



7th/9th (Highlanders) Bn Royal Scots Uniform & Equipment Regulations

Representative of The 7th/9th (Highlanders) Bn Royal Scots (known as the 'Dandy Boys' or the 'Dandy Ninth') in 155th Infantry Brigade in 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division in 1944/45

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Foreword:

These uniform regulations have been compiled to help ensure a good standard of representation of 52nd (Lowland) Infantry Division troops in NW Europe in late 1944 early 1945 for the Monty's Men representation of 7th/9th Bn Royal Scots in April 2027.

The regulations are intended as a guide to uniforms and kit to help you get your details right. They are harsh in what is and is not allowed. The list of kit is fairly exhaustive and attention to detail is important. We do NOT claim that these regulations are 'the' definitive guide on what is / is not correct but we do feel they are balanced and well researched. Improvements will continue to be made. Constructive feedback and comments are always welcome.

Before making expensive purchases, check with these regulations and if need be, ask a question on the Facebook page etc.

Existing and new members alike should read the notes carefully. Standards of reproduction equipment change, improve etc. We have also cut down some repetition and combined information on battledress etc.

Mandatory kit is distinguished with a tick box on the left and also the word BASIC which indicates you should have it as a bare minimum. Other pieces of kit are optional, but may still be useful for overnight in a slit trench (such as greatcoats etc). We hope you do not find the regulations patronising in any way. This is certainly not the intention. There is a wide range of experience on the trip. We want to be helpful, to maintain a uniform appearance and to be fair and up front from the beginning.

Please note that these regulations concentrate on the INFANTRY attendance of the trip. Any variations for other roles we require can be outlined later, but these regulations will give a clear indication on basic kit including uniform and equipment which will form the basis of those regulations.

Kind regards,

Monty's Men

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Specific notes about BLANCO for MM2027

It is possible to talk for many hours about what BLANCO colour is correct but we know that blanco shade varied from unit to unit.

It is fair to say that KG3 has been used widely in British WW2 Living History circles for probably 25 years or more. Why? In the beginning, we can presume it was used because it was readily available and easier to find than sustainable sources of 103 or 97. It seems to have been 'accepted' by many for years that KG3 was the correct 'late war' blanco. In some ways, this is correct, but in many ways this is not and a bit of an 'echo chamber' has been created which needs correction and the blanco used by a unit has to be researched and considered... not just assumed to be KG3.

There are many sweeping statements that can be made. But many hours of research show the following facts:

- 1) Colours 103 and 97 were perhaps the most common colours of blanco in use through the war by the British Army (with KG3 and 61 BUFF also being used, and a few other varieties but 103 and 97 likely to be the most common). All blanco was supplied through the NAAFI (bought). It was not issued;
- 2) Most, if not all, of the battlefield recovered items of webbing in the possession of friends and museums in Normandy are in 103 or 97 shade. This includes things such as large packs which have provenance and are attributed to units by FFI numbers and FFI colours and also attributed to specific individuals by service number;
- 3) Later war Army 'Battle Schools' and camouflage leaflets and doctrine tried to influence a move to KG3 as it was considered better to aid camouflage and concealment;
- 4) Regiments often specified their blanco shade in their own uniform regulations. We know that KOSB regulations actually specify 103 as the regimental colour (we have seen these). However, this appears to have been changed in wartime from Bn to Bn.
- 5) Some units seem to have paid no heed to wartime doctrine and stuck with regimental stipulations around 103 and 97 shades. This certainly seems to have been the case with many units in NW Europe. All units varied. Some regiments may have clearly maintained the status quo and ignored battle school and camouflage doctrine. Some battalions may have made their own decisions, some will not have. Much may have been down to the Bn CO or Adjutant.
- 6) We are content that Royal Scots did likely use KG3 blanco because they had gone through so much change with 52nd Lowland Division in new equipment issue.
- 7) For MM2027, the mandated blanco shade will be KG3.

Specific notes about BATTLEDRESS and STANDARDS for MM2027

Monty's Men has always striven to raise standards and the intention, as ever, is to field QUALITY with QUANTITY. We list in these kit regulations which varieties of reproduction kit are acceptable.

A question we get asked time and time again is "Can I wear SOLDIER OF FORTUNE BD?" or "can I wear WHAT PRICE GLORY BD?" - The uniform regulations clearly indicate that these reproductions are not acceptable. Briefly explained, the blouses are too long in the body and in the arms and the trousers have the patch pockets (the FFD pocket and the map pockets) incorrectly placed too low. Additionally, some of the serge material is awfully fluffy.

Acceptable BD is available from 'ETO UNIFORMS' www.etouniforms.net (previously WPGCE).

PANTHER STORE, WPGCE and ETO battledress WILL be acceptable.

Some people state that SOF or WPG BD fits them better and Panther will not fit them. If BD is appropriately sized to the wearer, it will fit properly and we encourage you to look to improve the foundation of your portrayal by investing in a better quality reproduction BD.

Other notes for 2027

Note 1:

Concerning white / cream undershirts such as the 'Darcy Clothing' type. These are permitted as per previous trip regulations. However, in the interest of progressing kit standards, as well enhancing your experience of life as a front line soldier, we would prefer individuals to wear the wool GS shirt as well (or instead of) the vest / undershirt. If you do prefer to wear a light period correct light coloured cotton vest / undershirt, then please ensure your battledress blouse is worn to cover it at all times when in the line. Logic and photographic reference dictate the use of light coloured vests / undershirts on the frontline to be exceedingly uncommon. You will not want to be a target!

Note 2:

Concerning changes to standardised kit in the field: Please be aware that at certain intervals in the field phase you may be asked to change the configuration of your webbing or equipment to suit the needs of the situation. This may include the order to drop small packs or respirators before an attack, to be retrieved at a later stage. All requests will be authentic and based on orders of the time. It may also be prudent to analyse reference photographs of troops in NW Europe to determine some nuances and styles that you could incorporate in the carrying of your own kit. For example, the gas cape may be folded and carried under the flap of the small pack in place of a groundsheet. However, this will be down to your own personal preference. There is also reference in Peter White's book 'With The Jocks' that LIGHTWEIGHT RESPIRATORS were left with B ECHELON and were not carried and there are other references which imply 4th Bn KOSB were not wearing BD blouses under their windproof smocks.

Personal Appearance & Personal Effects

Haircut

- Ensure you have a haircut and a neck shave immediately before the trip to make sure your hair is neat and tidy and of military appearance (no hair touching your ears or collar). The shaving on the back and sides at the lowest point should go down to NO GUARD on the shears. A No1 or No2 or No3 is not short enough.
- You must have your hair shaved short (not just 'cut') at the back and sides if you want to look like a 1940s soldier. Longer hair in the forces at the time was not tolerated. Shaved hair at the back and sides is by no means regarded as unfashionable or unacceptable today.
- Bright or modern hair colours, 'highlights' and 'tips' are unacceptable. If you do dye your hair, ensure it is dyed a natural shade.
- Look at original photos of British soldiers in WW2. They typically had large mops of hair on the tops of their heads, but the back and sides of the hair were normally very short. As the old saying goes **"What's under your hat belongs to you. What I can see belongs to me!"**
- Note – Some troops had the 'LIBERTY' hair cut on embarking on ships to Normandy. This was basically a shaved head – the (correct) rationale being that it would make it easier to treat a head wound. So... a shaved head may appear extreme, but isn't incorrect.

Facial Hair

- A daily shave is regarded as important in the British Army in relation to discipline and a smart appearance. There are also trains of thought that facial hair or stubble can prevent the proper fitting of a gas mask (considered a genuine risk). Regardless, trip attendees are to make an effort in this regard.
- Moustaches are acceptable so long as they are tidy and well trimmed to the edges of the mouth. The more 1940s in appearance, the better. Nothing too outrageous, 'hipster' or overly waxed please. The 'Errol Flynn' seems to be the most common and popular at the time.
- Beards, 'goatees' or any other variations on a beard are totally unacceptable as are 'sideburns'. Beards may be permitted in the Army now, but they were not then.

Tattoos

- This is a general guide of what is considered acceptable for Monty's Men. We do not in any way 'encourage' tattooing for WW2 living history and we do not suggest that it improves an impression. Tattooing is a matter of personal choice.
- Tattooing was very common and almost a rite of passage for pre-war regular enlisted men especially when on overseas service but also remember that the standard of tattoos in the 1940s was often somewhat 'rougher' than the sharper, more artistic types available today.
- Tattoos on the face are unacceptable. Tattoos on the neck are not authentic and will need to be covered.

Jewellery (etc)

- On the whole, the men we portray did not have a lot of disposable income and so it is not acceptable to wear a lot of jewellery. On the whole, it is an area to avoid to ensure we do not spoil our efforts with modern anomalies.
- Remember that, when going into active duty, any 'fancy' decorative items and perhaps even wedding rings may be stored away to ensure that, in the event of being killed, wounded or captured, valuables would be safely returned to a next of kin (rather than being stolen by captors or looted from a body etc). Of course, this was not always the case.
- Married men can, of course, wear a wedding band and this is totally acceptable so long as it is not considered to be a modern anomaly. At the time, other decorative rings were not common and are generally unacceptable.
- Please avoid neck chains, wrist chains etc unless some sort of period private purchase ID tag.
- If you really want to wear a decorative ring or a decorative chain please ask for an opinion as to whether it is acceptable. Obviously, you might like to wear a cross on a chain or something of significance to your family or a relative. This is likely to be fine.
- Any kind of piercing or 'flesh hole' is not authentic and is unacceptable (ear, facial or wherever!). If you do have any piercings etc, remove it before an event. Facial piercings and ear piercings will still leave non-authentic telltale signs. Try to conceal these.
- There is a separate section later about watches and time pieces.

Personal Appearance & Personal Effects (continued...)

Spectacles

- If you are a unit member who requires spectacles, then you will need to seriously consider obtaining a pair of spectacles that are fully authentic and acceptable for living history. You will have probably spent a fortune on your other personal kit and period spectacles are a worthwhile investment. Too many people in the hobby ruin their portrayal by neglecting an attention to detail for spectacles which obviously sit in a prominent place in the middle of their face!
- Regulation spectacles were specifically designed for the British Army and provided free to any troops requiring them. Regulation spectacles have small circular metal frames and flexible metal 'hooked' side arms to help keep them securely on the head. A specific design feature of the regulation glasses is that they provided a snug fit and their flexible and flat side arms enabled them to be worn with an anti-gas respirator. These are still readily available in original form and are reasonably priced as are other authentic period frames.
- Modern plastic or non-authentic metal frames are unacceptable. Try to obtain an original pair of regulation spectacles or private purchase period spectacles and have your optician put in new lenses specific to your own particular prescription.
- Tinted lenses or photo- sensitive lenses are in no way authentic and are not acceptable.
- Glass lenses are preferable, however, in the interests of durability, it is acceptable and more sensible to have original spectacle frames fitted with modern plastic lenses if you wish (modern plastic lenses can often be made thinner if your prescription is strong).
- If you want to check whether your spectacles are acceptable, ask the trip organisers.
- An alternative to acquiring a set of original spectacles is to use contact lenses (aside from corrective laser surgery!) although consideration of either option is entirely a personal choice.

Mechanical Wrist / Pocket Watch

- Note that, in general, personal wrist watches were not as common as people think and so it is not necessary for all ranks to wear one (especially ORs). If in doubt, don't bother to wear a watch or carry a period pocket watch. We should be careful not to 'overdo' time pieces.
- Original mechanical military time pieces of either pocket or wrist type are preferred. Note that these are not as hard wearing as modern watches and they are not waterproof so you do run the risk of damaging an original timepiece.
- Keep in mind that if a wrist watch was required, it could be issued (although normally only to NCOs and above). When going into active duty, any private purchase watches may well have been stored away to ensure that they were kept safe and protected from water damage / breakage. Also, in the event of being killed, wounded or captured, valuables would be safely returned to a next of kin (rather than being stolen by captors or looted from a body etc). Of course, this would not always be the case so the choice is yours.
- There were primarily two types of wrist watch issues during WW2. Firstly ATP (Army Trade Pattern) and later Mark X or WWW (Wrist Watch Waterproof). Such issue watches are normally marked on the reverse with ATP or WWW and a contract reference. Generally, ATPs were issued in the early war years and WWWs later although it is apparent WWWs were not appearing before 1945. ATPs and WWWs were often rhodium or chrome plated although some Omegas and other makes were stainless steel. ATPs normally had an 'off white' dial and luminous hands and markings. Some WWWs were the same, but most had a black dial with luminous hands and markings and the WD arrow was often marked on the watch face. Manufacturers of ATPs and WWWs include Unitas, Grana, Record, Cyma, Omega, Buren, Eterna, Moeris, IWC, Timor, Vertex, Smiths, Longines, Lemanian and Jaeger LeCoultre.
- Period civilian mechanical types are acceptable.
- If you do want to use a watch, ensure it is approved and that it has a leather or proper webbing (not nylon) wrist strap.
- Reproduction AF0210 webbing straps can be obtained from Australia where they are reproduced (see www.af0210strap.com) but these straps were probably not issued before 1945.
- Modern British Army G1098 watches (or other modern military watches, however plain) are not acceptable.
- Modern digital watches or other modern watches are not acceptable although there have been some recent 'copies' made of period watches which can be considered.

Headwear



Tam O'Shanter (BASIC)

An original or good quality reproduction 'TOS' – The only acceptable reproductions are from Sean Foster in the USA or from Dickie Knight. Note that a Soldier of Fortune TOS or WPG TOS is NOT acceptable. Sean Foster's are highly recommended and are the preferred reproduction. Officers need to source a specific version of the TOS and this is being looked into.

The TOS will be fitted with a bi-metal ROYAL SCOTS cap badge with a red felt backing to show behind the centre of the badge. Ensure the cap badge is highly polished (not tarnished). Officers and Senior NCOs (Warrant Officers) would have a different type of cap badge. The 7th/9th kept the original cap badge at officer level which was the same as the Scots Guards.

The cap badge must be mounted on a 3" square of HUNTING STEWART TARTAN on the TOS above the left ear. Guidance on badge placement and TOS wearing will be provided. Often, the tartan square would be stiffened with hessian or burlap. We will provide guidance on where to obtain the tartan.

DO NOT LEAVE OBTAINING A CAP BADGE TO THE LAST MINUTE! GET ONE NOW! WE WILL NOT BE BRINGING SPARES!



MKII Rimmed 'Tommy' Steel Helmet (BASIC)

This is just a standard WW2 British Tommy Helmet.

No Mk1 or Mk1*, MKIII, MKIV or MKV helmets to be worn. No civilian helmets made of lower grade steel (with the holes stamped in the rim above the bales for the chin strap). No South African helmets (with three holes in the rear of the helmet rim). No Belgian helmets. You do see some MKIII helmets in use in the 52nd Div in photos and they are referenced by Peter White in 'With The Jocks' where some of the officers wear them and refer to themselves as 'The Soviet' but we will standardise on MKIIs.

The chinstrap can be either the steel sprung version (good reproductions are readily available) or the khaki 'one piece' elasticated type (not green) often associated with the MKIII or RAC helmets.

Wear a fine mesh helmet net and scrim. A hessian cover can be fitted under the net if you wish. A field or shell dressing may be worn beneath the helmet net if so desired.

Battledress



Battledress Blouse & Trousers (BASIC)

- Any wartime pattern of BD blouse and trousers ('Battledress Serge' / 1937, 1940 or 1940 'Austerity') is acceptable;
- The patterns of BD blouses and BD trousers may be mixed between 'Battledress Serge' / 1937, 1940 and 1940 'Austerity' pattern. This was common as items wore out at different rates;
- Originals should be in excellent condition (not threadbare or moth devoured);
- Only reproduction BD from the approved suppliers may be worn. 'Panther Store / WPGCE / ETO' BD is preferred. Other approved reproduction suppliers are Pegasus Militaria / Steve Kiddle and 'Khaki on Campaign'. No other reproduction BD is approved for wear;
- No US made War Aid, Canadian, Indian, Australian, South African, New Zealand, Dutch, Greek or Belgian made BD is to be worn;
- No 1949 pattern or converted 1949 pattern BD to be worn **unless converted by '49-2-40'**;
- No special 'Parachutists' or 'Airborne' trousers to be worn;
- SOLDIER OF FORTUNE or WHAT PRICE GLORY battledress are not up to scratch as the body of the blouses are too long and the trouser pockets are too low. Remember that there is a difference between WPG battledress and the 'Panther Rebrand' WPGCE battledress;
- A 'First Field Dressing, must be carried in the field dressing pocket on the right hip of the trousers.

Belts & Braces



Braces and / or '03 Pattern Brown Leather Belt (BASIC)

The trousers may be supported by either braces or the correct pattern brown leather belt.

Braces may be either original or reproductions – try to dull the brilliant white of new braces down using tea as these do stand out in photographs if 'too new' in appearance. No modern braces, RAF Braces or post-war elasticated braces should be worn. Period civilian braces are acceptable for wear. Original '03 Pattern belts or good quality reproductions can be worn.

BD Blouse – Insignia

Insignia (BASIC)

The BD Blouse will be fitted with the following unit insignia:

- 1) Printed 52nd Lowland Division St Andrew's Cross Shield (original or from our specified supplier);
- 2) Printed 52nd Lowland Division 'MOUNTAIN' scroll (original or from our specified supplier);
- 3) A single scarlet infantry Arm of Service (AoS) strip (original or from our specified supplier);
- 4) A 2 1/4" square of Hunting Stewart Tartan (original or from our specified supplier);
- 5) Rank chevrons (standard GS) where appropriate for NCOs appointed by the trip organisers – A specific guide will be provided on rank structure and corresponding use of British rank badges.

NOTES:

We will give direction on a single source for the printed 52nd Division insignia and AOS strips. The tartan will be provided by another source. Please wait for specific guidance on this. Note that NCO rank will NOT be supplied and will need to be self sourced as will the cap badges.

BD Blouse – Ideas for Pocket Contents

AB64 Paybook (BASIC) Part I & Part II

The best reproduction AB64s are available from ATLAS – www.atlas-repropaperwork.com – although he is currently out of the Part I and Part II books – it may be worth asking him for a re-run of prints and we may get a good deal on these. 'Sentimental Journey' used to do them but are now out of stock. Soldier of Fortune do them but they are a poor reproduction in comparison to ATLAS. Please have these filled out appropriately.

Privilege Envelopes / postcards / warrants / tickets / licenses / Prophylactic Kit

Available in reproduction.

Other items

Such as Heinz tin openers, corned beef tin key, period bottle opener, pencil / pen, note pad, pictures of loved ones in black & white / sepia, cigarettes, matches, handkerchief (cotton or silk, not paper).

Windproofs

Windproof Smock (BASIC) & Windproof Trousers (OPTIONAL)

As we have indicated, we are getting the WINDPROOFS reproduced. This is a challenge to get the correct cut and construction, seams and sizing and buttons. The biggest challenge is the material and the camouflage pattern. We will not be using originals. The only reasonably acceptable form of reproduction camouflaged WINDPROOFS were made by PANZERFAUST but these are no longer available and came up in small sizing. The construction also needed some improvement. PANZERFAUST reproductions are not acceptable and neither are the reproductions from SOLDIER OF FORTUNE or WHAT PRICE GLORY. The cost of your WINDPROOFS will be at a reduced rate. You will have to get a SMOCK but you may also wish to get TROUSERS at the same time. WINDPROOF TROUSERS are not compulsory.

Note that under standing orders from the Division dated from September 1944, it did not seem to be common practise to wear the BD BLOUSE under the windproof. Instead, the troops wore layers including pullovers. This was no doubt linked to the fact the WINDPROOF could cause you to sweat and the Division was mountain trained and doctrine at the time to keep warm was use of multiple layers and the BD BLOUSE may have been considered too thick. We will likely leave this to individual discretion on the trip but this anomaly is notable and almost unique to 52nd Division. Some battalions seemed to avowing any insignia at all on the smocks. There was a set format as to how to display rank on windproofs and we will cover this in due course.

Denim Overalls

[Denim overalls for most Army personnel were two-piece and followed the design of the serge battledress. They were intended for use as fatigues to be worn over the top of battledress, but this was bulky and awkward. It was not unknown for infantry troops to use denims whilst in the front line in NW Europe, but for the field phase, we will all wear wool BD. You can still take denims along in a large pack if you want a reserve of dry clothing in case the weather turns or for comfortable wear post field phase.]

Denim Blouse & Trousers

- Either wartime pattern of denim blouse & trousers (1937 style cut or 'Austerity' 1940 style cut) are acceptable;
- The 1941 'brown' colour denims or the more common green colour are acceptable;
- The patterns of blouses and trousers may be mixed between 1937 and 1940 pattern and even mixed in colour. This was common as items wore out at different rates;
- Throughout the 1950s, denims had a consistent design in line with the 1940 austerity pattern and so post war denims are acceptable;
- The side slits in denim trousers for access to the BD trouser pockets (if they were worn beneath the denim trousers) were not a feature on denim trousers until 1945. Ideally, such slits should be machine stitched closed for authenticity;
- Originals should be in excellent condition;
- The only approved reproductions are those made in proper green denim and are made to the early pattern and suitable for use in portrayals from 1939. These are sold through Soldier of Fortune and What Price Glory at present. Ensure that you are getting the proper denim material (only green on one side!).

NOTES:

No insignia to be worn on the denim blouse although NCOs sometimes added rank.

PT Kit

[Like 'DENIMS', these are not a mandatory requirement but are comfortable for wear in camp / off duty etc]

PT Shorts

Standard navy blue cotton shorts with a tie or elasticated waist. Either an original pair or reproductions from What Price Glory

PT Shoes

Khaki Brown Plimsolls with rubber soles. Either originals or reproductions from What Price Glory. Note that the older stocks of WPG plimsoles were old stock and seem to have been quite robust. We have had less positive feedback about the newer reproduction ones which have a reputation for falling apart. These are ideal for patrolling at night in the correct terrain so you may wish to have them handy.

Vest

Either an original or a reproduction three button short sleeve vest from www.darcyclothing.com or What Price Glory

Other Clothing & Miscellaneous Kit



Identity Tags (BASIC)

The round fibre disk and hexagonal lozenge, correctly strung and stamped with your details.



Wartime under vests / string vests / aertex vests etc (BASIC)

These may be taken and worn under the BD blouse as an alternative to wearing a collarless shirt and may present a solution to a lack of spare shirt(s). Reproduction under vests can be sourced from www.darcyclothing.com and What Price Glory – Ensure you have sufficient to provide clean changes of under clothes for after the field phase. **Note that if you choose to wear a light coloured authentic under garment instead of a shirt, you will have to put another garment over the top of it as the vests look far too conspicuous and would attract attention.**



Authentic underwear (BASIC)

If you don't want to wear originals, that's fine, but your underwear needs to be plain 'off-white'. No daft modern patterns, please. Reproduction underwear can be sourced from www.darcyclothing.com - Ensure you have sufficient to provide clean changes of under clothes for after the field phase.



Collarless Wool Shirt (BASIC)

- Consider at least two wool shirts to ensure a clean change once out of the field phase;
- Either use an original in excellent condition or one of the reproductions from Pukka Sahib / Panther Store / WPGCE / ETO or Pegasus Militaria. Shirts should benefit from the replacement of plastic or brass buttons with white metal ones (a sort of greyish zinc type);
- No other reproduction shirts are approved for wear.
- No KD shirts, American wool shirts or later pattern collar attached shirts are to be worn and strictly no T-shirts under the BD or shirt!
- If want to wear something beneath the shirt, or if you forego the shirt in favour of an authentic looking undergarment, the only things authorised are wartime pattern undershirts, white aertex PT vests, white aertex or cotton sleeveless vests or wartime pattern string vests (see www.darcyclothing.com or What Price Glory). **Note that if you choose to wear a light coloured authentic under garment instead of a shirt, you will have to put another garment over the top of it as the vests look far too conspicuous and would attract attention.**



Jack Knife (BASIC)

Often worn around the waist on a lanyard or suspended from the trouser belt using the clip fastening. Needed for opening COMPO tins etc, so make sure you have one!



Scrim Scarf (BASIC)

The standard camouflaged scrim scarf to be worn at the neck of the BD. Camouflage is printed on both sides of the scrim. The correct way of wearing this is to tuck it in the neck of the BD blouse.

Recognition Scarf

A yellow celanese triangle. Use reproduction or originals. This is more applicable to Officers and NCO's and may be tucked in a blouse or respirator case.

Cold Weather Kit

[None of this is mandatory apart from a pullover, gloves and a cap comforter but please keep in mind that you may need these for the nights out on the field phase. It is likely to be cold, especially if you have been sweating in BD all day. Small items of cold weather clothing were often home knitted. They were made to standard patterns but there is still great variation in styles and colours. Pullovers, gloves, cap comforters and scarfs must be of wool knit in khaki, brown or dark olive (pullovers, cap comforters and scarves are of a close machine knit). Pullovers, gloves and cap comforters are reproduced at present. Original gloves, cap comforters, scarves and balaclavas are also readily available].



Pullover / 'COMMANDO' PULLOVER (BASIC)

Generally, original pullovers used to be quite rare although a large batch of original pullovers came on the market a few years back. They were in excellent condition and are acceptable. The only acceptable reproductions are those from Old Time Design Company, Soldier of Fortune (these are ok) or What Price Glory. It appears that 52nd Lowland Div were issued the 'COMMANDO' style jumper. Given the rate of replacements, you can use either. Note that the COMMANDO type sweaters do not have shoulder or elbow patches and do not have epaulettes.



Gloves (BASIC)

Either fingerless gloves or standard type woollen gloves. Good reproductions are available from What Price Glory. No modern garish green gloves or trigger finger mittens.



Cap Comforter (BASIC)

British or Belgian variations acceptable. Good reproductions are available from What Price Glory.

Scarf

British or Belgian variations acceptable and in plentiful supply. No reproductions are available, though the patterns are available to knit your own!

Leather Jerkin

A good condition original leather jerkin either camouflaged or not may be worn and carried. No post war 'plastic' (PVC) jerkins to be worn. Reproductions are available from Soldier of Fortune.

Greatcoat

These may be useful at night on the field phase. Use the 1939 or 1940 pattern and if desired apply a single scarlet Arm of Service strip to each arm and rank as appropriate.

Wool Blanket x 2

Use the grey wool type.

Ammo Boots, Socks & Foot Care



Ammo Boots (BASIC)

British black leather ammunition boots, correctly studded and in good serviceable condition with leather laces only (no other laces acceptable). No rubber soled / DMS boots or other alternatives are acceptable.

Originals are easy enough to find (even if dated into the early 1990s). Avoid triple soled 'Guards' boots which have been adapted for parade and ceremonial use. If they are triple soled, they may not be flexible or comfortable enough for field use. Additionally, ones used for drill will have been smoothed with a hot spoon and waxed and this would not have been done to field used boots and was frowned upon as it damaged the leather. Modern drill boots are manufactured smooth and are not correct. They need the pebbled finish of wartime boots and those made into the 1990s.

Reproductions from Lennon's Bootmakers do not appear to be of a standard construction for ammo boots and the lace eyelets do not draw together and sit too far apart (although this may now have been addressed). Be careful about using What Price Glory reproductions (you will have to put a lot of effort into breaking them in).

Regulation boots at this stage of the war had 13 studs in the sole for economy measures to save on steel. However, if you decide to have more studs in your boots, then this is up to you.

The toe plate at the front of the boot by this stage of the war had an economy measure. One slot headed nail was omitted to save steel (note that they are nails not screws). The economy measure was to omit the second nail in from the outside of each foot. This is not compulsory to follow as some boots would still have all five nails. **Note that the nails must be slot head and not cross head or pozidrive screws.**

You do not need to have 'best' boots which are highly polished for this event. Your boots need to be maintained for 'work' (water proofed and gas proofed with dubbin). Bring some dubbin and a brush and cloth to ensure your boots are in reasonable condition for waterproof purposes and to brush them up if walking out etc after the field phase. Dubbin will attract the dust for that authentic look very well.

Before the trip, take your boots to a reliable cobbler and ensure your heel and the steel horse shoe is sound. Replace loose or damaged toe plates and studs or resole if necessary. Your boots will get a hammering during the field phase.

Bring some spare laces! They always snap at the worst time!



Grey Wool Socks (BASIC)

Remember that you will need fresh under clothes and socks for the last few days of the trip after the field phase.



Foot Powder (BASIC)

A lot of the lads use original – it is authentic and works just as well as modern stuff. It is also cheap and easy to find. When it runs out, you can simply re-fill the tin.

Zinc Oxide Tape

Use to wrap areas of your feet that may get rubbed by your boots.

Can I use insoles in my boots?

If you wish, consider using some form of cushioned insole in your ammo boots to help absorb and protect you from the impact felt through the leather soles, steel studs, steel horseshoe heels and toe plates when moving around in full kit. Remember that the lads 80+ years ago were used to wearing these boots. Army boots were probably some of the best quality and well maintained footwear they'd ever had. They had trained for years wearing them. We haven't. Remember that an insole can change the way your boots fit and you may end up with other discomfort with the uppers or heels. A matter of personal choice.

Equipment & Accessories



37 Pattern Webbing (BASIC)

Consisting of:

- belt and cross straps (note that the cross straps must not be the Canadian padded variety);
- two 'universal' pouches (MKI, MKII or MKIII variety with brass press-stud fixings. Webbing quick release tabs are not acceptable);
- MKVII water bottle & carrier (envelope or cruciform style). Green water bottles are preferable but blue enamel are acceptable so long as they are in a green felt cover;
- spike / 'pig-sticker' bayonet in frog (worn on left hip);
- entrenching tool & cover (worn over the small of the back);
- small pack with left and right 'L' straps.

All webbing to be blancoed KG3. Good powder form original KG3 blanco is available from the Dutch attendees and is reasonably priced so if you would like some, please shout out on the group page and see if the Dutch lads can help you source it. Reproduction Blanco is acceptable if properly applied and not thickly caked on. If using Soldier of Fortune blanco or other liquid types, ensure to be careful that it is not applied too thick as it can dry like paint and look totally wrong. The original 'DUTCH' KG3 is the best option.

If you have some webbing with economy fittings (instead of brass) and you are confident and knowledgeable that it is original, wartime and authentic, it is fine to use it. If in doubt, ask, or default to all webbing having brass fittings.

Brass should be clean and free from 70+ years of corrosion and verdigris. It is right that brasses on webbing would not be brightly polished at this stage in the war but they would all be clean and, at worst, would have a few weeks of natural tarnish before embarkation. Some brass may even be painted to reduce reflection. Brasses in a bad way may need treatment with white vinegar and wire wool or a brass brush to remove all the fouling and get back to a clean brass finish.

NOTE that items of GS stores were NOT normally blancoed. This includes supplementary pouches, weapons slings, Bren spare barrel bags, signals satchels, wire cutter pouches, binocular pouches issued to ORs, Shell Dressing bags and so on.

Take your large pack with left and right straps and 20" extension straps as well (blancoed KG3). Contents of the large pack are covered later.

No toggle ropes or Sten Gun Magazine Bandoliers to be carried.



Dress Belt (BASIC)

Make sure you have an extra belt to use as a 'best dress belt'. Belt to be blancoed KG3. Note that it must have brass fittings not steel, alloy or other economy materials.

Keep the brasses well polished. You will need to bring some brasso or duraglit with you to keep your brasses in tip top form for after the field phase. Note that soldiers were not normally issued with two belts. However, if you have two, you can keep one for best, and one for 'work' with the rest of your webbing and avoid having to dismantle and reassemble it etc.



37 Pattern Anklets / Gaiters (BASIC)

Webbing anklets with either webbing or leather straps. If they have leather strap fastenings, the leather straps must be dyed black with boot polish. If you have some anklets with economy fittings (instead of brass) and you are confident and knowledgeable that they are original, wartime and authentic, they are fine to use. If in doubt, ask, or default to all webbing having brass fittings. To be blancoed KG3. Keeping two pairs is advisable (a work pair for the field phase and a best pair with polished brasses for 'walking out' post field phase).



Pioneer Tool (BASIC)

A GS shovel or pick axe is **mandatory** for **all** ranks.



Gas Cape (BASIC)

Carry by rolling up to match the width of the small pack and attach to the web belt below the small pack or fold and carry under the flap of the small pack (gas capes were often carried instead of groundsheet capes at this stage in the war as a preferred lightweight waterproof but this is a matter of personal preference and you may carry both if you wish). Reproductions from Pegasus Militaria, Frank Brown or What Price Glory can be used.

Gas Mask & Accessories



43 Pattern Light Respirator in case with contents (BASIC)

Worn slung on the left hip with the shoulder strap on under the webbing. The idea was that your respirator case was put on first, with everything else going on over the top. For this infantry portrayal, please DO NOT wear the respirator attached to the belt. It must contain a correct pattern black rubber respirator and filter (note that respirators were available in 5 sizes). If you have cork plugs on the respirator, keep them, as they were intended to help preserve the respirator from water etc.

The respirator case must be named to you with an additional red circular ID disc tied onto one of the large zinc O rings on the outside of the bag stamped with your details (as they appear on your ID tags). This makes identifying your own gas mask easier in a pile of individually fitted gas masks!

As well as the respirator, your case should contain as many of the following as possible:

- anti-gas ointment tin: A bleaching paste to assist in removal of contamination from the skin. Early ointments were issued in a glass pot with a yellow screw top (No2 ointment). The yellow No2 tins released slightly later contained eight lead tubes each containing about 1/4 ounce of ointment. The jars/tins were carried in one of the side pockets of the respirator bag. The No3 ointment was in a light grey tin (1941 onwards). No3A was a tropical issue only. No5 ointment was in a blue tin (1943 onwards). No6 ointment is actually post war;
- cotton waste: Multi coloured waste rags shredded to threads intended to be used as swabs to remove heavy liquid contamination and anti gas ointment from the skin. Each man received one ounce of this to be broken up and split between his respirator case and the pocket on the anti gas cape. Store in a side pocket and place some in the pocket of your gas cape;
- anti-dimming kits: Any pattern (Mark IV, V or VI) is acceptable. Stored at the bottom of the respirator case in a custom made loop (for the Mark IV or V tube kits) or in a small pocket (for the Mark VI kits);
- disposable cellulose acetate anti-gas eye shields: A cardboard wallet containing eye shields. These were intended as a first defensive measure against air delivered sprays of gas but were often used by troops for dust goggles etc);
- anti-gas brassards: Also known as sleeve gas detectors or individual gas detectors. These are intended as a simple method of detecting the presence of gas sprayed from the air. The detectors were supplied in pairs. They were made of paper and were coated in special gas detector paint which would turn red if drops of gas touched the surface thus alerting the wearer or a comrade. They had a loop for attaching to an epaulette. NCOs were supposed to wear only one on the left arm to ensure rank badges remained visible. They were kept in the back pocket of the case with the anti-gas eye shields.

Contents of Small Pack

[By the book, the contents of the small pack should be: mess tin and cover, water bottle in carrier, emergency ration, knife, fork & spoon, pullover / cardigan & groundsheet. The wash roll, towel and housewife kit were actually supposed to be carried in the large pack. However, exactly what you take and what you can get in the pack is up to you and down to your own technique and by this stage in the war, the men were certainly carrying their wash rolls and wearing water bottles slung. These are the contents you should consider carrying in your small pack. Exactly what you take and what you can get in the pack is down to your own technique and preference. Make your contents as authentic as possible].



Ground Sheet / Cape – tan in colour (BASIC)

Either an original or a reproduction Groundsheet/Cape from What Price Glory (they do excellent copies of a Canadian type cape which has rubber buttons). **No green capes to be used.** You can use the normal standard 'groundsheet' or the groundsheet/cape variety. **Note that at this stage in the war, it was quite common practise for men to carry the gas cape folded into the small pack instead of the groundsheet cape to reduce weight. This is a matter of personal choice.**



Mess Tins (BASIC)

Appropriate British patterns only. Preferably wartime dated either early aluminium ones dated 1938, 1939 or 1940 or tin plated steel tins. You can use Canadian type aluminium ones if you wish.



Enamel Mug (BASIC)

Either white or brown to be hung on the outside of the pack. Post war dates to be obliterated (paint over). No outrageous personalisation please.



Knife, Fork & Spoon (BASIC)

Wartime patterns only – These should be separates and not the late war clip-together set. To avoid the hassle of going in and out of your pack, carry your spoon in your BD or smock pocket.



Tommy Cooker / Brew Kit (BASIC)

Authentic folding tommy cookers can be obtained in reproduction form from Michael Smith, Tim Kearney or Jan Van Der Sanden. The folding cookers were issued to troops before embarkation.



Wash Roll (BASIC)

Contents should be carbolic soap (no 1945 pattern soap tins!), toothbrush, toothpaste, razor & blades, shaving soap & brush, kit bag clasp & padlock, spare leather laces, knife, fork & spoon, foot powder, plastic comb & shaving mirror. 'Old Time Design' do decent reproduction toothpaste.



Towel (BASIC)

Of one the wartime patterns. 50s date ones are readily available.



Housewife Sewing Kit (BASIC)

Absolutely essential for repairs to lost buttons etc. Original buttons and thread cards are readily available. Please have your own for repairs and do not depend on other people!

Ration Tin – TEA RATION / BOILED SWEETS / CIGARETTES etc

These are the flat tobacco sized tins which were packed with COMPO crates. Old Time Design and Neil King and Daniel Fiselier do reproductions of these. Fill with a brew kit or use to carry sweets or chocolate etc. LEMONADE POWDER tins are also available and handy for rehydration powder.

Emergency Chocolate Ration Tin

Original tins are readily available. Reproductions are available from What Price Glory. Ramsay Green and Frank Brown do authentic chocolate fillings for the tin.

Ration Bags

Small white cotton bags to hold uneaten (unexpired) portions of daily rations. Everyone needs one. Reproductions and originals are readily available.

First Aid Kit

These contents aren't all exactly authentic, but you should all carry something for yourselves so you don't rely on others unfairly. To save on space, pack this stuff into something like a period tobacco tin or emergency ration tin and store in your e-tool cover or your small pack. Consider contents such as fabric type elastoplasts, anti-septic cream, insect bite treatment / cream / repellent, pain relief, anti inflammatory tablets, allergy tablets and special blister dressings / elastoplasts etc.

Contents of Large Pack

[By the book, the contents of the large pack should consist of greatcoat, wash roll, housewife, socks, soap and towel. However, exactly what you take and what you can get in the pack is up to you as by this stage in the war most lads would carry their wash roll in the small pack. Ideas are set out below. Carry the things you are least likely to use through the day and things you are likely to leave with our support vehicle(s) for evenings etc.]

There is a technique to fold your greatcoat and blanket to get it in a large pack. Alternatively, other things that can be carried in the large pack are things like a spare shirt, PT kit and plimsoles, spare socks, cold weather kit, denims, spare underwear, brass & boot care kit, best belt and anklets etc.

Rifleman Kit Notes

.303" Number 4 Lee Enfield Rifle

- No other rifle types acceptable. No SMLEs, No5 Jungle Carbines, 7.62mm or other variants;
- If you have your own rifle on a Firearms Certificate you will be able to use it. For European attendees, we will explore whether we can facilitate you bringing your own rifles over. If you do not have a functioning rifle, they will be available through the armourer. It may be more appropriate for some attendees to carry a deactivated rifle;
- Carry an oil bottle (with oil in it to maintain the rifle and prevent rust), pull through and cleaning patches in the butt trap (where it should be). If you prefer, you can carry a basic cleaning kit (oil bottle, oily rag etc) elsewhere on your person like in a pocket or tucked in your e-tool carrier. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own cleaning kit;**
- Ensure to have a correct pattern sling. For field use, the sling does not need to be blanched as slings were items of GS stores and were not personal issue. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own rifle sling in case a hired rifle does not have a suitable sling on it.**

Ammunition

- Two cotton bandoliers, each containing 50 rounds of blank .303" in charger clips worn slung or around waist. Ideally, wear one slung and another stored in a pouch.
- Up to two inert or replica grenades (36, 69 or 77 or Gammon Bombs) can be carried in a universal pouch with a bandolier of ammunition. You can carry any assortment of 36, 69 or 77s. Functioning smoke grenades should be available for purchase and use;
- Use the other pouch for carrying two Bren magazines with between 25 and 30 rounds of blank .303" in each to supply the Bren;
- Carry one or more HAWKINS MINE if you wish (strap it to your kit). Excellent reproductions are available from What Price Glory.

Cotton Rifle Bandoliers

Wartime pattern bandoliers must be used. These are readily available. Wartime pattern bandoliers have their 'sling' strap made in matching cotton material, not thin 'webbing' like material. Thin 'webbing' type slings are clearly evident on post-war NATO marked 7.62mm bandoliers and are not acceptable. If you are unsure, please ask. Reproductions are available. The WW2 pattern ones from Soldier of Fortune are good and Hubert Synos makes the Canadian type of bandolier too.

Sten Gunner Kit Notes

[These notes apply to section commanders and any other Sten armed infantry troops]

9mm Sten MKII or MKIII

- No other variants acceptable (no MKI, MKV or other versions);
- Functioning MKII and MKIII Stens will be available through the armourer. It may be more appropriate for some attendees to carry a deactivated, replica or top venting blank firing Stens. It will not be possible to bring automatic weapons into the UK from abroad because they are prohibited weapons here;
- The only permitted BLANK FIRERS are TOP VENTING versions;
- The only permitted non firing REPLICA STENS are those built by Neil MITCHAM;
- Carry a loading tool (either the early or later pattern) for the magazines and a cleaning kit (pull through, oil bottle and cleaning patches) in a tobacco tin or something similar to ensure you can keep the Sten clean and rust free during the field phase;
- Ensure to have a correct pattern sling. The sling does not need to be blancoed as slings were items of GS stores and were not personal issue. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own Sten sling in case a hired Sten does not have a suitable sling on it.**

Ammunition

- Five Sten magazines with between 25 and 32 rounds of blank 9mm in each (or loaded with INERT 9mm if you have a non firing replica). Note that the magazines used must not have the Indian Army post war modification of brass runners to reduce magazine capacity. Put one magazine on the gun and carry the other four remaining magazines one universal pouch with the loading tool and cleaning kit;
- Up to four inert or replica grenades (a mixture of 36, 69 or 77) can be carried in a universal pouch. Functioning smoke grenades should be available for purchase and use;
- Carry one or more HAWKINS MINE if you wish (strap it to your kit). Excellent repros are available from What Price Glory.

Wire Cutters (Section Commanders)

These are items of GS Stores, not personal issue, and as such, the wire cutter pouch was not blancoed. It is not necessary to carry the cutters in the pouch. Tie to the e-tool carrier using the lanyard attached or tuck in a belt.

Bren Gunner Kit Notes

[PLEASE DO NOT BRING a .38 revolver or other sidearm if you are a Bren Gunner]

.303" Bren Gun, MKI or MKII

- No Mark III variants or 7.62mm variants acceptable (MKIIIs have a shorter barrel);
- Brens will be available through the armourer. It will not be possible to bring automatic weapons into the UK from abroad because they are prohibited weapons here;
- Ensure to have a correct pattern sling. The sling does not need to be blancoed as slings were items of GS stores and were not personal issue. **Do not assume that a hired Bren will come with a correct sling.**

Ammunition

- 5 Bren magazines with between 25 and 30 rounds of blank .303" in each. One on the gun and the remainder to be carried in the universal pouches (two in each). No grenades.

Spare Parts Wallet

This is an item of GS Stores, not personal issue, and as such, was not blancoed. Ensure that you have as many authentic contents as possible. Ensure to carry oil and cleaning patches to ensure you can keep the Bren clean and rust free during the field phase.

Section 2 i/c Kit Notes

[Section 2i/c & Bren Group Commander]

.303" Number 4 Lee Enfield Rifle

- No other rifle types acceptable. No SMLEs, No5 Jungle Carbines, 7.62mm or other variants;
- If you have your own rifle on a Firearms Certificate you will be able to use it. For European attendees, we will explore whether we can facilitate you bringing your own rifles over. If you do not have a functioning rifle, they will be available through the armourer. It may be more appropriate for some attendees to carry a deactivated rifle;
- Carry an oil bottle (with oil in it to maintain the rifle and prevent rust), pull through and cleaning patches in the butt trap (where it should be). If you prefer, you can carry a basic cleaning kit (oil bottle, oily rag etc) elsewhere on your person like in a pocket or tucked in your e-tool carrier. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own cleaning kit;**
- Ensure to have a correct pattern sling. For field use, the sling does not need to be blanched as slings were items of GS stores and were not personal issue. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own rifle sling in case a hired rifle does not have a suitable sling on it.**

Ammunition

- One cotton bandolier containing 50 rounds of blank .303" in charger clips worn slung or around waist;
- Up to four inert or replica grenades (36, 69 or 77) can be carried in a universal pouch. Functioning smoke grenades should be available for purchase and use;
- Use the other pouch for carrying two Bren magazines with between 25 and 30 rounds of blank .303" in each;
- 6 Bren magazines with between 25 and 30 rounds of blank .303 in supplementary pouches;
- Carry one or more HAWKINS MINE if you wish (strap it to your kit). Excellent reproductions are available from What Price Glory.

Cotton Rifle Bandoliers

Wartime pattern bandoliers must be used. These are readily available. Wartime pattern bandoliers have their 'sling' strap made in matching cotton material, not thin 'webbing' like material. Thin 'webbing' type slings are clearly evident on post-war NATO marked 7.62mm bandoliers and are not acceptable. If you are unsure, please ask. Reproductions are available. The WW2 pattern ones from Soldier of Fortune are good and Hubert Synos makes the Canadian type of bandolier too.

Machete in scabbard

This is not mandatory piece of kit but is listed as issued and may come in handy in the field phase.

Binoculars

To be carried in either the binocular pouch (if so, the pouch need not be blanched as it is an item of GS stores) or worn around the neck and tucked into the BD blouse.

Bren No 2's Kit Notes

.303" Number 4 Lee Enfield Rifle

- No other rifle types acceptable. No SMLEs, No5 Jungle Carbines, 7.62mm or other variants;
- If you have your own rifle on a Firearms Certificate you will be able to use it. For European attendees, we will explore whether we can facilitate you bringing your own rifles over. If you do not have a functioning rifle, they will be available through the armourer. It may be more appropriate for some attendees to carry a deactivated rifle;
- Carry an oil bottle (with oil in it to maintain the rifle and prevent rust), pull through and cleaning patches in the butt trap (where it should be). If you prefer, you can carry a basic cleaning kit (oil bottle, oily rag etc) elsewhere on your person like in a pocket or tucked in your e-tool carrier. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own cleaning kit;**
- Ensure to have a correct pattern sling. For field use, the sling does not need to be blanched as slings were items of GS stores and were not personal issue. **If you are hiring, make sure you have your own rifle sling in case a hired rifle does not have a suitable sling on it.**

Ammunition (Minimum)

- One cotton bandolier containing 50 rounds of blank .303" in charger clips worn slung or around waist;
- 4 Bren magazines with between 25 and 30 rounds of blank .303 in each (two in each universal pouch);
- 6 Bren magazines with between 25 and 30 rounds of blank .303 in supplementary pouches;
- No grenades;
- Carry one or more HAWKINS MINE if you wish (strap it to your kit). Excellent reproductions are available from What Price Glory.

Cotton Rifle Bandoliers

Wartime pattern bandoliers must be used. These are readily available. Wartime pattern bandoliers have their 'sling' strap made in matching cotton material, not thin 'webbing' like material. Thin 'webbing' type slings are clearly evident on post-war NATO marked 7.62mm bandoliers and are not acceptable. If you are unsure, please ask. Reproductions are available. The WW2 pattern ones from Soldier of Fortune are good and Hubert Synos makes the Canadian type of bandolier too.

Bren Spare Barrel

Preferably in a barrel bag with as many authentic parts in the bag as possible. We can use replicas or deactivated barrels. The barrel bag is an item of GS stores and does not need to be blanched. An alternative to the bag is putting the barrel through the top of the small pack and carrying the other parts in the bag or elsewhere on your person.