

WWI Soldier Training on Heritage Trail

(This event scheduled for Feb. 13 and 14 is cancelled due to inclement weather conditions. It will be rescheduled in the March or early April timeframe)

WWI Soldier Training to Occur on Army Heritage Trail

On Feb. 13 and 14, WWI re-enactors representing both American and French troops will occupy the trenches on the Army Heritage Trail, recreating some of the training and exercises that American Soldiers endured at Gondrecourt.

When the United States Army arrived in France in the spring of 1917 to support the World War that had erupted, they were not prepared for the intensive "trench style" warfare they were about to encounter. The First Division and other associated units were rushed to the First Training Area at Gondrecourt, France for six months of training.

Training will utilize the AHEC's full scale trench (zig zag with mortar pit, MG position, foxholes, CP and aid station bunkers), primitive civilian structures and include instruction on the Hotchkiss machine gun, Chauchat machine gun, hand grenades and mortar launcher, use of the M2 mask, gas warfare and trench assault - defense tactics.

This is a training school for the re-enactors to prepare for the season and our Army Heritage Day event in May.

While this is not a major public event, it is an opportunity for Carlisle Barracks residents and the public that may be using the Army Heritage Trail on that weekend to see some of the early Soldier-training of WWI.