



From the President

by **Carter Bertone**

Happy New Year
GWA!

2018 was a great year for the GWA. The April and November events were the two largest events in GWA history. I would like to especially thank the efforts of my fellow GWA Board members **Mike Landree, Chris Garcia, Marshall Wise, Matt Murphy, Joe Murray, Brett Warner, and James Harter** for making it all happen. The sheer size of these two events, coupled with an influx of new members, presented tremendous logistical challenges that have not been faced by any G8 Board since our founding. Not only were they able to plan and execute these two events, but they added a "War of Movement" dimension recreating both the German and Allied Offensives of 1918. This was the first time the GWA has left the trenches and "fought and maneuvered" over open terrain at Newville in many years, and we did so almost without incident. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with parking, registration, and general event set up. Without your assistance the events of 2018 would



never have been as successful as they were.

2019 and the Future

I am really excited as we transition into 2019. We have an influx of new members who are excited about the hobby and ready to take it to the next level. As we get ready for this season's events, the G8 is already diligently working on making our events even more immersive, including 24-hour operations for those who wish to participate. Just like in 2018 our success in these endeavors is reliant on the leadership and professionalism of the membership.

Safety

One of the issues I would like to address is safety. I have stated it many times but the GWA is always "One incident away from disaster". One careless or thoughtless act could bankrupt or organization or shut down our site. Each year I watch our organization become more professional in both attitude and conduct. Even though our numbers have jumped dramatically, the quality of our new recruits is astounding. Normally such a dramatic increase in new membership would cause a slowdown in our ability to innovate as we trained, equipped and incorporated our new members into our events. In our case the exact opposite is true. In the past three years we have done

things that many considered "out of the question". Not only have we had a dramatic increase in numbers, but in an effort to revitalize our events, the G8 drastically altered the standard pattern for events. We changed the scenarios and incorporated variants such as armor, fighting outside the trenches, and even opened our events to certain 16-17 year olds. Realizing the increased level of "risk" the G8 and Unit Leaders developed control measures and enforced our already high standards. The result was two years of relatively "Incident-Free" events. Keep up the great work!

Authenticity

The second issue is authenticity. I am absolutely awestruck by the improvements we have made in regards to authenticity over the past several years. In 1997 when I first entered the



hobby, the WWI reenacting community was small, the standards were high and most of what people wore was original. There were some reproductions of varying quality being made but the vast majority of kit was original. Then in the early 2000's as the supply of original kit began to dwindle, many vendors began to sell a variety of reproductions, much of which was simply awful. As a result many units became lax in both their authenticity requirements, their standards, and their behavior. Over the past several years there has been an impressive turnaround. Spearheaded by several key units and individuals I now see the entire organization striving to "get better". As we raised our standards and demanded better, the vendors answered the call and many are now producing top rate reproductions. Individuals and units are looking better than they ever have. Units are producing authentic rations, conducting period training activities, studying the proper tactics of the period, conducting period training and developing interesting and exciting vignettes. Let's face it. My impression is not perfect..... and neither is yours. Let's all strive to improve each time we take the field. Whether it is the replacement of a piece of kit or you come armed with a piece of information that you did not know before. Let's get better together.

Town Halls

Finally, I encourage everyone to attend the Town Hall meetings that are held at 8:00AM on Sundays after the event. The Allied and CP Reps and I love to hear from you and want to hear your ideas. We want to know what you liked, what you didn't like and what you would like to do to make the events better. The GWA G8 is not the well-spring of "Good ideas". This is OUR hobby and YOU have input. See you in the field!

VR

Carter J. Bertone
President, GWA

Vice President's Corner

by **Mike Landree**



In this New Year edition of the "On the Wire," I wanted to update you on some of the safety issues we on the Safety Committee are working to resolve prior to the Spring 2019 event.

Pyro Safety Check

First, it was very noticeable during the Fall 2018 event that the pyro safety inspection did not go very well. Conducting the inspection after the Friday formation has always been somewhat troublesome, but in November, it proved unmanageable and far too slow. The rain combined with the number of units requiring inspection, the number of inspectors, and the excess of paperwork proved to be too much. This procedure worked well in the past, but we have outgrown the process and the need to make changes in order to speed the process while ensuring that units are producing and employing safe pyrotechnics. As of the Spring 2019 event, we are going to set up an inspection area near the Caesar Krauss Memorial Field from 1500-1630 (3-4:30 pm) on Fridays to inspect everyone's pyro. We encourage everyone who needs to have their pyro inspected to drop by and have their simulated grenades, mortar rounds, etc. inspected. For those who miss this inspection, we will still have the capability to do this after the safety meeting, but we recommend dropping by beforehand to speed up the process of night combat.

New Safety Regs

Secondly, the Safety Committee has taken a hard look at the Safety Regulations and, rather than making minor changes, we have conducted a thorough review and rewrite of the regulations. These are in the process

of being staffed through the G-8 for review and then will be disseminated to the membership. We hope to have these published prior to the Spring event. Major edits include removing redundant regulations and adding information on shotguns, aircraft, artillery, mechanized vehicles, and cavalry, as well as bunker and trench safety. Additionally, we are working to clarify information on pyro and hand to hand combat. I believe the rewrite of our safety regulations will clarify our safety measures and operating procedures and ensure our safety standards are understood by all.

Thank You

Lastly, I am very proud of the relatively low levels of safety issues we had over the past year. Thank you from all of us on the Safety Committee. See you in the trenches!

Semper Fidelis!

Mike Landree, GWA VP



From the Treasurer

by **Chris Garcia**

Last year was a banner year for the GWA with record attendance and membership. All things considered things went exceedingly well.



Spring Event Pre-Reg

Pre-registration for the Spring event will open February first. It will close TWO WEEKS before the Spring event. This was very successful and as the numbers have increased it takes more time to close the books out and prepare for the event than it had in the past. Everyone's registration for the Spring event is \$50 (\$25 2019 GWA Dues/\$25 Spring event fee).

Registration Problems

Most of the registration problems fall squarely on unit commanders. Often it is in the rush to add bodies, new members are not properly instructed in how to register, how much to pay or the unit commander has not updated their roster. Simply put, we are different from other periods. We own our own site, which comes with legal responsibilities and risks. It is the unit commander's responsibility to screen their unit recruits. A new recruit should be directed by unit members to the commander, who then screens them. Should the unit decide to take them on, they need to update the master unit roster BEFORE the new guy registers. You should also ensure the new guy knows how to register. It is simple. If there is ever a question do not hesitate to send me an e-mail. That said please DO NOT use the contact us option on the website. Also remember that Registration has become in essence a part time job, for which no one gets paid. Please do not expect that e-mails will be responded to immediately. It sometimes takes me a few days to get through them all.

Trench supplies

I often get complaints about not having enough Trench supplies. We order a lot. Unfortunately, as happened at the fall event an entire order of 1,000 sandbags was pilfered by the membership. Trench supplies are routinely stored at the registration shack for me to distribute to the Trench Masters whom I am in contact with and order based upon their needs. There is a chain of custody that runs from me to the TM's to the companies. Unit Commanders are not authorized to take what they need at their convenience. In exceptional circumstances when TM's are not available, I will issue direct to companies, but I keep track to make sure no one gets more than their fair share.

As always, we are always looking for help running registration and help is always welcome! Sincerely

Chris Garcia,
GWA Treasurer



Secretary's Thoughts

by Marsh Wise

Spring, 2019... Wow, the Centennial is over and we'll be getting back to "normal", wondering what the future will bring. We are all hopeful that we will maintain our 2018 numbers and take it even higher since other time periods such as Civil War and WWII are having difficulties.



Election Cycle

This Spring we'll have nominations for the 2020-2021 Board! Please realize that if you run, it's hard work – If you are elected you will likely not get to play very much during events and there is certainly a great deal of work to do between events. There are monthly meetings and numerous hours going through e-mails and having telephone conversations to address membership concerns and ensure everything is ready for our events. Being a board member means your loyalty must be to the Board and the GWA organization as a whole. You represent everyone... not just your "side". Being a member of the Board comes with responsibilities. Make sure you have the time, discipline and energy to dedicate to the organization. Sometimes people feel that it's an "easy gig" – it's not. Ask the person who is doing the job you are looking at what it entails. I can tell you that secretary is not "taking minutes" as some think. Way more... try director of communications and you will need to understand the Internet and all of our electronic outlets. So, remember, anything less than

your best is unacceptable.

The Forum

Please use it. It's the GWA MEMBER'S Forum, meaning you need to be a dues paying member to see it and comment. We are going through and culling those who haven't paid dues in over a year. It has to be this way. If you're already there, please fill out your profile – many didn't transfer over when we moved to a new system. Danielle Worell has graciously volunteered and is assisting us with this. If you have a question or issue, please reach out to her.

GWA Facebook

(Now is RANT TIME). You WILL **NOT** GET ON THE GROUP unless you follow the instructions. This means you MUST send the email that it references in said instructions. It needs to say who you are and why you want to join the GWA Facebook group. It is not that hard. Do we really want people that cannot follow simple instructions carrying weapons at our events? "Attention to detail" is part of any really successful organization...Please do this.

Mit Kameradschaft, Marsh



Allied Combat Commander

by **Bret Werner**



Update from The Allied Combat Commander

To the Allied Battalion and the GWA as whole; the centennial is over, but our commitment to preserving a n d recreating WWI history is certainly not. We did some things these past

few events that challenged GWA tradition and we have grown as an organization. The bar has been set and now we must continue to rise up to meet it and even exceed it.

Moving Forward

We are now operating as a fully functional battalion including an integrated headquarters company during combat operations that includes our rear line echelon. Moving forward I want to re-focus our efforts as battalion on trench routine, raids, dominance of no man's land, bite and hold attacks and the full emersion experience. Once again, we will be entering a new frontier this April with the 30+ hour concept. Gates will close at 4pm on Friday and we will be active until 9:30pm Saturday night. For the first time the battalion will be operating all night Friday into Saturday. While the shooting must still end at 11pm the night operations will continue through the night. This will include manning the trenches, wiring parties, listening parties, recon patrols etc. Grenades and pliable weapons can still be used. This does not mean every single man will be up on the line for 24 hours, each company will work on a

rotation system that meets the needs and desires of each of its members. Men not on the line are expected to maintain a military bearing in the rear, the purpose of this is to create an immersion experience. This does not mean you can't enjoy comradery with each other or even have a period drink. What should be avoided are bon-fire parties and loud non-period type partying. Keep in mind that the war is still only a few yards from your dug out and at any moment an attack could come. That's the mindset we want to maintain on Friday night.

Chit System

Some other new and revived initiatives will include a chit system for wounds and mass casualty simulations, training, and continuing to develop the HQ company's cohesion within the battalion. Keep in mind when you see a dark blue brassard worn by an Officer or NCO they are members of the Battalion staff, if they provide guidance please follow it as they are there to make your experience better.

Encouragement

I am incredibly proud of the organization the allies have become. Each person in the battalion brings their own knowledge and expertise to this hobby and it shows each and every event. I have always believed that you get what you put into an event, I'm always pleasantly surprised when I see what happens when hundreds of people put so much of themselves into an event and we all positively benefit from each other's efforts. So, keep encouraging each other and I will see you all in the trenches this April.

Maj. Werner

O/C 1st Allied Composite Battalion

From the Allied Representative

by **Matt Murphy**
Allied Representative

Esteemed membership:

When I return home from an event and list the factors that made it enjoyable, almost all of them relate to the tactical scenarios and living history activities. Thanks to the hard work of our combat commanders and their staffs, during the past few years we've participated in some interesting and exciting battle scenarios. As we'll see in 2019, these gents are committed to continuing this practice. But, as the commanders dedicate themselves to this work, it's the responsibility of all of us to generate ideas for and engage in living history activities.



Scenarios and Experiences

Living history scenarios can allow us to recreate every-day experiences, commemorate specific events, and ultimately set the mood by reminding us of the realities of the conflict. Just as our individual adherence to "the game" can effect the experiences of our neighbors in a trench, unit-wide efforts do the same at a larger scale. During the past years we've seen a variety of scenarios staged at the site, some drawing from documentation specific to an event (the last doughboy to fall, French mutinies of 1917, Armistice activities) and others which pertain to regular experiences (burial parties, casualty evac, holiday observances, simulated bombardment during the Friday march-in). In addition to these are the many small-scale activities regularly occurring at the unit level: mail call, ration

distribution, punishment scenarios, gaming, and pay call.

Member Input

Given the tremendous amount of knowledge among our membership and the wealth of accessible resources, the possibilities for generating new living history scenarios are abundant. But, it's up to each of us to bring these ideas to the organization: I hope that every member will come up with at least one idea to propose to his or her unit commander who could then implement the proposal or bump it up the chain of command.

Never Getting Stale

Our collective knowledge, creativity, and dedication to playing "the game" will insure that events at Newville never get stale.

Sincerely,

Matt Murphy (aka Mathieu Picard)
Allied Representative



Spring 2019 Event Schedule

THURSDAY

- 7 P.M. GWA "SOCIAL" first floor of the house.

FRIDAY

- 11 A.M. - Registration Opens -
- 1:00 P.M. - Living History begins on Allied and CP side of the line. All event participants are encouraged to be in uniform if they are in the Allied and CP area starting at this time.
- 3:00-4:30 P.M. (NEW) The Pyro Safety Inspection at the memorial area. *All pyro must be inspected during this time frame, it will not happen at the safety meeting as was the previous tradition.
- 3:30 - 4:00 - Mandatory New Recruit Training at the Fusilier crater in No Man's Land.
- *3:00 - 4:00 Each unit takes 1 hour to clean their portion of the site
- 4:30 P.M. - Gate closes. ALL cars need to be removed from the GWA combat area by
- 4:30 P.M. - Registration Closes All those wishing to participate in Friday night combat, but do not arrive prior to 4:15 P.M. to obtain their trench pass from the Registration shed, MUST be preregistered. Check in will be at the MP station for the Allies, or the German FR73 Bunker for sign in and issuance of trench pass. Walk-on's (New Recruits) will not be allowed to participate in Friday night combat unless they attend the New Recruit Safety Meeting.
- 5:30 P.M. - GWA Friday Safety meeting at the Memorial - all units/ participants wishing to "play" on Friday must attend. Trench passes will be checked. This meeting is an insurance requirement.
- 6:00 P.M. - Combat/full play no restrictions
- 11: 00 P.M. - Full Combat ends
- 11:01 P.M. - 5:59 A.M - Restricted Night Operations Begin (No man's land only, no trench penetration permitted, only grenades and GWA approved pliable hand weapons permitted)

SATURDAY

- 6:00 A.M. Unrestricted combat may resume (rifles, machineguns etc.)
- 8:00-8:30 A.M. Central Powers Safety Formation
- 9:30 P.M. Combat Ends

SUNDAY

- 8:00 A.M. Town Hall Meeting with Allied and Central Powers Representatives

MEET THE FOKKERS

by **Robert C. Kish**, IR92



The first true fighter, the Fokker Eindecker E.I with a synchronized machine gun

One way to trace the evolution of Germany's fighter aircraft in the Great War is to compare the Fokker Eindecker and the Fokker D.VIII. Both were single winged aircraft. Both were revolutionary. Both gave Germany air superiority for a brief time, one towards the beginning of the war, one towards the end.

Slow and Awkward in Flight

The Eindecker "monoplane" was slow and awkward in flight; it's immediate predecessor was an unarmed scout/observation aircraft. For a brief period in early 1915, French pilot Roland Garros attacked German planes

with a Morane aircraft mounting a forward firing machine gun and "deflector gear". Garros' system was essentially steel wedges attached to the propeller blades, intended to deflect bullets from striking the plane's propeller or ricocheting back to the pilot. Garros was shot down by ground fire on April 18, 1915 behind enemy lines. Although he set fire to his aircraft, the Germans were able to understand how the machine gun was fired. In response to this, Anthony Fokker quickly designed a "synchronizing gear", which interrupted the firing of a single forward aimed machine gun, mounted on a Fokker Eindecker, preventing bullets from striking the propeller.

Dominance

The Eindecker soon became known for its period of dominance of air to air combat on the Western Front (May, 1915 to early 1916), called "The Fokker Scourge" by Allied airmen, who flew sadly inferior machines. In its final form, the Eindecker had a service ceiling of about 12,000 feet and a climb rate of around 650 feet per minute. It carried one machine gun. Eleven German pilots scored five or more victories in the Eindecker, including Oswald Boelcke and Max Immelmann.

Technology?

The aircraft's basic frame was made of chrome molybdenum steel tubing — lighter and stronger than common steel. The Eindecker used wing warping instead of ailerons, the same system used by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk, in 1903 ("Wing Warping" meant bending the wings by pulling or easing tension on cables, to change a plane's direction of flight). It had a gravity

fed fuel tank, which the pilot pumped by hand, up to eight times per hour. Fly, navigate, maneuver, shoot, pump?

Later Fokkers — Clear Superiority

Now let us jump forward a few years. Fokker produced many aircraft most notably the famed D.VII and the Dr.I but returned to the single wing design again in 1918. The Fokker D.VIII had its wing mounted above the fuselage, so it was referred to as a "parasol" monoplane. Oberusul 9 cylinder air-cooled rotary engines powered both the Eindecker (100 HP) and the D.VIII (110 HP). The weights of the Eindecker and the D.VIII were almost identical. The D.VIII was far more aerodynamically efficient than the Eindecker; borne out by the difference in their top speeds: Eindecker = 87 MPH; D.VIII = 127 MPH. The D.VIII was first flown in the Spring of 1918. By the standards of the day, it was a fast and highly maneuverable aircraft, carrying two synchronized Spandau machine guns. It had a service



How many of these aircraft saw front line service? Fokker Eindecker: 416, Fokker D.VIII: 85.



ceiling of almost 20,000 feet and a climb rate 2&1/2 times faster than the Eindecker. The first D.VIII's reached front line squadrons in July, 1918. Their early use in combat revealed dangerous flaws. Catastrophic wing failures occurred and all D.VIII's were grounded, pending investigation. These accidents were not the result of design flaws, but shoddy materials and assembly, plus poor quality control by the contractor manufacturing the wings. Mounting struts were unable to keep the wing attached to the

aircraft. Once these problems were corrected, production resumed. The D.VIII returned to operational service in October, 1918. By then, Germany was on the verge of collapse. Too little, too late. The D.VIII was Fokker's last fighter design of the Great War; one of them scored Germany's final air victory. Opposing airmen called them "Flying Razors".

My sources included Jane's Fighting Aircraft of World War 1; Warplanes and Air Battles of World War 1 (Edited by Bernard Fitzimons); and The Fighters (by Thos. R. Funderburk)

Sex and the Somme:

The officially sanctioned brothels on the front line laid bare for the first time

By **Clare Makepeace** of Mail Online (UK),
29 October, 2011
repro'ed without permission



When Corporal Jack Wood was given a few hours of leave from waging war on the Western Front, he probably never imagined that he was about to shed yet more of his innocence.

He had only recently arrived in France, but already had witnessed the travesty of friendly fire and been exposed to enemy shelling. He had waded through the mud of the trenches, felt lice

crawl across his body and rats scuttle over him as he slept, exhausted, on the Front.

Yet, as he strolled through the streets of a nearby town, there was another shock awaiting him: a brothel. Wood wrote in his diary of how 'we had heard of the renowned Red Lamp with a big No 3 on it, but never thought of the reality of the thing. My first view, I shall never forget.

'There was a great crowd of fellows, four or five deep and about 30 yards in length, waiting just like a crowd waiting for a football cup tie in Blighty.

'It was half an hour before opening time, so we had to see the opening ceremony.

'At about five minutes to six, the lamp was lit. To the minute, at six the door was opened. Then commenced the crush to get in.'

This establishment – marked by its red lamp – was one of the legendary maisons tolérées, or legalised brothels that dotted the towns of northern France.

They housed professional prostitutes who worked under the discipline of a madame and were subject to regular medical inspections. By 1917, there were at least 137 such establishments spread across 35 towns.

Outside these settings, vast numbers of amateur prostitutes also plied their trade in streets, hotels, cafes and bars. It's not known precisely how many British soldiers indulged.

One snap-shot study, carried out by British medical officers in Le Havre, suggests it was a vast number. They counted 171,000 visitors to the brothels in just one street in this port town in 1915 alone.

We also have the personal accounts of the men themselves. Over the past four years, I have scoured archives and libraries for any mention of British

soldiers consorting with prostitutes as part of an academic dissertation.

Shrouded in Secrecy

Unsurprisingly, this subject tends to be shrouded in secrecy. But the unique circumstances of the Great War encouraged a few men to discuss their indulgences in their letters, diaries, memoirs and interviews. Their language suggests that consorting with ladies of the night was commonplace.

Extraordinarily, visits to French brothels by British soldiers were officially sanctioned. It was traditional for the British army to accept the local customs wherever they were stationed.

The French thought nothing of allowing their soldiers to use brothels and, not wanting to offend their allies, the British High Command insisted that they should be kept 'in bounds' for most of the war.

Not everyone in authority agreed with such liberal measures. The Secretary of State for War, Lord Kitchener, provided each man with a leaflet offering him some intimate advice.

It warned soldiers to 'keep constantly on your guard against any excesses. In this new experience you may find temptations both in wine and women. You must entirely resist both.'

But according to one of the recipients, Private Frank Richards, a reservist soldier who had been called up the day after the war broke out, this guidance 'may as well have not been issued for all the notice we took'.

The brothels, along with cafes and bars, provided men with an escape from the slaughter and filth of the trenches. They were bright and warm, light and jovial. And large or small, intimate or formal, they always had plenty of women to choose from.



Soldiers did not know when their time might be up. One in ten British soldiers who saw service in France and Flanders was killed there.

Corporal Wood described the scene that greeted him inside the Red Lamp.

'There were seven young women, I should say by appearance from 28 to 40, made up in the finest of flimsy silk dresses and then showing the daintiest of lingerie I suppose for attraction. From the passage came an entrance to a flight of stairs.

'Here stood Madame taking a franc for admission and I afterwards found out you paid the lady of choice any sum you cared from a franc upwards.'

Some visitors were so shocked by what they found, they left within seconds. Private Eddie Bigwood had just been posted to one battalion that had suffered enormous casualties during the first battle of the Somme.

They stopped in Rouen where Bigwood was encouraged to go into town to have some fun.

At the first pub they came to, he recalled how 'the ladies there had nothing on except a piece of lace and my eyes popped out'. The group soon moved onto a brothel but 'when five naked girls came dashing down the corridor we turned to and ran'.

A young Private, William Roworth, who joined the army when he was three years under the official minimum recruiting age, lost his virginity at one brothel soon after arriving in France.

Here, he found himself in 'a very small room, the furnishing were unlike any room I had ever seen — this dirty-looking girl only had a stretcher, with a very thin sheet and blanket.'

The pleasure he got from this experience was minimal. It was, he explained, like 'pulling your thing, but you have some one to talk to'.



These men had an entire life's worth of experiences to squeeze into their next few mortal days

Some deemed the brothel to be a fitting supplement to the experiences of war

Some deemed the brothel to be a fitting supplement to the experiences of war. Lieutenant R. Graham Dixon, who spent the final year of hostilities on the Western Front, believed that soldiers had 'an abundance of physical energy'.

When he went to Dunkirk, he patronised one particular brothel, always visiting the same 'black-haired, black-eyed wench, whose enthusiasm was quite adequate and whose skill, likewise.'

They didn't know when their time might be up

Aside from the shock, the amusement and the frolics, these visits were often accompanied by a note of fatality.

Soldiers did not know when their time might be up. One in ten British soldiers who saw service in France and Flanders was killed there.

During its bloodiest phase, a junior officer had on average just six weeks to live. These men had an entire life's worth of experiences to squeeze into their next few mortal days.

Lieutenant James Butlin was one of them. Shortly after the outbreak of war, he swapped his place at Oxford

University for one in the trenches. Immediately before Butlin returned to the front for the final time, he spent a few days in Rouen.

He revealed to a confidante how the town had been 'ruinous to my purse, not to mention my morals. From what I heard out here I decided quickly that life must be enjoyed to the full — and so it has been, with judicious selection and moderation.'

They did not want to die virgins

For the younger recruits, their predicament was even more urgent. Some had yet to experience this particular earthly pleasure.

According to Captain Robert Graves, in his famous autobiography *Goodbye To All That*, 'There were no restraints in France; these boys had money to spend and knew that they stood a good chance of being killed within a few weeks anyhow. They did not want to die virgins.'

Such behaviour was condoned, understood and accepted. But astonishingly, even more acceptable was the idea that older, married men should be entertained by prostitutes whilst away at war.

An 18-year-old Private, Bert Chaney, was intrigued by the orderly queue he

saw during his few days in Béthune. He was advised by one man in the line that 'these places were not for young lads like me, but for married men who were missing their wives'.

Private Percy Clare recalled similar advice. Clare's memoir details the affairs that took place in Amiens and Arras between numerous prostitutes and English soldiers.

He also refers to one sermon given by his Brigade Chaplain in which he 'excused unfaithfulness to our wives while away from home in the present circumstances'.

Sex was necessary for men's physical health

It was widely believed during this era that regular sex was necessary for men's physical health.

For married men, the need was considered to be even more imperative. They had become so accustomed to regular sexual fulfilment that the routine needed to be continued even while away from the marital bed.

While married men were considered to have greater carnal needs than single men, sexual opportunity also varied according to rank.

There was no room here for notions of trench comradeship or patriotism. Officers and rankers were serviced in different brothels, known as Blue Lamps and Red Lamps respectively.

The commission that Second Lieutenant Dennis Wheatley received when he was just 17 entitled him to patronise one of the most luxurious brothels in France reserved for officers.

Upon arrival, 'the Madame took me to an eight-sided room, the walls and ceilings of which were entirely covered with mirrors.

'The only furniture in it was a low divan on which a pretty little blonde was displaying her charms. She welcomed me most pleasantly and later we breakfasted off an omelette, melon and champagne.'

Wheatley, who went on to become a well-known author, was gassed in a chlorine attack at Passchendaele and invalided out after service in Flanders.

Meanwhile, the professional soldier Brigadier-General Frank Crozier described how officers and other ranks' experiences starkly differed: 'The officers are better off. Comparative luxury, knowledge and armour (condoms) stands them in good stead.

'It is one thing sleeping the night in Lina's arms, after a not too good dinner and minding one's p's and q's: it is another making the best of it in a thorny ditch.'

This discrepancy in service was so great that it even overrode enemy divides.

Sharing with the Enemy

As the Allied troops advanced towards the end of the war, British officers readily took over the high-class prostitutes of the German army.

They considered it more palatable to share prostitutes with enemies of their own class than with lower-class men on their own side.

As well as being divided by class, the brothel market was regulated by the differences between each nationality's rates of pay.

Dominion soldiers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada might have received about six shillings a day for their wartime service, the British soldier just six pence. It was a financial advantage that entitled colonial troops to their pick of the prostitutes.

After he had been taken out of the front line and was enjoying the rewards of payday, British Private Sidney Amatt decided to go to 'one of these places of evil intent' in Le Havre.

In the bar, he noticed 'plenty of troops there, but hardly any British troops. But there was Canadians and South Africans and French troops there.

'Because I think in those days our pay was not sufficient to visit these places very often.'

As Amatt explained, 'the idea was that if you fancied any girl, you bought her a drink and then you took her upstairs.

'Well, before you went upstairs there was a woman which I afterwards found out was the madame of the establishment. And you had to pay her. And then, of course, you had to pay the girl you took upstairs.'

All Amatt could afford was 'a drink and a look round' before leaving.

A Longer Lasting Legacy

A brothel visit did not just buy men a momentary release from the war. Sometimes its legacy could be more long-lasting.

Venereal disease rates amongst serving soldiers were of great concern to the army authorities. 150,000 men in the British army were admitted to hospital with a venereal infection whilst stationed in France.

Some measures were taken to limit the spread of disease. Some brothels might have employed an elderly woman who intimately checked the men on entry. Each army unit also had a treatment station where men could get ointment consisting of mercury and chlorine to prevent infection, or receive a urethral irrigation with potassium permanganate after exposure.

But some soldiers had little interest in such precautions. They patronised brothels precisely because they wanted to catch syphilis or gonorrhoea.

One YMCA Welfare Officer recorded in his diary a speech made by a colleague which referred to some men who 'deliberately risked contracting one of the two diseases, hoping by this "self-inflicted wound" to win a respite from the trenches.'

This was such an attractive option that a prostitute who had venereal disease could actually earn more money than an uninfected one. Venereal disease at this time was still heavily stigmatised.

Syphilis was treated with injections of mercury, which usually did nothing to prevent the fatal progression of the disease years later. But the contraction of an infection meant a hospital stay of about 30 days. It was a worthwhile trade-off for some, if it enabled them to escape the carnage of the front line.

And that, ultimately, was what brothel visits were all about for many men. They provided an escape, a release from the horror of the trenches.

Still not discussed

This remains one of the few aspects of life on the Western front that is still little discussed. Perhaps veterans have been reticent to mention it in anticipation of outsiders' condemnation.

And although I have focused on the soldiers who visited prostitutes, we cannot fail to wonder what happened to the poor women who were used in this way.

But, according to Private Clare, who prided himself on writing a 'faithful' account on soldiers' lives in France, it is 'better to know the truth'.

He added a brief warning in case we should think ill of these men.

'Feel not disgust dear reader; nor think too hardly of them - I, who know all their circumstances, what they have borne, what they have yet to bear, cannot find it in me to condemn them, and you have no right to!'

~ Vielen Dank to **Fritz Hoffman**, JR63 for links to this article



Things were no different on the German side. Here are photos from brothels for Deutsche Soldaten. It is estimated that up to 10% of German troops were infected with syphilis during World War I



I DON'T WANT TO BE A SOLDIER

(Parody of 'I'll Make A Man Of You')

Original words and music by

Arthur Wimperis & Herman Finck — 1914

I don't want to be a soldier, I don't wanna go to war
 I'd rather stay at home, around the streets to roam
 And live on the earnings of a lady typist
 I don't want a bayonet in my belly
 Don't want my buttocks shot away
 I'd rather stay in England
 In merry, merry England
 And bore the Captain's ruddy life away.

On Monday I touched on the ankle,
 Tuesday I touched her on the knee...
 Wednesday I had success,
 She lifted up her dress,
 Thursday, she touched me cor blimey,
 Friday I had me hand upon it
 Saturday she gave me balls a tweak,
 And on Sunday after supper,
 I rammed the fu**er up her,
 And now I'm paying thirty bob a week, cor blimey

I don't want to joint the army,
 I don't want to go to war...
 I'd rather hang around Piccadilly Underground,
 Living off the earnings of a high-born lady,
 I don't want a bayonet up me arsole,
 I don't want me bollocks shot away,
 No! I'd rather live in England,
 In merrie merrie England,
 And fornicate me fu**ing life away, cor blimey...

A. Drinks

Champagne per bottle:.....18 marks
 Bordeaux Ch. Lafitte:.....6 marks
 Hungarian wine:.....8 marks
 Beer (large stein):.....1.50 marks
 Coffee per cup: 1 mark
 Coffee small pot:6 marks
 Coffee large pot:12 marks
 Tea per glass:.....0.60 marks
 Seltzer water per bottle:.....0.30 marks

B. Time with the Ladies

All night:.....30 marks
 For 2 to 3 hours in the evening:.....20 marks,
 For 1 hour in the evening:.....10 marks
 For any period of time between
 9 a.m. till 6 p.m.:10 marks

~ (signed) The Morals police



PREIS-VERZEICHNIS.

A. Getränke:

Sekt Henkell Trocken	a Flasche	18.—	Mark
Bordeaux Château Lafitte		6.—	
Ungarwein		8.—	
Bier, eine große Flasche		1.50	
Kaffee, Tasse		1.—	
„ ein kleiner Krug	6 Tassen	6.—	
„ ein großer Krug	12 Tassen	12.—	
Tee, ein Glas		0,60	
Seltzer, kleine Flasche		0,30	

B. Beischlaf:

für die ganze Nacht		30.—	Mark
für 2 bis 3 Std zur Abend- u. Nachtzeit		20.—	
für 1 Stunde		10.—	
für jede beliebige Zeit v. 9 Uhr vorm			
bis 6 Uhr nachm.		10.—	

Lodz, im März 1917.

Die Sittenpolizei.

Preisverzeichnis eines Kriegsbordells

Reproduction of a 1917 poster in Lodz, giving the official prices for the local soldier's brothel



The Origin of the term “Hun” to describe the Germans in World War I

How did the word Hun, a reference to the pre-medieval Hunnic Empire of Attila, come to be used as a term for German soldiers in the Imperial German Army in World War I? This pejorative term, used heavily during the war and often seen on Allied war posters, had its origins in the Boxer Rebellion in China in 1900.

The Boxer Rebellion was launched by a nationalistic, anti-foreign Chinese secret society called the “Fists of Righteous Harmony” – hence the name “Boxers” – whose aims and actions enjoyed the covert support of the Dowager Empress of China. The Boxers emerged as an armed force in 1898, carrying out a number of attacks against foreign property and the railway system. Then in May 1900 two British missionaries were murdered in Peking (modern day Beijing), at which stage the European powers demanded the suppression of the Boxers. The Chinese authorities took no action and so an international military force 2,000 strong was formed to deal with the Boxers. This relatively small force landed in China within a month and on June 10 set out on its advance to Peking. In the meantime, the situation in Peking had deteriorated rapidly. A Japanese diplomat was killed on June 11, followed by the murder of the German minister, Baron von Ketteler, on June 20, on which day all the international legations came under attack.

Chinese regular troops now joined the conflict in support of the Boxers, and their intervention checked the international expeditionary force 50 kilometers short of Peking and forced them to fall back. Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic missionaries and their Chinese parishioners were then massacred throughout northern China, some by Boxers and others by government troops and authorities. In response to the rapidly deteriorating situation, a substantial relief force of about 50,000 men was eventually assembled, with contingents from eight major powers including an initial German contingent of 900 men. This force immediately set out for Peking, defeating three separate Chinese and Boxer armies en route. On August 14, the international troops at last entered the city and freed the foreign legations, which had been under siege.

Originally, it had been intended that German Generalfeldmarschall Alfred von Waldersee (the former chief of the general staff 1888-91, who had been succeeded by Generalleutnant Alfred von Schlieffen) should assume command of the international allied contingents, but he had not arrived in time to do so before the hurried advance on Peking.

Nevertheless, he did subsequently arrive in China in September to engage the Boxers around Peking and in other parts of northern China during the coming months. The German contingent



German troops attacking a Boxer fortification



Waldersee in Peking

had now grown to almost 5,000 troops. Waldersee also oversaw the capture and destruction of the Boxer stronghold of Pao Ting Fu, the demolition of the Chinese forts at Taku, and the bringing to justice and severe punishment of the Boxers, as well as the imposition of punitive sanctions upon China. A peace protocol was finally signed on September 7, 1901.

After the campaign, most of the allies reduced their military presence in China significantly, typically to a single infantry regiment at most. However, the Germans continued to maintain a force of some strength in the country, and although the Boxer uprising was undoubtedly of much greater significance in Chinese history than in that of Germany, the rebellion produced one rather unedifying consequence for the victorious German contingent.

"Wreak Revenge"

Following the murder of the German minister in Peking, Kaiser Wilhelm II made a somewhat ill-judged speech in which he exhorted the troops of the German contingent in China to wreak revenge upon the Boxers. The soldiers were to *"Make for yourselves reputations like the Huns of Attila. Spare*

none!" Ever obedient to the Kaiser's direction, they did just that, killing ruthlessly, plundering extensively and earning from their allies a less than favorable reputation for their behavior. They were not alone however. French troops and others also ravaged the countryside, but the Germans came away with the most notoriety for their actions.

Indeed, the origin of the widespread and (by implication) derogatory use of "Hun" later to describe German troops during World War I is most frequently attributed directly to Wilhelm II's inflammatory direction to the German troops sent to suppress the Boxers in China in 1900.

Source: "The Kaiser's Army" by David Stone)

A Demographic Survey of the 42nd Canadian Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) June 10, 1915

by **Richard. W. Moncrief**
42nd Canadian Battalion (RHC)
Living History Group.

In researching the unit's we portray we don't often have access to the enlistment forms of whole battalions for a specific time period, let alone over the entire duration of their existence. In working to determine some basic demographics of the 42nd Canadian Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) CEF, I began looking into the serial number ranges originally assigned to the battalion (CEF serial number blocks 418000-419999) to try to figure out things like country of origin, religion, prior service, etc. for the first thousand or so men who went overseas. Having access to the nominal roll of the battalion as it shipped to England on June 10th 1915, and comparing it the known serial number range of the battalion, we had a snapshot of what the battalions make-up would have been from a variety of perspectives. This is a study for the enlisted men for whom we have information and not the officer's for whom we do not given the nature of the records kept.

The enlistment forms are not always complete, sometimes a point or two is missed, religion is omitted, chest size, marital status, etc. Some serial numbers are missing from the records but the June 10, 1915 nominal roll was closely compared to the profiles I worked from and we have a very close match of available profiles to those known to have shipped over. In addition to the enlistment forms, any given man's entire service record is available as part of the profile. These range from twelve pages to well over a hundred depending on the individual history of the man. (A hundred plus pages is usually filled with medical proceedings beyond belief!)

Of interest besides the men who went overseas was the small percentage who did not, although enrolled, make the



voyage do to a last minute coming out of the battalion for medical reasons. We also find a tiny handful of deserters both before and after the battalion embarks. But we also see men promoted from the ranks, many awards and some sad cases of men serving for the duration of the war, almost, and who fall shortly before or after the Armistice.

This will be a more extensive study eventually and is abbreviated for OtW.

The Basic Numbers.

1,043 Officers and Other Ranks are noted as having shipped with the battalion in the battalion history, but this number may not be entirely accurate. Some of the men who we know shipped based on their service records do not show up on the June 10th nominal roll. This tells us a few things. The nominal roll, published well after the voyage to England was made, was certainly scrubbed of a few of the bad characters

was later killed serving with the U.S. Marines.) **So, our data set is 969 men.**

Other men not included but of note:

Before the battalion embarked 11 men deserted with 2 later rejoining the battalion. Another 24 were discharged in Montreal mostly on medical grounds but #418948 Lawrence Venditolli, could not secure the permission of his wife to go overseas. (Most of the enlistment forms are 2 part with a 3rd "consent" form from their spouse or parents having to do with sole support concerns of the government.)

What countries did the men come from?

Canada, like the United States, saw a tremendous amount of immigration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A simple majority of the men of the 42nd were English born - **385 of 967 men** (40%) we have the country of origin information for. The next two common countries of birth were Canada **255** (26%) and Scotland **247** (25%.) There were only 17 Americans, but the rest are made up from 18 other countries, Empire colonies or dominions.

Where did the men live and who were their next of kin?

This is less statistical but a fair generalization shows next of kin (and as a result many of the men's then current addresses) in and around the Montreal area, where the regiment was based, in neighborhoods such as Cote St. Paul, Verdun and Point Charles. Many are from the "City" as well. There are plenty of men from Quebec in general but next of kin addresses are all over the U.K. and Canada also. A large group of men come in from Toronto late in the recruiting drive of the battalion and their addresses are representative of Toronto neighborhoods. This more in-depth analysis of pinpointing addresses for the battalion will be developed in the near future.

We know the next of kin for **926** of the men. **375** (40%) list their wife, their mothers are next at **330** (36%), Fathers



who are discharged when they get to the U.K. and, the total number does not entirely add up to the number given as 1,043 as having shipped. In sum, the battalion is quite probably short a few men upon embarkation resulting in a small discrepancy between who really shipped and what the roll maintains. Still we have a fairly complete snapshot of who the men were. (Men are still enlisting on the 8th, 9th and 10th of June and showing on the June 10th embarkation nominal roll.)

I was able to identify **982** Other Ranks' who embarked with the battalion. I excluded **13** from this number who shipped but either transferred right away on reaching England, or for whom there was no profile, or in the case of #419097, Pte. Eugene Wear of Beaver Meadow, PA, discharged for being under age in London. (His profile notes he

are **124** (13%) and other relations drop off quickly after that. The one widower who listed his children was, sadly, killed in the war.

What was their pre-war occupation?

We have the information of **956** of the men and this represents **268** different occupations though some are closely related but it is a wide variety. In general, most of the trades given are skilled or semi-skilled and suggesting solid schooling, apprenticeships or some other vocational education. The top 10 occupations were:

- Clerk: 102 (10%)
- Laborer: 67 (7%)
- Machinist: 41 (4%)
- Carpenter: 34 (4%)
- Driver: 26 (3%)
- Bookkeeper: 21 (2%)
- Electrician: 21 (2%)
- Farmer: 19 (2%)
- Painter: 18 (2%)
- Plumber: 18 (2%)

Interestingly, of the 13 men known to have been promoted from the ranks, 9 of them were clerks before the war suggesting some sort of organization skill had to do with promotion. As to the others, if you can think of a period trade, it is probably represented within the battalion.

Prior Service

469 men out of 969 men in our survey (48%) had some sort of prior military service. Of this number approximately **154** (16%) had served in the parent unit of the 42nd, the **5th Royal Highlanders of Canada**. (One of the oldest of the Canadian Militia regiments, having been established in 1862.) Of this 154, **26** had seen prior service primarily in an English or Scottish infantry regiment in the U.K. prior to emigrating to Canada.

The regiments and corps the men came from span the gamut of famous English and Scottish Infantry Regiments,



42nd Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) 1918

Territorials and many Canadian Militia Regiments, with a few from the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines and one lone soul with prior service in the Argentine Navy. No one regiment dominates the prior service of the men, it is very varied but of course, English immigrant's come from generally English Regular and Territorial battalions, Scottish / Scots, etc. The Royal Navy has a modest showing as do the various corps, i.e. the ASC (Army Service Corp.)

On average most men had seen a little less than **4** years of service with their prior military service though we see many instances of a full 12 years with the Imperial Colors skewed against a large number of 5th RHC men who joined out the outbreak of the war and not gone over with the previous RHC battalion (**The 13th RHC**) and remained within the 5th RHC until the 42nd, was raised for overseas service.

In sum, this was a battalion with a very strong cadre of prior service men, NCO's and Officer's.

Age.

The average age of the men was **27** years old for the **959** men the age is given. Some of the forms do not give an age or birthdate or either. A little over half of the men (564) fell within the following age distribution (rounded) :

- 21 Years Old: 79 (8%)
- 22 Years Old: 72 (8%)
- 19 Years Old: 57 (6%)
- 28 Years Old: 57 (6%)
- 32 Years Old: 55 (6%)
- 23 Years Old: 52 (5%)
- 24 Years Old: 52 (5%)
- 26 Years Old: 49 (5%)
- 25 Years Old: 47 (5%)
- 18 Years Old: 44 (5%)

There is one 16 year old and one 17 year old who went over with consent forms from their parents. There are also instances of men in their early 40's though as in the case of #418804 William Wiltshire who joined at age 44 as Cook-Sergeant, but was delayed in going over and when he did get there, was transferred to the Canadian Army Medical Corps. He was subsequently discharged due to poor health. Williams was a native of London, England, lived in Montreal with his wife Maggie and had 2 years previous service with the Victoria Rifles of Canada. His pre-war trade was given as **Cook**.

Height.

The average height of the men was **5.07"** for the **949** men for which height was registered. Very few men are over 6'.



The 5 most numerous Heights are (rounded):

- 5.06": 172 (17%)
- 5.07": 165 (16%)
- 5.05": 154 (12%)
- 5.04": 114 (11%)
- 5.08": 113 (8%)

At either extreme, #418084 William Ross MacMillan was the shortest man at 4.11" and #418144 John Graham was the tallest at 6.01" (MacMillan is also our 16 year old from the age survey above.) Both men were from Scotland and both happily survived the war.

Chest Size.

One of the most telling things for us as re-enactors is the chest size. On average, for 959 men we have this registered for, chest size was 37" with an expansion of 2' to 3". Only 85 of the men (9%) have a chest size of 40" and over. There is only one man needing a size 44" jacket and this would have been a custom tailor job at the time. Together with height information we start forming an image of a man in the 140-160 lb. class generally speaking, and in line with what we know about diet at the time and joining the army and gaining weight. (Remember, this is Chest/Height on joining the army.)

The distribution is roughly in line with how Service Dress jacket production was assigned by the Royal Army Clothing Department (R.A.C.D) in terms of sizing per 1,000 with an sku on size 36" range jackets.

Complexion

The complexion of 953 of 969 men (98%) was registered. **This was simply as:**

- **Fair: 562 (59%)**
- **Dark: 378 (40%)**
- **Ruddy: 5 (.005%)**
- **Fresh: 4 (.004%)**
- **Light: 3 (.003%)**
- **Froid: 1 (.001%)**

This is in line with their ethnicities and a "dark" complexion may indicate men working more out of doors and tanning. To be described as "froid" i.e. cold is a bit of a quizzical entry.

Hair Color.

Color of hair is described for 950 of 969 of the men. (98%) No one was described as bald, hairless, etc.

The distribution of hair color was as follows:

- **Brown: 318 (33%)**
- **Dark Brown: 260 (27%)**
- **Light Brown: 197 (21%)**
- **Black: 127 (13%)**
- **Grey: 27 (3%)**
- **Fair: 6 (1%)**
- **Red: 6 (1%)**

The few left have hair described as "Sandy", "Reddish Brown" or "Dark Turning Grey." What strikes me as interesting is that the men of 1915 do not seem to be turning grey as fast as those of 2019!

Eye Color.

Eye color was very straightforward we have this characteristic for 951 of the 969 men. (98%)

Distribution of eye color as follows:

- **Blue: 549 (58%)**
- **Brown: 379 (40%)**
- **Grey: 8 (1%)**
- **Blue Brown: (1%)**
- **Hazel: 4 (-1%)**
- **Dark Brown: 3 (-1%)**
- **Black: 2 (-1%)**
- **Light Brown: 1 (-1%)**

Blue eyes are still the most common in the U.K. interestingly enough.

Vaccinations.

860 (89%) of the 969 men were vaccinated. 20 specifically have no vaccination marks and the rest have

no information. (This is the highest level of unrecorded data across the enlistment forms.)

Of those vaccinated we know how many times for **842** (87%) of the men. (The earliest enlistment forms simply note "Vaccinated" with no number applied.) On average the men have **2** previous vaccinations and there is no direct correlation between age and number of vaccinations, i.e. a 20 year old and 40 year old may both have just have 2 vaccinations, older men do not necessarily have more. Most of the vaccinations seem to be for smallpox and of course further vaccination occurs within the army for Typhoid through a series of inoculations for this.

Tattoos.

Any other identifying marks other than vaccinations were also noted. The inspecting medical officer. Capt. A.A. Mackay of the Canadian Army Medical Corp noted any moles, warts, scars, burns etc. but also, tattoo's. **123** (13%) of the men are identified as h a v i n g



tattoo's. Some forms only denote "Tattoo'd" while most have some sort of basic description. Many of these carry the classic period themes of romance, religion, nautical themes as well as patriotic. "Head of Queen Victoria on Chest", "King Edward on Left Forearm" "I love Edie Price", "Kangaroo - Left Forearm", "Maple Leaf and CANADA on left forearm"

The most extensive one is for someone who did not go overseas. "Right Arm: Full figure of Girl, Head of ?. Snake Entwined on Tree on Bracelet. Left Arm: Crown and Anchor, Heart. Highlander in Colours. Relief of Chitral 1895. Tirho Expedition 1895. South Africa 1899-1902." This belonged to Alexander Bowie of Huntley, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. He served 14 years in the 1st Gordons and was 39 years old on enlistment. His occupation was that of a cook. Unfortunately, he was one of our pre-embarkation deserters.

Promotion, Awards and Citations.

At least 13 men of our sample group received officer's commission during the war. A total of 9 make Lieutenant and 2 make Captain. As previously mentioned 9 of these promotions from the ranks were for men who had been clerks before the war. Many more were rapidly promoted to NCO positions, etc. The NCO's will be the subject of further research.

From this group we also find the following Honors and Awards being made totaling 98 with 5 receiving a bar. Some men do also receive more than one award but of our sample of 969 men basically 10% of the OR's were recognized for bravery, gallantry, etc.

- **Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM): 15**
- **Military Medal (MM): 67**
- **Bar to Military Medal: 5**
- **Mentioned in Despatches (MiD): 9**
- **Name Brought to Notice of Secretary of State of War: 3**
- **French Croix de Guerre: 1**
Belgian Croix de Guerre: 2

• **Russian Cross of St. George: 1**

And who is our Russian Cross of St. George Medal winner? This would be #418761 **John Waldvogel** of Marshfield, WI, USA. He appears as the character "Waterbottle" in Will R. Bird's book, *Ghosts Have Warm Hands*. He was also a MM winner as well.

The Fallen.

Of our group of 969 Other Ranks, approximately **219** were killed in action, died of wounds or died by "causes other". There be a bit more variance as we have a few instances of the same name for two different men and it is not clear which one is the fatality in that the Roll of Honour does not list serial number. This is roughly 22%. Dates of death are found in clusters signifying some of the actions we are familiar with, or maybe not so familiar with. I will let you look up the dates and actions, given as DD/MM/YY 09/15/16. 06/02/16. 04/19/1917. Some have no known grave.

While not the mass fatalities of many other Imperial and Dominion battalions in a single action over the course of the war, what we do not yet have a record is the number of our sampling wounded (still in progress) and those for whom their health is broken down after two to three years of service in France and Belgium. "Shell Shock", "Buried by Shell", "Influenza", "Arthritis", "Bad Stomach" come up over and over again. Discharged - Medically Unfit is not an uncommon theme.

#418232 Allan McPhie was from Edinburgh Scotland. He was not married and his next of kin was his mother, Mary Jane McPhie residing at 13 Clair St., Dunfermline, Scotland. He was born

October 7, 1895 and enlisted on March 4th, 1915 - one of the very earliest enlistees in the battalion. He was a Laborer and was 19 at the time of his enlistment. His physical description was as being 5.03" in height with a chest size of 35" with an expansion of 2". He was of dark complexion with brown hair and brown eyes. He was a Presbyterian with uncommonly, 4 vaccination marks. He had a scar on the right side of his chin.

Allan McPhie died on November 11, 1918 and would have just celebrated his 23rd birthday.

We Will Remember Them.

SOURCES:

Canadian National Archives. Archivanet. Soldiers of the First World War Database.

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx>

Book:

- **42nd Battalion Royal Highlanders of Canada 1914-1919.** C.B. Topp. Gazette Printing Co. Ltd. Montreal 1931
- **Published with Militia Orders** 1915.
- **Canadian Expeditionary Forces Nominal Roll, 42nd Battalion. Embarkation: Montreal. Ship: SS. Hesperian.** Date: June 10th 1915. No publisher of publication date.

Why?

Why does **On the Wire** look so primitive and different now? Because I, the secretary Marsh, now have to do it, due to Editor Mark Graef starting a new job and pressing real-life commitments. Also, because it's a newsletter - I like to make newsletters look like newsletters and not something they're not. It has pix and whitespace because we don't actually have to pay for printing and postage, so we can have longer articles and colour. Yay. If you have an