

## **Authenticity Guidelines** **German Troops**

### **Headgear**

#### **M35, M40, M42 and Fallschirmjager Helmets**

The standard steel helmet original or reproduction for each branch of service. They should be the correct WW2 color with proper WW2 chinstraps and liners. Good repros are fine, no Spanish!

#### **Helmet Camouflage**

Many different types were worn and are appropriate. These include tire inner tube sections to hold foliage, twine netting, wire, chicken wire, white wash, textured paint, and cloth covers.

#### **Soft Caps (Mutzen)**

Original or quality reproduction wool service caps including the M34, M42, M43, Bergmutze, crusher caps, and officers caps depending on branch of service. Cap wear must be appropriate for branch of service and rank. While the leather brimmed crusher caps (M34 “alter art” old style officer caps) were authorized for wear by NCOs in the SS, they were not in the Heer. A crushed version of the Heer enlisted mans visor cap would have been worn instead.

### **Uniforms**

#### **Field Tunics (Feldblusen) and trousers**

Quality Heer, SS, and Luftwaffe enlisted and officer reproductions are readily available at reasonable prices from many reliable sources domestic as well as internationally. In many cases these tunics and trousers were originally made in both wool for the Continental European and Russian climates and HBT for the summer and more tropical climates. Both and are available that way today. Old Swedish conversions and East German tunics and trousers or other post war German are not appropriate.

#### **Belt and Buckle (Koppel und Koppelschloss)**

For enlisted troops black leather for Heer and SS and brown for Luftwaffe with the proper original or reproduction branch of service buckle. Tan web belts we also issued for tropical climates and late in the war but were much less common. For officers they were black or brown leather for Heer or SS and brown leather for Lufwaffe with standard 2 claw buckle. Brocade belts and buckles we also worn with the walking out or dress uniforms. Post war West German, East German, or civilian belts are not appropriate.

#### **Service Shirts**

Original or quality reproduction of the standard issue service shirt, depending on branch of service. Also, period style (collared or collarless) plain, striped, or checked “shirts from home” can be appropriate. If you elect to do this, do it right and do your research but, leave the Tommy Hilfiger and Ralph Lauren shirts at home along with the white T-shirts. Europeans of the era wore “tanker” undershirts. Open collars with white T’s exposed are FARB.

### **Winter Combat Jacket and Pants**

Referred to as the “Parka”, They were produced in mouse grey, tan and water, and various splinter patterns for Heer and Luftwaffe troops as well as various SS camouflage patterns for SS troops. Most were reversible to white but, not all. There was even a quilted version in a light green color issued to Luftwaffe Fallschirmjager troops. All versions had pants with suspenders to match but were often issued on a “mix and match” basis. In both cases these parkas and pants were to be worn over the field uniform. Originals or quality reproduction only.

### **Wool Overcoat (Mantel)**

Original or period reproductions. Feldgrau with either feldgrau or bottle green collars. No Swiss or Swedish conversions.

### **Raincoat (Kradmantel)**

A rubberized fabric raincoat designed for motorcycle troops but, adopted and worn by others including Field Police. Originals or quality reproductions are appropriate

### **Zeltbahn**

Triangle shaped shelter quarter (in splinter or various SS camo patterns) issued 1 per man that can also be use as a poncho or as camouflage. Original or Quality reproductions are available. Swiss squarebahns are ok but, no other Post War European versions are acceptable.

### **Footwear (Stiefel)**

A number of different service shoes and boots were worn by German troops during the war. Jackboots, ankle boots, Gebirgs boots, Fallschirmjager jump boots, or Officers boots. The listed types were all utilized during the European Campaign. Reproductions are available for all versions. Modern (Timberland style) and foreign versions (Post War Swedish, Post War Canadian or British Ammo boots etc...) are not acceptable. Proper reproduction WW2 boots are generally readily available in most sizes. If you have an unusual size foot that cannot be fitted with a good reproduction boot, see your unit commander for a reasonable exception.

### **Gloves (Handschuhe)**

The war time issue knitted grey wool gloves with white sizing rings on the wrist are really nice and quality reproductions are inexpensive and readily available. Also, most plain grey wool gloves are acceptable for use as well. Same for Officers but, in addition, grey leather Officers gloves with snap closures at the wrist are also appropriate.

### **Socks**

Quality plain grey wool socks or reproduction foot wraps. Leave the old athletic tube socks home. They don't wick away the moisture, they bunch up in your boots, cause blisters and prove very uncomfortable over time.

## **Fieldgear (Enlisted Infantry)**

### **Breadbag (Brotbeutel)**

Originals, reproductions, or Post War early West German versions are appropriate. Colors can vary from tan to brown to green for Heer and SS and are usually grayish or blue for Luftwaffe troops.

### **K-98 Ammo pouches (Patronentasche)**

originals or quality reproductions. Black of Heer or SS and black or brown for Luftwaffe.

### **Canteen, Cup and Cover (Feldflasche)**

Canteen & cup (in aluminum or Bakelite). Cover was brown wool with snap fasteners. Originals, post war, or reproductions are available.

### **Mess Tin (Kochgeschir)**

Original, reproduction, and some Post War early West German. The Post War version with the tall lid is not appropriate. Colors can vary from grey green to green to dark green to almost black. The lid is kept in place via a thin leather strap.

### **Gas can and mask (Gasmaske)**

Original or reproductions only, with or without gas cape and bag. The shorter Luftschutz or civilian models are not appropriate.

### **Y-Straps (Koppeltragegestell)**

Original or reproduction leather Heer/SS or Luftwaffe versions only. A tropical or late war web version can also be appropriate in small numbers. The padded Austrian or other Post War versions are not appropriate. Mountain troops rarely adopted the Y strap because of their need for a rucksack which hooked into the ammo pouches—instead they stayed with the belt hooks inserted through the tunic.

### **Bayonet and bayonet frog (Seitengewehr)**

German Original or quality reproduction. Grips in either wood or Bakelite. Bayonet frog in black or dark brown leather. Non-German K-98 versions are not appropriate.

### **Entrenching Tool (Spaten)**

Correct German versions of the Wartime short shovel (Kleines Schanzzeug) or folding models of the Spaten. Swedish, Swiss or other Post War European versions are not appropriate.

### **Assult Pack or A- Frame (Gurtbandtragegerust)**

Basically 2 types: web frame with either leather or tropical web straps. Original or quality reproductions of both types are appropriate. Rucksack—see Y Straps and mountain troops above.

## **Fieldgear (Officers)**

### **Pistol and Holster**

was issued to officers instead of a cartridge belt. This belt had numerous eyelets to allow the officer the ability to attach various pieces of equipment that was more suited to his duties.

### **Binoculars and Case**

Officers were also issued upon need, binoculars which were either worn around the neck via a leather strap or in Bakelite case attached to the belt. Originals or Post War in the proper Wartime style are appropriate.

### **Map Case**

Additionally, officers were issued a leather map case (in black or brown) usually worn on the belt carry maps, pencils, and documents to protect them and provide easy access. Original, reproduction, or Post War West German.

## **Personal Items**

### **Period Eye Glasses**

no joke but, the biggest eyesore in reenacting are modern eyewear. **Contacts, Period or period style eyewear only, please!**

### **Period Haircuts**

the second biggest eyesore in reenacting are improper haircuts. Short and close around the sides, longer on top, and shave the sideburns. **Let's leave the Clint Eastwood Where Eagles Dare haircuts at home with the remote and popcorn.**

### **Facial Hair**

Clean shaven or a 3 day shadow for that field look. **Beards, goatees, and moustaches are best left home.** Yes, some people and units had some in limited quantities during the war but, not as many as we want to believe or we wear in reenacting today.

### **Period Watches**

There is no requirement to have or wear a watch. Any/all 1930s and 40s original or style wrist watches or pocket watches are acceptable but, let's leave the modern watches in our cars.

## **Weapons**

### **Rifles and Machine Guns**

Mauser 98Ks, G41s, K or G43s, MP40s, MP44s, MG34s, MG42s and any other WW2 German issued weapons widely utilized on the Western Front. **Russian Nagants, Tokarevs, PPSHs and other Eastern Front weapons are not appropriate.** All other non-German weapons that saw use on the Western Front on a unit specific basis, should be cleared in advance. All Class 3 weapons require appropriate paperwork.

### **Panzerfausts, Panzerschrecks and Mortors**

“Safe” projectile firing versions are allowed. Teams utilizing these weapons must be properly trained on their operation and for safety. Individuals found operating in an unsafe maybe ask to leave and will not be invited back. Sorry the liability surrounding these weapons is just too great. Also, any non-biodegradable rounds need to be collected up after the tactical and not left for the landowner to clean up.

### **Grenades**

Grenades are permitted. Exploding grenades need to be demonstrated at ones feet at the safety briefing prior to the start of the tactical. Again, safety is key here. Individuals found operating in an unsafe maybe ask to leave and will not be invited back. Sorry the liability surrounding these weapons is just too great. Also, any non-biodegradable rounds need to be collected up after the tactical and not left for the landowner to clean up.