

ON THE WIRE

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT WAR ASSOCIATION

Fall 2006



President's Message

Dear Members,

The fall event should be a good one. We are excited to have WWI aircraft participating in the event, thanks to the efforts of Keith Thompson, JR 92, and Steve Wiser. Keith has served as our liaison with the Great War Aeroplane Association and Steve found a local landing strip within five miles of our site. The element of aircraft should bring a new dynamic to our combat.

Thanks to all who completed the GWA survey. We received some very good feedback and suggestions. The survey indicated that there is a desire that two current national events remain focused on 1918, both in scope of participants and tactics of that period. This we will do.

Some of our members want early war events. The G-8 has responded by making it easy for GWA member units to sponsor such events at other times of the year for those interested in doing them. No rental fee is charged for site use. The G-8 will continue to encourage and support these types of events.

I want to remind everyone that the GWA endorses and supports the Virginia War Museum's event in March. It is a

great event and can be a useful recruiting tool. We had a good turnout last year and would like to see more this year. Vince Petty is our representative who has worked with Colin to keep this going. They did a great job last year and those attending seemed to have a lot of fun. Let's continue to show our support for their efforts and keep it going.

Jim and the site committee continue to work hard to develop an overall multi-phased site development plan. This has been a difficult process because almost anyone you talk to has a different idea of how this should be accomplished. It is further complicated because some people will react on hearsay, even before a proposal is considered or agreed upon. I urge you to contact Jim, your representative, or combat commander if you have any question about what is going on with the site committee before reacting. Even at that, sometimes misunderstandings still occur. So the best rule of thumb is to go to the source with YOUR question. Rumor mills and discussion lists do not always provide all of the information. Again, for questions, go to the source directly.

The G-8 continues to work to improve the site, improve events, and move the organization forward. We know that not everyone agrees, but let us not lose sight of our purpose.

I hope with the planes buzzing overhead and machine guns popping away at us, it will get the adrenaline pumping and help put some more fun into the event.

See you there,

—Rob

Fall Combat Event Schedule November 3-5, 2006

Friday, November 3

12 noon–6:00pm Registration shed open

5:30pm Modern vehicles must be moved from all areas beyond the registration shed gate (including the battlefield, roads, rear areas, camps) before 5:30pm and parked in the parking lots. The registration shed gate will be locked until 6am Sunday

6:00pm Safety meeting on road between trenches

6:30 to 6:45pm Stand To.

6:45 to 10:00pm Night combat

Saturday, November 4

8:00–8:55am Registration shed open

9:00 to 10:00am Safety meeting formation for all units (mandatory attendance)

10am to 11pm Combat

Sunday, November 5

6:00am Gate at registration shed opened. Modern vehicles may access roads to battlefield.

7:00–8:30am Battlefield cleanup

8:00–9:00am Executive Committee meeting

WW1 Aeroplanes to Attack Newville

My Fellow Reenactors,

I want to thank you all for showing the Pilots of the Great War Aeroplane Association a memorable weekend last spring. I have heard nothing but good comments from them about how they were treated by all and their time they spent with us. Because of this, they will be with us this fall event with their aeroplanes, *weather permitting*.

I would like to also thank Steve Wiser on behalf of the GWA for his time and effort in locating an airfield. Without Steve's help in this matter, having Aeroplanes would not have come to pass as soon as it did. The airstrip is approximately five miles from the site which is perfect for all. It is an already existing field that is much larger than they need and is conveniently located right off of the turnpike.

So far I have conformation from Fred Murrin with his Fokker DR1, Richard Bennett with his Nieuport 23, Butch Witlock with his Nieuport 12 and Marv Story with his



Siemens-Schukert. I have sent a letter of invitation to the GWAA's newsletter editor and am awaiting for replies from other pilots in their organization.

The game plan is for the planes to strafe the trenches, dog-fight and take hits from us down below during day light hours. At night they will be joining us in the trenches for combat. They also have no problems being captured and taken prisoner.

Note to the Allies: Last spring Fred Murrin, who is a Rittermeister with twenty years experience flying his Fokker, went into combat and was shot right off. Too bad for the American who shot him. He would have been a nice prize to take back to command.

The pilot who crashed last year at the Dayton air show, Howard Whyte, contacted me and will be attending the event. His plane is in the rebuilding stages; someday he will be flying overhead gunning for the German trenches.

So be prepared for some aerial combat to take place during the fall event and even more great camaraderie afterwards.

Keith Thompson

JR 92 Braunschweiges

Site Matters

This is a quick note to bring membership up to date on Site development. As put forth in the Site Committee Report last May, an agreed upon long term goal is to utilize and develop, in a historically correct and useful manner, more of the land we own. As you can see from the picture, the trench area is really a pretty small part of our land. As most of us are aware, there are limiting factors in the way our trench areas were initially laid out when we arrived at Newville and much of that cannot be undone. By focusing future development on new areas, done in a more sensible fashion, we can add to our variety of experiences and terrain by developing these unused areas. Serious development of these areas is likely to be focused in the years after the mortgage is paid, as we'll have increased cash flow then.

In the near term, we are tweaking the trench zone and its immediate surroundings to maximize its potential. These are smaller efforts, some of which are necessary to assess longer term possibilities. You'll see some of the initial efforts of that this November.

Among the things you should notice on arrival are:

- Clearing of the scrub woods, weeds and briars on the northern end of the trench zone between the camp area and the trenches. This will allow for more tactical variation & movement and recovery of lost trenches now overgrown
- Additional trench segments in the CP north.
- Additional trench segments in the Allied Center.
- A prisoner stockade for holding CP POWs.

Items under consideration for next year include:

- Installing fencing needed to allow for a goat herd to graze (meaning defoliate) out property. Defoliation remains one of our biggest problems, and from all indications,

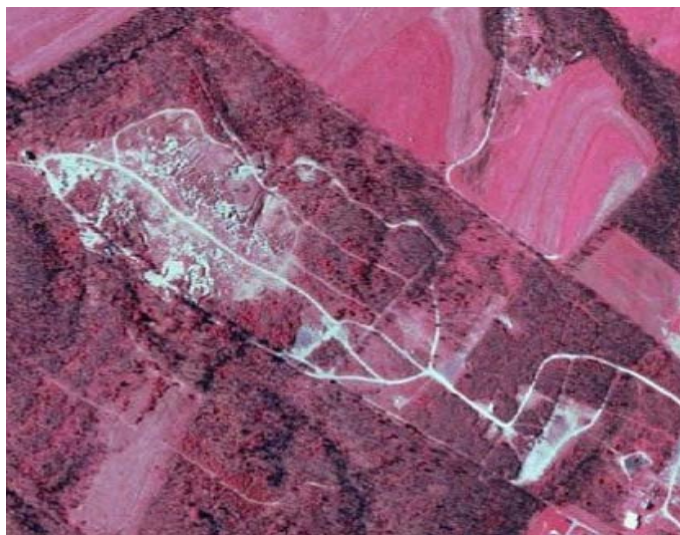
four legged lawn mowers may be our last best option.

- Clearing of the southern woods inside the modified road loop (widened as part of 2005 development)
- A practical solution for Death Valley

Exactly how and what happens as we go forward depends a lot on the members wishes. The current site committee is comprised of the Trench Masters, Allied and CP Representatives and Combat Commanders and myself as Chairman. Don't feel shy about letting your desires be known. You may not get exactly what you want, but your ideas help us give you something in that direction.

Jim Kidd

VP/Chairman GWA Site Committee



Safety Notes

Due to past persistent problems with participants bringing personal modern vehicles into the historical zones of the event while the event is still in progress (from a living history standpoint this is from 6 PM Friday until dawn on Sunday) we are going to take an additional measure this event. The gate at the registration shed will be chained & locked during that period.

It is regrettable that certain individuals have felt that the stated and posted rules do not apply to them, at the expense of their convenience. Besides being an affront to those GWA members who are there to stay in period for the duration of the event (which continues after combat ceases), we have had near miss safety run ins along the roads in the dark. No more.

The ambulance will have the combination, as will the Safety Committee members. The GWA President & VP will also have it. If there is some emergency so compelling that you need to get your vehicle into the historical zone, you can request a written pass from the President or VP. Also, if period conveyance is available, we'll make every effort to see that those truly needing a lift can get one.

Jim Kidd

VP/GWA Safety Officer



Results of the 2006 GWA Opinion Survey

The Spring 2006 issue of *On the Wire* included an opinion survey created by Allied Rep. Jon Kulaga and Central Powers Rep. Merlin Hanson. The responses to the survey have been tabulated and are reproduced below next to the original questions. Exactly 100 members responded to the survey. Not every respondent answered every question, so the responses to some questions do not total 100.

A. Please indicate the best response, one per question

1. **What is your age?**
18-30: **9** 31-45: **47** 46-55: **28** 56-65: **11** over 65: **4**
2. **My educational background is**
High school: **7** Some College: **32** College Grad: **28**
Some Post Grad Work: **12** Masters Degree: **13** Doctorate: **6**
3. **The amount of time it takes me to travel for an event is**
0-2 hrs: **19** 2-4 hrs: **32** 6-8 hrs: **31** more than 8 hrs: **17**
4. **I normally arrive at an event**
Thursday: **32** Friday morning: **37** Friday afternoon: **23**
Friday night: **6** Saturday morn.: **0** Saturday aft./night: **0**
5. **I normally participate in the planned combat event**
Friday Night only: **0** Friday Night and Saturday (day) only: **2**
Friday Night, Saturday, & Saturday Night: **83**
Saturday & Saturday Night: **14** Saturday Night only: **0**
6. **I normally spend (per year) the following dollar amount on reenacting WWI (to include travel, event fees, lodging, uniforms, weapons, ammunition, reenacting materials, collectibles for reenactment use)**
under \$200: **9** \$200 - \$500: **42** \$500 - \$1000: **25**
\$1000 - \$2000: **19** over \$2000: **4**
7. **I normally journey to the site for work on my unit's position or the general GWA area (outside of events)**
I do not work on developing the site: **29**
once per year: **24** twice per year: **25**
three-four times per year: **14** more than four times per year: **7**
8. **I normally reenact an impression from the following side**
Central Powers (German, Austrian-Hungarian): **44**
Allied (Britain, Australia, Canada, Scotland, US, Russia, French): **56**
9. **What is your primary source of information about the GWA, G-8 decisions, etc?**
(note: some respondents checked more than one answer)
On the Wire: **66** Website: **37** Phone contact: **8**
Email lists such as "The Trench Line": **11**
Unit commander: **40** Other: **4**

B. Please circle the appropriate answer to each question

1. **I would participate in a tactical event on a Sunday Morning if offered** Yes: **27** No: **71**
2. **I would participate in a tactical event all night on Friday if offered** Yes: **56** No: **44**

3. **I would participate in a tactical event on Friday Morning if offered** Yes: **26** No: **73**
4. **I would participate in a tactical event on Friday Afternoon if offered** Yes: **54** No: **46**
5. **I would participate in a tactical event on Thursday Afternoon if offered** Yes: **13** No: **87**
6. **I would like an early war event** Yes: **64** No: **36**
7. **I would like more tactical open field (late 1918) operations** Yes: **72** No: **27**
8. **I like my event to be in the trenches, in my unit's position** Yes: **75** No: **21**
9. **I would like more tactical structure at events (scripted combat at known times)** Yes: **51** No: **45**
10. **I would participate in a third or forth event if it could fit my schedule** Yes: **71** No: **28**
11. **I would favor a third or fourth event in:**
Summer (June-Aug): **15** Fall (Sept-Oct): **16** Winter (Jan-March): **44**
12. **It would be OK to spend more GWA funds on getting more special effects for combat (ground charges, air bursts, paying for aircraft fly-in's)** Yes: **87** No: **10**
13. **It would be OK to spend GWA funds on getting and/or providing incentive to have more period transportation throughout the event (wagons, period trucks, period autos)** Yes: **62** No: **35**
14. **It would be OK to spend GWA funds on providing a subsidy to those owners of automatic weapons to assist in paying for machine gun ammunition** Yes: **45** No: **54**
15. **The GWA should subsidize the making of grenade simulators & mortar bombs by giving units funds to do so** Yes: **34** No: **65**
16. **I would participate in an event if it were scheduled over a national holiday (Memorial Day, Labor day, etc.)** Yes: **35** No: **62**
17. **I spend more time socializing at an event than participating in combat** Yes: **22** No: **77**
18. **Drinking alcohol and partying is a major part of an event for me** Yes: **22** No: **76**
19. **We need to recruit more members outside of word of mouth** Yes: **79** No: **19**
20. **If you answered yes to the above question, please check all of the following answers that you think apply**
We need to recruit new members by:
Spending GWA funds for advertising in Military related magazines ("popular press"): **55**



Getting all of our suppliers to specifically highlight the GWA: **45**

Developing and participating in WWI public "living history" events by providing GWA funds to those participating (ie. "car fare," ammo subsidy, ration allowance, etc): **40**

Spending GWA funds to advertise living history appearances in local newspapers (however small the appearance may be): **25**

Spending GWA funds to facilitate travel of GWA members to other time period reenactment events for recruiting purposes: **17**

Other: **9**

C. Circle what best describes your opinion

1. I feel the historical accuracy in the uniforms that members wear is very important

strongly disagree: **3** somewhat disagree: **0** don't know: **0**
somewhat agree: **21** strongly agree: **69**

2. I feel that the authenticity/historical accuracy of the battlefield is very important

strongly disagree: **1** somewhat disagree: **2** don't know: **1**
somewhat agree: **28** strongly agree: **63**

3. I participate in combat activities at Newville at every opportunity

strongly disagree: **4** somewhat disagree: **2** don't know: **0**
somewhat agree: **34** strongly agree: **53**

4. I value the socialization aspects of events more than the combat opportunities

strongly disagree: **11** somewhat disagree: **32** don't know: **10**
somewhat agree: **33** strongly agree: **7**

5. I would be upset if alcohol use would be limited or eliminated from GWA sponsored events

strongly disagree: **12** somewhat disagree: **16** don't know: **11**
somewhat agree: **25** strongly agree: **29**

6. I like the way we recruit new members now and don't want to change the worth of mouth tradition

strongly disagree: **23** somewhat disagree: **36** don't know: **17**
somewhat agree: **11** strongly agree: **7**

7. The GWA needs to be more in control of how units develop and maintain their assigned trench positions

strongly disagree: **7** somewhat disagree: **19** don't know: **13**
somewhat agree: **33** strongly agree: **21**

8. Having fun is more important than historical accuracy

strongly disagree: **26** somewhat disagree: **39** don't know: **8**
somewhat agree: **17** strongly agree: **3**

9. I wish our events could last longer than Friday night to Saturday Night

strongly disagree: **8** somewhat disagree: **22** don't know: **15**
somewhat agree: **27** strongly agree: **21**

10. I prefer the tactical events as they are currently structured and don't want to see them changed

strongly disagree: **8** somewhat disagree: **32** don't know: **22**
somewhat agree: **26** strongly agree: **4**

11. I wish a more hardcore WWI tactical event could be developed

strongly disagree: **6** somewhat disagree: **12** don't know: **24**
somewhat agree: **31** strongly agree: **20**

13. All GWA members should vote on a long term G-8 created site development plan that would be followed by successive GWA administrations:

strongly disagree: **5** somewhat disagree: **3** don't know: **9**
somewhat agree: **46** strongly agree: **31**

14. I trust the G-8 to execute a thoughtful site development plan that will be in the best interest of the GWA and don't need to be involved in this level of detail

strongly disagree: **18** somewhat disagree: **21** don't know: **13**
somewhat agree: **28** strongly agree: **13**

15. Units should be able to develop their general areas (areas bordering their assigned trench areas) as they see fit as long as the units think they meet general WWI authenticity.

strongly disagree: **11** somewhat disagree: **22** don't know: **5**
somewhat agree: **39** strongly agree: **17**

16. I think we should commit more GWA funds to general site maintenance (port-a-potty purging during events, defoliation, better roads, etc.)

strongly disagree: **2** somewhat disagree: **7** don't know: **10**
somewhat agree: **45** strongly agree: **29**

17. I think units need to take more responsibility for the upkeep of their positions/areas otherwise face more severe consequences than what is currently the case (loss of trench assignment, placement under probation, unit expulsion)

strongly disagree: **6** somewhat disagree: **10** don't know: **8**
somewhat agree: **38** strongly agree: **30**

18. The bylaws should be reviewed and an updated version provided to the membership for a vote

strongly disagree: **4** somewhat disagree: **6** don't know: **19**
somewhat agree: **38** strongly agree: **25**

19. List the one aspect of the hobby you would change if you could (The 62 written responses fell generally into the following categories: maintaining, improving, expanding the site **15**; improving, increasing combat **9**; increasing authenticity **7**; more recruiting **5**; less complaining, politics **5**; change the structure of the G-8 or combat commands **5**; remove problem people **4**; grenade & flare issues **3**; other responses **9**.)

20. List the one aspect of the hobby you never would change if you could (The 48 written responses fell generally into the following categories: the camaraderie & friendship **13**; levels of authenticity **9**; location & ownership of the site **4**; the event schedule & number of events **4**; night & trench combat **4**; the structure of the G-8 or combat commands **2**; uniform & equipment regs **2**; the fun **2**; other responses **8**.)

21. Did this survey ask for information that you think the G-8 may find useful? Yes: **81** No: **7**



Uniforms of the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) 1914-1919

By Guy Gormley

The Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) served in more places and in more theaters than any other Australian Imperial Force (AIF) unit during the Great War. Australian nurses served in Egypt, Lemnos, England, France, Belgium, Greece, Salonika, Palestine, Mesopotamia and India. In all, 2,139 served with the Australian Army Nursing Service, and 130 with the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service. A further 423 nurses served in hospitals in Australia. Like all members of the AIF, the Sisters of the AANS AIF had to be volunteers; 25 of them died and 388 were decorated during the war.

The uniform of the AANS underwent considerable modification over the course of the war. Initially, the AANS was uniformed in a similar fashion to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service and wore almost the identical uniform worn by Australian nurses of the Boer War. The initial uniform consisted of:

The 1914 Outdoor Dress

An ankle length grey serge dress with a long sleeved, loose fitting blouson bodice, a six gore skirt and a self fabric belt. The bodice had a yoke at the back but not at the front. This was fastened with 5 buttons (in front) from the neck to the waist and the belt had two buttons. The stand collar and cuffs were edged with narrow, linen liners. On the right sleeve, just above the elbow there was a raised embroidered AANS Badge. A silver version of the Australian "Rising Sun" Collar badge was worn at the throat of the dress. The buttons were the raised Australia map buttons in



AANS Embroidered Sleeve Badge
(AWM Photo)

silver. These were quickly changed to the same oxidized copper buttons worn by AIF/Australian Military Forces Officers. (Silver or copper buttons are correct for any AANS uniform, however all the buttons on a uniform need to match.) Many nurses tried to keep their silver buttons throughout the war.

The Outdoor Dress was complimented by a grey serge cloak. This is what we would call an overcoat today. It was loose fitting, beltless and had long sleeves. This was similar to the motorists dust coat of the period.

The last major uniform article was a grey serge hip-length cape with a broad scarlet stand and fall collar (See picture above). This was worn over the cloak or over the dress if the cloak was not worn. The cape and cloak remained in service throughout the war.

The 1914 headwear was a close fitting bonnet with a brown silk velvet turn-back brim, a flat grey silk bow behind the brim and a grey silk veil extending from the bow to the small of the back. It was tied under the chin with grey silk ribbons. DO NOT BOTHER to try to reproduce this hat. This hat lasted only a few months and proved completely impractical in Egypt and the Sisters unofficially replaced the bonnet with straw hats, grey veils and/or Woolsey Helmets. From my research I gather not only was the bonnet impractical but the nurses considered it old fashioned and unstylish and worked as hard as they could to "lose" it. The picture above is the only one I have seen so far with a nurse actually wearing one.

The nurses wore black stockings, black boots and grey gloves. The nurses had no military rank in 1914 and nursing proficiency was indicated by dark chocolate colored stripes on the cuff of the dress. A Staff Nurse had a plain grey cuff, a Sister two brown stripes and a Matron had a solid brown cuff.

The 1914 Outdoor Dress could be converted into a mess dress by wearing a scarlet shoulder cape (see Working Dress below) fastened with a silver "Rising Sun" badge over the dress, and a white silk raised cap and veil. Photographs I have seen also indicate that the cotton working dress, with scarlet cape and without the white apron was used as an outdoor dress in hot climates.



Grey Serge Cloak

AWM Photo



1914 Outdoor Dress with Grey Serge Cape and Early War Bonnet



AWM Photo



Cotton Working Dresses used as an outdoor dress in Egypt. Notice the variety of headgear.

Working Dress for the entire war

The Working Dress remained the same for the entire war, except for a slight shortening of the skirt to keep in line with the current fashion.

This was a grey zephyr cotton dress similar in pattern to the 1914 Outdoor Dress, with a detachable starched white collar (photos show both stand and stand-and-fall collars, I believe stand collars were the most prevalent) and cuffs. A Red Cross arm band was sometimes worn on the left arm. There was a starched white apron with a bib front and cross over straps at the back (this could also be unstarched grey

zephyr for extremely dirty work). The apron sometimes had a cotton embroidered Red Cross center top.

The nurse wore a scarlet cape fastened with a silver "Rising Sun" badge. The cape also had shoulder straps with "AUSTRALIA" shoulder titles. These could be the curved oxidized copper titles or the more rare straight silver titles.

In the working environment, the nurse wore a one yard square white organza veil, black stockings and black boots or shoes.



AWM Photo

Cotton Working Dress with apron

The 1916 Outdoor Dress

In 1916 the AANS Outdoor Dress was changed and army officer's rank was given to all nurses. The outdoor uniform itself changed to a grey serge suit consisting of a Norfolk jacket and a 5 gore skirt. Oxidized rank insignia and "AUSTRALIA" titles were worn on the shoulder straps of the jacket. Army unit color patches were worn on the upper sleeves. In working dress rank insignia was worn on shoulder straps of the red cape. Nurses who served in the forward hospitals on Lemnos during the Gallipoli campaign were awarded the Anzac "A" like other AIF veterans of the Dardanelles (This was one thing the mini-series ANZACS got wrong on the uniform. The nurse, Kate Baker should have been wearing an "A" on her shoulders. Other than that they did a great job on all the uniforms).

1916 Nurse Outdoor Jacket



AWM Photo



AWM Photos

Scarlet Nurses Capes showing later war versions after Rank Pips were added (notice the placement of ribbons and medals)



AWM Photo



Dickey front for the 1916 Dress

On the 1916 Outdoor Jacket the shoulder straps were most commonly detachable and chocolate colored. On some photos the shoulder straps are clearly grey. This may indicate the rank of Staff Nurse versus a Sister or Matron. More research in this area is needed.

For a shirt, the nurse wore a tailored grey blouse or a grey serge dickey front with a stand collar. Matrons wore a chocolate collar on the dickey. The headgear situation was fixed with a grey felt Panama hat with a broad chocolate band. The nurses continued to wear black stockings, black boots or shoes and grey gloves.

The above represents the norm, but there was considerable variation. Since the Nurses were nominally, and after 1916 in fact, officers they provided their own uniforms. Nursing uniforms were not centrally manufactured or issued. Nurses were given a uniform allowance to equip themselves and were allowed to make their own uniforms if they chose. So, there is a considerable variety in the uniforms as can be seen in the period photographs. Patterns used for collars, dress skirts, footwear and headgear show the greatest variety.

Nurses were often allowed considerable freedom over the wearing of uniform items to help combat local conditions as the use of hats instead of bonnets in Egypt in 1915 demonstrates. Photographs also show nurses in Salonika wearing balaclavas, army greatcoats, puttees and boots with shortened skirts. In France, the nurses are seen in greatcoats and rubber boots.

Continued opposition to the use of military rank in the AANS caused it to be abandoned in the 1920s, when chocolate stripes on the sleeve of the Norfolk jacket were introduced. Rank was reintroduced in 1940, strangely echoing the WW1 situation.

AWM Photo



This is a mix of nurses wearing the cotton working dress (without the apron) and the 1916 2-piece uniform with Norfolk jacket and skirt, and at least one cloak. Notice the variety in tailoring styles and cloth colors/shades. The women on the far right of each line are still wearing the 1914 Outdoor Dress, but the chocolate epaulettes of the later uniform have been added. This group of nurses is about to leave Australia for overseas service, so we can assume the uniforms are fairly new.

At some point during the war, the AANS uniform situation must have gotten out of hand. What follows is an extract of an undated order sent by the Matron in Chief of the AANS, A.I.F.:

ALL MEMBERS OF A.A.N.S., A.I.F.

- (1) Attention is drawn to Para.72. of Orders for Australian Imperial Force, Prescribing uniform for Members of the Nursing Service as follows;

STAFF NURSES OUTDOOR

Grey Serge Dress (without chocolate markings)
Bonnet and Veil.
Grey Serge Cape.
Grey Cloak.
Commonwealth Brooch.
Scarlet cashmere shoulder cape.
Pair of grey gloves.

- Additional. (Grey Serge coat with grey collar and shoulder straps.
(Grey Felt hat or Panama hat with grey ribbon and flare,
(or Grey helmet and flare. Black or Brown boots or shoes.
(Grey Gossamer may also be worn in Summer.
N.B1/2 Nurses who now have Khaki helmets may continue to wear them.

INDOOR

Grey Zephir dress.
Grey Zephir apron, or preferably white linen faced sheeting apron.
Scarlet shoulder cape.
Black or brown boots or shoes
Collar, straight pattern, to be worn inside collar of Dress.
Pair of straight cuffs, to be worn inside dress cuff.
Cap, White, French Organdy Muslin, One Yard Square, Hemstitched by machine.
Where necessary black cloth gaiters may be worn

- Additional (Ambulance collar and cuffs may be worn outside collar
(of dress and dress cuffs respectively,
(In summer, muslin collars and cuffs (regulation pattern)
(with scarlet cotton cape may be worn.

SISTERS

As for Staff Nurse with following distinctions:
Chocolate markings on serge dress.
Two chocolate bands one inch wide on cuffs (see standing Orders 40 Dress and Clothing Citizens Forces 1912)
One badge A.A.N.S., removeable, similar to that on outdoor serge dress.
Also chocolate markings on hatband, and chocolate shoulders Straps, on coat

MATRONS

As for Sisters with scarlet collar in addition to cloak Coat, or cape. Pointed cuff to indoor dress,
Chocolate pointed cuff on sleeve of outdoor dress,
Matrons Badge. Chocolate hatband with flare,
Band of chocolate velvet on Bonnet.



PRINCIPLE MATRON

As for Matrons with addition of, Blouse to be faced down the front each side of pleat, with two stripes of chocolate cloth one inch wide. Stand up collar and pointed cuffs of similar material.

Grey serge or Alpaca dress may be worn. Grey Bonnet with black velvet band. Plain black ribbon hatband.

- (1) Uniform is to be worn on all occasions.
- (2) Veils (except in summer) jewelry, fancy hat-pins, and belt buckles, are not to be worn. Canes are not to be carried.
- (3) Nurses are expected to maintain a uniform and smart appearance at all times, Matrons in Charge of Hospitals are to see that these instructions are carried out.

Signed E. A. Conyers.
Matron in Chief,
A.A.N.S, A.I.F
(AWM File AWM 27 373/52)

Researching the AANS uniform is not an easy task, especially from the U.S. I took on the project as a labor of love in the endeavor to get an authentic AANS uniform for my daughter. My daughter loves to reenact and is nearly as fanatical about authenticity as I am. She can't wait to come to Newville.

Documenting the research was the difficult part. Most of the information came from an anonymous, undated monograph on the subject provided to me by Mr. Brad Manera of the Military History Section of the Australian War Memorial (AWM). RSM Chris Henschke also provided me with vital information and original documents. The Collections database of the AWM is a great research tool, if only to see the period photos to compare uniforms at different stages of the war.

The AWM Monograph on AANS uniforms provides some intricate detail on the construction of various uniform items taken from original items in the AWM Collection. If anyone would like more of the detail than I can provide here, please contact me at ggormley@cox.net.

Below are listed some other useful resources for researching the AANS of the Great War:

Neil C. Smith, *The Australian Army Nursing Service: a short history with World War One nominal roll and award citations* (Gardenvale, Vic: Mostly Unsung Military History Research and Publications, 1996)

"Decorations, AANS [Australian Army Nursing Service] (June 1919 – March 1920)", **Official record AWM18 9954/52/41**. This file lists those who qualified for the 1914–15 Star (service medal).

"Nursing Services, Australian honours and awards RRC [Members of the Royal Red Cross] and ARRC [Associate Members of the Royal Red Cross]", **Official record AWM127 368/1**. This resource covers the period 1915–70 and provides full name, title, and the date of the award.

<http://www.anzacday.org.au/history/ww1/anecdotes/casualty.html>

<http://members.optushome.com.au/lenorefrost/nurses.html>

<http://www.diggerhistory2.info/graveyards/pages/units/au-nurses.htm>

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Virginia War Museum's World War I Reenactment

March 2-3, 2007

at

Lee Hall Mansion
Newport News, Virginia

Sanctioned by the Great War Association



Join us and several hundred school children on **Friday, March 2, 2007** to educate them about the Great War and living history from **9 am-2 pm**.

Saturday, March 3, 2007 is open to the public from **10 am-4 pm** with living history, trench raids and tacticals that include pyrotechnics, trenches, barbed-wire, gas, and a no-mans-land.

Class III weapons welcome • Recruit new members • No reenactor registration fee • Free camping available • Vendor tables available for \$25.00

Call Colin Romanick at (757) 247-8523
for registration, tables and information
or e-mail at aromanick@nngov.com

COMING EVENTS
at the Great War Site near Newville, PA
October 6-8, 2006
Great War Living History weekend
Heartbreak in the Mud: The Winter Battle of Somme
November 3-5, 2006
GWA Fall Tactical and Living History event
April 20-22, 2007
GWA Spring Tactical and Living History event

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

Print first letter of your last name in this box

☐ Check this box if you are a unit commander

☐ Check here if you want to stop receiving a paper copy of *On the Wire* via regular mail and instead download the newsletter and registration forms from the GWA Web site (www.great-war-assoc.org)

**GWA Membership Update and Registration Form for the Fall Combat Event at the
Caesar Krauss Great War Memorial Site, Newville, PA, November 3-5, 2006
Pre-Register and save \$15 — 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 _____
You must be at least 18 to register. You may be asked for proof of age. (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 do not belong to one of these units, you are an independent.

Part III — Dues and Event Fees

A. 2006 dues if not already paid
(Annual dues are due at the Spring Event each year)

\$25.00

B. Fall 2006 Event fee if pre-registered

\$25.00

C. Optional site development donation

\$

D. Pre-registration subtotal (A+B+C as applicable)

\$

E. Gate registration fee

\$15.00

F. Gate registration total (D+E)

\$

*Pre-registration: Members are encouraged to pre-register to save the gate fee. If you pre-register but are unable to attend, your event fee (only) will be returned within two weeks. All pre-registrations must be received by the Treasurer on or before **October 30, 2006**. If your pre-registration is not received by this date, you must pay at the event — including the \$15 gate fee. Your original mail pre-registration will be returned unopened.*

Make checks to "Great War Association." Send form and check to:

**Randy Gaulke, GWA Treasurer
584 Valley Road
Gillette, NJ 07933**

(908) 626-1345 e-mail: Lavarennnes@patmedia.net

Register Online with PayPal

You can now register and pay online by using PayPal (www.paypal.com). Dues and the event fee are \$26 each (\$52 if paying both) to cover the costs of this service. Payments should be sent to the GWA Treasurer at GWAtreas@patmedia.net. Please include all information normally entered in Part I & II of this form in the notes box of the PayPal form. Registration payments without this information included will not be accepted.

GWA Unit List (use abbreviations only when filling out registration form)

American

26AEF 26th Div. (Yankee Div.), AEF
27AEF 27th Div., AEF
L109AEF 28 Div., 109th Inf. Co. L., AEF
BTTC 28th Div., 107th Field Arty. Btty. C (*probationary*)
116AEF 29th Div., 116th Inf., Hdqtrs. Co., AEF
33AEF 33rd Div. (Prairie Div.), AEF
80AEF 80th ID, AEF
372AEF 93rd Div., 372nd Inf, AEF
49CO 5th Marines, 49th Co., AEF
67CO 5th Marines, 67th Co., AEF

British

6BWBEF 6th Btn., Black Watch, BEF
BRBEF The Border Regiment, BEF
BUFF 6th Buffs Rgt., BEF
IRISHGD Irish Guards No. 3 Co., 1st Btn.
ROYENG Royal Engineers
RWF Royal Welsh Fusiliers

Commonwealth

5AIF 5th Btn. Australia/New Zealand Army Corps
PPCLI Princess Pat's Canadian Light Infantry

French

8BCP 8 Btn. Chasseurs à Pied
18RL 18ème Régiment d'Infanterie (Régiment de Gâtinais)
151RL 151ème Régiment d'Infanterie de Ligne

Russian

RL Légion Russe

Non-Military

DRK Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
INDP Independent (non-combat only)
SA Salvation Army

Austrian

63KUK 63rd KuK

German

1LR Königliche Bayerische Leib Regiment
5SB 5. Sturm-Pionier-Bataillon "Rohr"
8KUR 3. Feldeesk., Kürassier Regt. Nr. 8 (Rheinisches)
12MWK 12. Minenwerfer Komp. 12 Division
13PB 13. Pionierbataillon
20MG 20. Maschinengewehr-Scharfschützen-Bataillon
63JR 3. Komp., Infanterie-Regt. Nr. 63 (4. Oberschlesisches)
73FR Füsilier-Regiment Nr. 73 (Hanoversches)
90FR 10. Komp., Füsilier-Regiment Nr. 90 (Mecklenburgisches)
92JR Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 92 (1. Braunschweigisches)
120JR 5. Komp., Infanterie-Regt. Nr. 120 (2. Württembergisches)
124JR 3. Komp., Infanterie-Regt. Nr. 124 (6. Württembergisches)
459JR 8. Komp., Infanterie-Regiment Nr. 459 (Rhein. Westf.)

Great War Association
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Gillette, NJ 07933

