proposal: Mike LoCicero presented an application for this new unit. They expect to have 10-15 participants at the spring event. President Rob Zienta has approved the unit as a probationary unit. Before becoming a member unit, the probationary unit must present at least six members at each of the next four national events. It must also pass an authenticity inspection, and it must be voted on by the full membership, as outlined in Section 7 of the by-laws.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randal S. Gaulke
Treasurer



"I too, have downed my fifth Boche -- but that won't make the communiques...."

When pilots downed their 5th enemy plane, they were considered "aces" and mentioned in dispatches. Cartoon from the French magazine *La Baionette*, 1916. Caption translated by the Editor.

2000 REVISED BUDGET PREPARED BY R. GAULKE, TREASURER,
AND PRESENTED 2/28/00

	Base Case	Upside
	<u>Case (A)</u>	<u>Case (B)</u>
Budgeted Revenues		
Membership (\$25 each)	425	460
Spring Pre-Registrations (\$25 each)	250	275
Spring Gate Registrations (\$40 each)	50	60
Fall Pre-Registrations (\$25 each)	300	325
Fall Gate Registrations (\$40 each)	50	60
Membership Dues (400 x \$25)	\$10,625.00	\$11,500.00
Spring Reenactment Fees	\$8,250.00 (1)	\$9,275.00
Fall Reenactment Fees	\$9,500.00 (1)	\$10,525.00
Third Event Profit (Read Footnotes)	\$0.00 (2)	\$1,000.00
Other Revenues	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
Total Revenues	\$28,575.00	\$33,300.00

Budgeted Administrative Expenses

Misc./Legal Expenses	\$500.00	\$500.00
Postage/Printing/Other	\$500.00	\$500.00
Liability Insurance	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Medical Coverage Insurance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Officers & Directors Insurance (Pending)	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Administrative Expenses	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00

Budgeted Communication Expenses Per Issue

Printing Costs—two, 12-page newsletters, x 550 copies		
6 Pages(12 pages) @ \$0.05	\$165.00	
Printing/Folding/Stapling @ \$0.06	\$198.00	
Postage @ \$0.77 x 550 Copies	\$423.50	
Total Per Issue Costs	\$786.50	
PR Committee Authorization	\$500.00 (3)	\$500.00
Membership Committee Authorization	\$500.00 (3)	\$500.00
Website and Software Costs	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total Communication Expenses	\$3,073.00	\$3,073.00

Rent and Site Purchase Expenses (Read Footnotes Carefully)

Fees for Spring Event (\$10 per participant)	\$3,000.00 (4)	\$3,350.00
Real Estate Taxes (6 mos)	\$425.00 (4)	\$425.00
Mortgage Payment (6 mos)	\$4,500.00 (4)	\$4,500.00
Additional Payment	\$1,000.00 (4)	\$1,000.00
Total Rent and Site Purchase Expenses	\$8,925.00	\$9,275.00

Budgeted Event & Site Expenses Per Event

Ambulance Donation on Site	\$800.00	\$1,600.00 (5)	\$1,600.00
Other First Aid Supplies	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Road Maintenance	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Period Transportation	\$300.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Tent/Table/Chair Rental	\$275.00	\$550.00	\$550.00
Toilets—1 on site @ \$60/month	\$720.00		\$720.00
Toilets—5 extra during event	\$250.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Dumpster (\$145 annual + 8 p/u @ \$56)		\$593.00	\$593.00
Site clean-up	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Printing of Passes/etc.	\$150.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Trench Supplies			
Flares (288 @ \$2 per event)	\$576.00	\$1,152.00	\$1,152.00
Sandbags (1,000 @ \$0.40 each)	\$400.00	\$800.00	\$800.00

Smoke	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
Wire (6 rolls @ \$35 each)	\$350.00	\$700.00	\$700.00
Screw Pickets	\$0.00	<u>\$0.00</u>	(6) <u>\$0.00</u>
Total Event and Site Expenses	\$3,751.00	\$8,815.00	\$8,815.00

Budgeted Site Development Expenses

GWA portion of GWF Canteen	\$1,000.00	(7)	\$1,000.00
Defoliant of Site	\$2,500.00	(8)	\$2,500.00
Backhoe and other Development Work	<u>\$700.00</u>	(9)	<u>\$700.00</u>
Budgeted Site Development Expenses	\$4,200.00		\$4,200.00

One-Time Items

Land Purchase Closing Costs & Legal Fees Est.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
First \$1,000 principal payment (at closing)	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total One-Time Items	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

Summary

	Base (A)	Upside (B)
Budgeted Revenues	\$28,575.00	\$33,300.00
Budgeted Expenses		
Administrative	-\$3,400.00	-\$3,400.00
Communication	-\$3,073.00	-\$3,073.00
Site Rental & Purchase	-\$8,925.00	-\$9,275.00
Event & Site	-\$8,815.00	-\$8,815.00
Site Development	<u>-\$4,200.00</u>	<u>-\$4,200.00</u>
Proj. Surplus (Deficit) Excl. One-Time Items	\$162.00	\$4,537.00
One Time Items-Closing & Legal Costs	<u>-\$6,000.00</u>	<u>-\$6,000.00</u>
Proj. Surplus (Deficit) Incl. One-Time Items	-\$5,838.00	-\$1,463.00

Bank Balance as of 1/1/00	\$22,174.03	\$22,174.03
2000 Expenses Already Paid	<u>-\$18.60</u>	<u>-\$18.60</u>
Bank Balance as of 1/14/00	\$22,155.43	\$22,155.43
Plus Projected Surplus	<u>-\$5,838.00</u>	<u>-\$1,463.00</u>
Projected Bank Balance as of 12/31/00	\$16,317.43	\$20,692.43

Comments & Notes:

PLEASE SPEND SEVERAL MINUTES READING THESE NOTES. THEY PROVIDE EXTRA INFORMATION REGARDING OUR REVENUES AND EXPENSES.

(A) Under the base case, the GWA receives \$1,500 of revenues as a result of the \$15 gate fee. Also, the base case assumes \$200 of interest income received from our bank account. The number of members exceeds the number of event participants at both events, as many members are able to attend only one event a year.

(B) The upside case includes revenues from the \$15 gate fee. It also assumes membership and attendance growth, with 335 (versus 300) at the Spring event and 385 (versus 350) at the Fall event. Finally, it includes \$200 of interest income and \$800 of film/other revenues.

The breakout below shows event attendance over the past 2.5 years. At the time of this writing, I do not have earlier information readily available.

Year	Spring	Fall
1999	286	343
1998	303	344
1997		315

Since its implementation at the Spring 1998 event, the number of individuals paying the gate fee has ranged from a low of 32 to a high of 68. However, gate fees were waived at the Spring 1999 event, due to delays in publishing OTW.

- 1) Over the last several years, we have had greater attendance at the Fall event.
- 2) It is anticipated that the third event will be (at least) budget neutral in year 1, but that it will become a positive contributor in future years. I estimate that the GWA needs 100 members and some public crowd in order for the event to break even. An estimate of revenues and expenses is shown below:
The upside scenario assumes that revenues exceed expenses by \$1,000—I.e. profit.

Third Event Revenues—Estimated

100 reenactors @ \$15 per person	1,500.00
100 viewers @ \$5 per person	<u>500.00</u>
Total Revenues	2,000.00

Third Event Expenses—Estimated

Ambulance (30 hours @ about \$26/hour)	800.00
3 extra toilets @ \$63.60	190.80
Tent, tables, chairs	400.00
Publicity	200.00
2 Dumpster Pick-ups	112.00
Flares (144 for the event @ \$2 each)	<u>288.00</u>
Total Expenses	1,990.80

Purchase of trench supplies is minimal

THIS ALSO ASSUMES THAT THE CURRENT LANDLORD WAIVES THE \$10 PER PARTICIPANT PER EVENT FEE FOR THE THIRD EVENT (LATE JUNE) EVEN THOUGH THE ASSUMPTIONS IN (4) BELOW ASSUME THE LAND IS PURCHASED BY THE GWA ON 7/1/00.

- 3) These amounts were authorized to cover publicity, printing of flier, etc. to raise membership and increase awareness of GWA.
- 4) The budget has the following assumptions:

Land Purchase Assumptions

- a) Land is purchased from current landlord on 7/1/00 b)
- Thus, landlord receives rent for Spring event (300 x \$10 each.)
- c) Assumes \$5,000 in closing fees.
 - d) Assumes \$850 of real estate taxes annually. e)
- Mortgage payment is half of annual \$9,500 payment.
- f) As per purchase agreement, the GWA pays the landlord an extra \$1,000 every 6 months until an additional \$5,000 of principal has been paid.

Rent versus Land Purchase Costs

Spring Event Rent	\$3,000
Fall Event Rent	<u>\$3,500</u>
Total Rent	\$6,500

Annual Mortgage Payment	\$9,500
Annual Real Estate Taxes	<u>\$850</u>
Total	\$10,350

(excl. additional payments in early years.)

Difference in costs per year: Own vs. Rent \$3,850

- 5) We now have the ambulance on site 30 hours per event. Rate is about \$26/hour.

6) The GWA will no longer be purchasing screw pickets. We can't buy the land and keep the same level of expenditures as in prior years.

7) I do not believe that the GWF will begin construction of the canteen in 2000, but the GWA has committed to spend \$1,000 towards the construction.

8) This is only an estimate. Trench Master Jeff Holder is looking into the cost.

9) This amount is the remainder of the \$2,000 authorized by the last administration prior to the Fall 1999 event.

TREASURER'S COMMENTS REGARDING THE LAND PURCHASE

The purchase of the land does increase the GWA's financial risk. It converts a variable cost (rent = \$10 per participant per event) into a fixed cost (mortgage payment = \$9,500 per year plus taxes plus additional payments in early years.) It could also place a greater burden on individual units, as the purchase of trench supplies could be reduced to stem the outflow of cash.

Nevertheless, I fully support the GWA's decision to purchase the land for several reasons. FIRST, I believe that the proposed sale is a fair deal. There are not too many people in the world that would extend an interest-free 10-year loan to an organization like the GWA. SECOND, we have a \$22,000 bank balance that would allow us to operate with a budget deficit for several years before the GWA would run out of money—even after paying an estimated \$6,000 in closing costs. THIRD, looking at the above budget, you should note that we break even

before one-time fees under the base case. FOURTH, under my guidance the current and previous G-8 has shown that it can live within a budget. That will not change. FIFTH, the current G-8 is absolutely committed to seeking alternative revenue to keep the organization financially strong. These include boosting membership and examining other sources of revenues—such as film fees and voluntary war bond drives. (If we fail, see my second point.) SIXTH, we can continue to rent the property under the 29 year lease, or we can look to buy it

outright over a 10-year period. (We have already rented for five years.)

SEVENTH, though difficult to quantify, I believe individual units will be more willing to invest in the site, knowing that it will be ours in 10 years.

Any major 10-year commitment has a certain level of risk. However, we have a historic opportunity to purchase the land at a fair price, and I believe we have the means to do so. If we were starting from a weaker financial position, I would not support the purchase.

Put another way, over my first two years as Treasurer we have increased the GWA's bank balance by more than \$17,000 to \$22,000. The increased cost of ownership is only \$3,850 per year—excluding the closing costs and additional principal payments outlined in footnote 4. That gives us a lot of cushion—even if the GWA does not grow.

However, the upside case shows how an increase in membership (influenced, perhaps, by the decision to purchase the land) or an increase in other revenue streams can help the organization to meet the increased property costs and significantly enhance site development.

Sincerely,

Randal S. Gaulke
GWA Treasurer
908-626-1345
lavarenn@msn.com

THIRD EVENT .. JUNE 23-25, 2000

Gentlemen,

We need to get the schedule for the Third Event nailed down within the next few days, so that we can:

- 1) Advertise it to the membership
- 2) Publish it in OTW
- 3) Encourage members to invite guests
- 4) Publish it to other groups, such as the Western Front Association
- 5) Publish it to the local media

I don't believe that we "officially" designated someone to come up with a schedule, although Jon Kulaga and Jim Michaud did put a lot of preliminary work into a third event. I offer the PROPOSAL below, only as a way to start the ball rolling. Jon, I do not want to step on your toes, and we can change this as much as people want.

The thinking that went into Saturday's event schedule was that the typical guest would only spend a few hours at the event. Hence, Saturday afternoon is basically a repeat of the morning.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change. A revised schedule will be provided to unit commanders prior to the event.)

Friday, 23 June

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1800 | Safety Briefing |
| 1830 | Night combat running until 0600
(REENACTORS ONLY) |

Saturday, 24 June

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 0600 | Night combat ends |
| 0600-1000 | Unit time to spend preparing the site. |
| 1000-1800 | SITE OPEN TO PUBLIC |
| 1000-1100 | Mock assaults viewed by public at far end of field |
| 1100-1200 | Tours of the trenches, conducted by soldiers on both sides |
| 1200-1300 | Unit drill, assault training, living history etc. in trenches and No Man's Land.

(no firing, open to public) |

Each unit can select its activities, but make it interesting to public.

One individual should be selected to "interpret" the activity to by bystanders.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1300-1400 | Lunch |
| 1400-1500 | Mock assaults viewed by public at far end of field |
| 1500-1600 | Tours of the trenches, conducted by soldiers on both sides |
| 1600-1700 | Unit drill, assault training, living history etc. in trenches and No Man's Land.

(no firing, open to public)

Each unit can select its activities, but make it interesting to public.

One individual should be selected to "interpret" the activity to by bystanders. |
| 1700 | Units move to Main Square |
| 1730-1800 | Brief Remembrance Ceremony |
| 1800 | Public Leaves |
| 1830 | Safety Briefing |
| 1900 | Night combat running until 2400 |

Sunday, 25 June

Units free to work on their sites.

OTHER POINTS

- STATIC DISPLAYS**—Each unit participating will be asked to prepare a static display along the roadside. Each unit will also be responsible for manning its display during Saturday's activities. Individuals may also set up their own displays. **IN ORDER TO MAKE SURE WE HAVE SOMETHING, WE NEED TO HAVE EACH UNIT FILL OUT A COMMITMENT FORM.** We'll get these out to unit commanders in the near future.
- INVITE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS, FAMILY, FRIENDS, OTHERS INTERESTED**—This is the event to show your friends and family what reenacting is about. It's also a great way to work on recruitment. It will also help us to pay for the site.
- COST**—\$15 per GWA member, \$5 per person for the public.

☐ Check this box if you have changed your address since the last event

Print first letter of your last name in this box

☐ Check this box if you're a unit commander

GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Summer Media/Visitor Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, Jun. 23-25, 2000

Part I—Member Information—Please Print Legibly

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Unit Commander: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older _____
sign here

Part II—Unit Affiliation

This box must be filled out, using the units and abbreviations on the back of this form. If you are not a member of one of these units, you are an independent.

Part III—Dues and Event Fees

A. 2000 Dues if you have not already paid this year \$25.00
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

B. 2000 Summer Event Fee \$15.00

C. Gate registration total \$

Send form and check to: Randy Gaulke, GWA Treasurer, 584 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933
Phone: 908-626-1345 Email: lavarennnes@msn.com

SITE PURCHASE AGREEMENT--PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

Dear Members:

The G-8 met in January and unanimously approved preparing an agreement to purchase the current site. As a result, we have had several meetings with Mark Anderson to bring this to closure and structure a purchase proposal for the vote of the membership.

The signed document is now in the hands of the attorneys and is being finalized, therefore, it is not ready for complete publication. However, regardless of the legal terminology, the basics of the agreement should be as follows:

Site Purchase Agreement:

As most of you are aware, negotiations have been conducted with Mark Anderson concerning possible purchase of the site. No doubt, there have been numerous rumors and speculation about the proposed purchase. Following, is a summary of the terms of the agreement to purchase the site. I am also going to address some of the concerns that have been expressed.

Terms of Purchase:

1. The GWA will purchase 80 acres plus/minus. Mike Moss and I will physically walk the boundary lines.
2. JR 63's bunker will be included in the GWA purchase.
3. Engineering, lot lines and surveys recording, sub-division fees, any fee associated with the separation is the responsibility of the seller (Mark Anderson/Great War Historical Society, LLC, the current landlord.)
4. The purchase price is \$100,000.
5. The Buyer (GWA) will pay \$1,000 of principal at closing + closing costs normally paid by the buyer.
6. Additional principal payments of \$1,000 will be paid every six months until a total of \$4,000 of principal is paid.
7. The principal balance of \$95,000 will be paid via a simple 10-year mortgage, with no interest.
8. Each party will be responsible for its own legal fees.
9. The mortgage will be held by the Great War Historical Society, LLC.
10. No broker fees will be paid.
11. The name of the site will not change and the memorial marker dedicating the site will remain in place.
12. Condition of purchase is contingent upon a simple majority vote of GWA members. Section 38 of our Bylaws states "Any member in good standing who can not attend an event at which the GWA membership

shall be voting may vote absentee by requesting and returning a ballot to the Secretary of the GWA before the event." The vote will be open to all members, including those voted by absentee ballots. The vote will be held at the spring 2000 event. Members in good standing may request absentee ballots from the Secretary, Mark Dubno, prior to the event. To be in good standing a member must have paid the \$25 membership fee for 2000.

13. There is no plan to raise event or membership fees. Section 13 of the Bylaws states: "...Any request for a fee change or charge, however, shall first be brought to the Administrative Committee. If warranted, this request shall be brought before the Unit Representatives at the next National Event for a vote. The vote shall be conducted by a show of hands with a simple majority of those voting required for passage..."
14. As shown in the Treasurer's fiscal 2000 budget, the GWA's surplus could allow the GWA to operate at a budget deficit for several years before the surplus would be wiped out.
15. Additional money for site improvement will be done through donations, "war bonds", fundraisers, etc.

Q & A:

Q: Since the LLC holds the mortgage, what happens if in 5 years, the LLC ceases to exist? Or, what happens if the persons controlling the LLC have a spat? What protections are there that the members won't get left out in the cold when the land is sold?

A: The mortgage agreement is protected regardless of the LLC's status. The GWA's mortgage agreement would survive any sale. We (GWA) own the land.

Q: How much of the land do we own?

A: The GWA will own 80 +/- acres.

Q: Who owns the LLC?

A: The Great War Historical Society LLC is owned by Mark Anderson and his daughter.

Q: What happens if someone is injured and sues the LLC, or the GWA?

A: Members currently sign waivers of liability and the GWA will continue to carry liability insurance regardless of owning the land or not.

Q: What happens if membership goes down and the mortgage is the same?

A: Personally, I am not pessimistic about membership. I don't think that membership will drop. Why should it?

We have been fairly consistent with attendance, in spite of the perception to the contrary. The fact is, our members continue to recruit, i.e. several new Allied units and a new German unit are being formed. Event attendance has been very stable for the past five years. The GWA is making a concerted effort to increase membership. We have membership and PR committees that will help accomplish this. Budget estimates indicate that we should be able to handle a deficit over the next five years.

Q: How many members do we need minimum to make the mortgage?

A: Please refer to Randy's budget. We are also having a review done by a independent financial analyst concerning the financial feasibility of our proposal. This will be sent to our members. We were unable to get it completed for the publication of this issue of OTW.

Q: The terms seem liberal enough, but do we have the horsepower to pull it?

A: As stated above, the budget surplus will allow us to operate for several years without a dues increase or no growth in membership. The fact is, as stated earlier, we anticipate continued membership growth.

Q: What about site improvements?

A: Some projects may have to be put on hold, however, after ten years, the GWA will own the property. At that time, the membership can decide to keep all fees the same and use the extra money to make site improvements or even reduce fees. Our intention is to continue to make improvements as possible. At this point we are paying \$7,000 + annually for rent and additional money for site improvements; if we lost the lease, we would lose it all, just as we did at Shimpstown. After ten years, the current fee structure would free up \$9,500 annually that could be used for site improvement. The point is, unless we own the land any improvements that we make could be considered as temporary as they were at Shimpstown. At this site we made a lot of improvements, including bunkers, however, the owner sold the property and we lost our lease and the site. The purchase secures the site for the organization to do what the membership decides.

Where Do We Go From Here:

This is a very straightforward agreement. Nevertheless, an attorney and independent financial analyst are reviewing it. The next step is for the attorneys of the two parties to finalize the terms (therefore, as with any negotiated agreement, some of the terms may slightly change).

Owning our own site has been the dream and goal of our organization for years. Our past administrations have ALL worked toward this goal. We are now fortunate to find ourselves in a position to be able to make this happen.

The G-8 unanimously endorses the purchase of the Site. With the very favorable terms of the sale and the current, and projected, cash flows of the GWA, the G-8 believes we are in an enviable position to be one of the few re-enacting organizations to own its site and be masters of its destiny. We may never have another window of opportunity as favorable as this, therefore, each member of the G-8 urges you to vote yes to purchase the Site in Newville.

Owning the land ensures that the site improvements we make will remain. Shimpstown is a perfect example. We lost the lease and then wandered in the wilderness. Not having a site almost killed the organization. We now have an opportunity to correct that situation for our future. At this point, if something happened to Mark Anderson, his estate may, or may not, be willing to extend the lease to us. Owning the site makes it a certainty that we will have it. I see this as trading an uncertain future for a definite one

I must commend Mark Anderson on his cooperation and dedication to our organization, this would not have been possible without his cooperation. I also want to mention the valuable contribution by Mike Moss who hammered out the draft of our original agreement.

We have an opportunity to truly make our re-enactment organization unique. I have watched other groups who have not had self-determination rely on the "kindness of strangers." As a result, it has been extremely difficult for them due to the land being sold, or former military sites being closed. Owning the site ensures that we will have a place to "play" and will go far to helping us grow as an organization. On behalf of the G-8, I ask for your support.

Thanks,

Rob Zienta
President
GWA

NOTE:

If you will not be able to attend the Spring event, but still wish to vote on the site purchase issue, please contact the Secretary and ask for an absentee ballot.

Mark Dubno

6 Mist Lane

Westbury, New York 11590-6310

KUBRKFN@aol.com

ANALYSIS OF GWA SITE PURCHASE OFFER

This analysis of the site purchase offer was done by Keith Reynolds, an independent real estate analyst and neutral party.

The current asking price for the site is \$100,000. Considering what the site was originally purchased for five years ago (\$1,026 per acre), plus normal inflationary-type appreciation in land values, plus the subsequent improvements made to the site (well, roads, parking lot, etc.), the current asking price (\$1,250 per acre) appears reasonable.

Moreover, the Seller is offering to finance 99% of the purchase price for 10 years at a 0% interest rate. This is extremely favorable financing since, as a general policy, banks have not even made loans for vacant land since the late 1980s. The prime interest rate is currently 8¾%. Current residential home mortgage interests rates are approximately 7½%.

Consequently, an interest rate of at least 10% (a 2½% risk premium over residential interest rates) would not be unreasonable considering the risk involved and credit-worthiness of the GWA - assuming we could even find a bank willing to finance this land purchase. Consequently, the Seller's financing would save the GWA approximately \$57,271 in avoided interest payments over the 10-year period. Even at a 7½% interest rate the interest savings is still \$41,557.

The only significant risk is default. Should the GWA be unable to make the scheduled payments, the property would revert to the Seller and the GWA would forfeit all monies paid up to that point. In order to quantify that risk and ascertain the GWA's ability to make the payments, I have analyzed the Year 2000 budget.

The base case budget forecasts a net deficit of -\$5,838 (including \$1,000 of one-time items). Considering that the GWA has a current bank balance (surplus) of over \$22,000 this year's deficit can be absorbed without creating financial distress. However, this budget includes both a rental payment for the

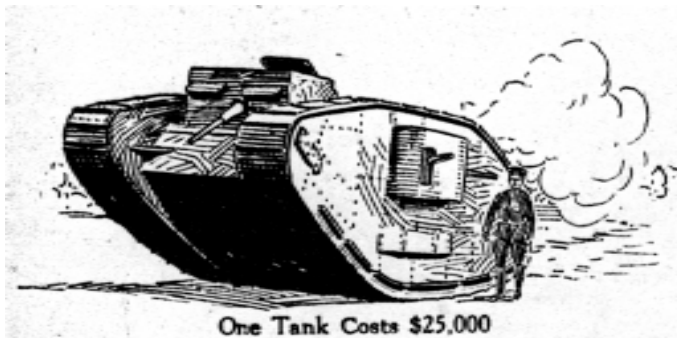
Spring Event, as well as closing and mortgage costs for the purchase of the site. So in order to assess the longer term financial ability of the GWA to meet its proposed mortgage obligations I have subtracted all Rent & Site Purchase Expenses (including One-Time Items) from the budget. This results in an operating profit of +\$9,087 for each future year, from which the mortgage must be paid. This assumes no increase in membership or event attendance from the current levels.

Because the mortgage schedule front-end loads \$5,000 over the first 24 months, the worst budget deficit occurs in 2001. Beginning in year 2003 through 2010 the payments stabilize at \$10,350 annually (including \$850 of estimated real estate taxes). This results in annual deficits of -\$1,263 for each of those years. These deficits assume that a.) there are no new sources of revenue, b.) that membership and event attendance does not increase, and c.) deficits are not paid from the current bank balance surplus. In the absence of any of those factors, an increase in membership dues from \$25 to \$26.20 plus an increase in the event fee from \$25 to \$26.20 would be necessary to cover this deficit. The deficit in 2001 is -\$3,263, which would require that the membership dues and event fees be increased by \$3.11 to \$28.11 for that year only.

It should be noted that the annual rental payment, if the site is not purchased, is approximately \$6,500. Thus, the incremental cost in the out years is only \$3,850 (\$10,350-6,500). The average annual incremental cost for the 10-year period from 2001 to 2010 is \$4,150. After year 2010 the mortgage will be extinguished and the annual operating surplus will increase by +\$9,500 which could then be used for other improvements, or to reduce membership dues and event fees. Overall, I believe that the offering price is fair, and the Seller's financing is generous. While the proposition is not without risk, it is my opinion that the risks are reasonable and manageable.

(signed) Keith Reynolds

AND HERE'S WHAT IT COST IN 1918...



When Johnny Comes Marching Home



Cartoon from “Army News,” vol. II, no. 3-4, November/December 1918.

- ☐ Check this box if you have changed your address since the last event
- ☐ Check this box if you're a unit commander

Print first letter of your last name in this box

GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Spring Combat Event at the Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, Apr. 28-30, 2000
Pre-Register and save yourself \$15.00—See below!!!

Part I—Member Information—Please Print Legibly

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Country: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Unit Commander: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

I certify that I am 18 years of age or older _____
sign here

Part II—Unit Affiliation

This box must be filled out, using the units and abbreviations on the back of this form. If you are not a member of one of these units, you are an independent.

Part III—Dues and Event Fees

A. 2000 Dues if you have not already paid this year \$25.00
 (Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

B. 2000 Spring Event Fee if pre-registered \$25.00

C. Rebate, if applicable (see below) (\$25.00)

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

\$

E. Gate registration penalty \$15.00

F. Gate registration total (D+E)

\$

All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before April 25, 2000. If your pre-registration was not received by that date, you must pay at the event—including the \$15 gate registration penalty. Your original pre-registration, if received in the mail, will be returned unopened.

Rebate. Members who pre-registered for, but did not attend, an event in 1998 and 1999 are entitled to receive a credit of the event fee (only). If you believe you are entitled to a rebate, contact Randy Gaulke to verify this before sending your form.

Pre-registration. Members are encouraged to pre-register to save the gate penalty. Beginning in 2000, if you pre-register, but are unable to attend, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks after the event.

Send form and check to: Randy Gaulke, GWA Treasurer, 584 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933

Phone: 908-626-1345 Email: lavarennnes@msn.com

GWA UNIT LIST (use abbreviation on registration form)

AMERICAN UNITS	1AEF	1st Div., 28th Inf., Co. E, AEF
	27AEF	27th Div., AEF
	L109AEF	28th Div., 109th Inf., Co. L, AEF
	M109AEF	28th Div., 109th Inf., Co. M, AEF
	BTTYC	28th Div., 107th Field Arty., Btty. C, AEF (<i>probatioinary</i>)
	116AEF	29th Div., 116th Inf., Hdqtrs. Co., AEF
	30AEF	30th Div., AEF
	33AEF	33rd Div. (Prairie Division), AEF
	372AEF	93rd Div., 372nd Inf., AEF
	49CO	5th Marines, 49th Co., AEF
	67CO	5th Marines, 67th Co., AEF
	26 AEF	26th "Yankee" Div., AEF (<i>probationary</i>)
BRITISH UNITS	4MBEF	4th Middlesex Regt., BEF
	6BWBEF	6th Btn., Black Watch, BEF
	17BEF	17th Lancers, BEF
	BUFF	6th Buffs Regt., BEF
	IRISHGD	Irish Guards No. 3 Co., 1st Btn.
	MGCBEF	Machine Gun Corps, BEF
COMMONWEALTH UNITS	5AIF	5th Btn. Australian/New Zealand Army Corps
	27CEF	27th Btn., CEF
	PPCLI	Princess Pat's Canadian Light Infantry
FRENCH UNITS	151RL	151er Regiment d'Infanterie
RUSSIAN UNITS	RL	Legion Russe
AUSTRIAN UNITS	63KUK	63 KuK
GERMAN UNITS	1LR	Königlich Bayerische Leib Regiment
	23JR	J.R. 23 (2. Oberschlesisches)
	63JR	J.R. 63 (4. Oberschlesisches)
	92JR	J.R. 92 (1. Braunschweigisches)
	111JR	J.R. 111 (3. Badisches)
	120JR	J.R. 120 (2. Wurttembergisches)
	5SP	5. Sturm-Pionier Battalion (Rohr)
	23/12	12. Minenwerfer Komp., 12. Inf. Div., J.R. 23
	20MG	20. Mg Scharfschützen Kompagnie
	8KÜR	3. Feldeskadron, Kürassier Regt. Nr. 8 (<i>probationary</i>)
	13LIB	L.I.B. 13—Landsturm Battalion
	25LJR	L.I.R. 25—Landwehr (1. Rheinisch)
NON-MILITARY	SA	Salvation Army
	DRK	Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross)
	INDP	Independent



c/o Randy Gaulke
584 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933

