

Individual equipment list

This list has been broken down into phases. The idea is to allow a newcomer to the unit to pull together a minimally complete impression, for their first couple of events, at minimal first cost, perhaps using some loaner gear. If the new recruit decides to continue, they can build on their impression. Everyone should start with a basic rifleman impression. As one gains experience, they can do other, more specialized impressions.

Initial phase

Pilotka (overseas cap) with either a red or subdued star

Tunic Either a M35 or a M43 pattern. M35 pattern with the fall shirt collar is recommended as the first purchase, as it can be worn with collar tabs early war or shoulder boards can be added for mid to late war. Sew on collar tabs for a M35 or add shoulder boards for a M43 or hybrid M35/43. Note 1: the branch color for infantry is raspberry red however it was not used post 1942 for field uniforms.

Note 2: the proper buttons for shoulder boards are 14mm and have a higher “dome” than the regular tunic buttons.

Note 3: Don't forget the collar liner (see directions elsewhere on site) change them frequently

Trousers. correct double twill with knee patches for the enlisted men. Trouser belt is a plus.

Belt. Either plain natural leather with a single prong roller buckle, or the canvas type with leather reinforcing. We are discouraging the “Captured German” belt and buckle as part of the initial outfit.

Ammunition Pouch: Leather only. Only one is required for 1943 uniform. Early war need two. Reparation pouches (made in east Germany postwar) are OK, because they are visually identical to WWII issue. However, the “Kirza” (rubber impregnated canvas) ones that come with the Mosin Nagant rifles being sold surplus are not acceptable, as they were NOT issued during WWII.

Canteen and cover. Postwar is OK as you will be drinking out of it. Remove the paint on a postwar one when you get the chance.

Boots. “Tarpaulin” (leather lower, impregnated canvas shaft) Soviet boots, German jackboots, or German low boots and puttees are acceptable. Check with a unit officer for other acceptable footwear. Boots and weapon are the two pieces of gear you will probably have to purchase.

Weapon. Should be a Mosin Nagant 91/30 rifle. If you have the bayonet, keep it for use in Living History events. Get it adjusted so that it fits on the weapon both fixed and reversed. Keep the cleaning kit and sling.

Optional for Initial Phase

Plasch Palatka (rain cape/shelter half) This is the most highly recommended optional item. See Phase 2 for details

Gas Mask bag. (see phase 2)

Mess gear (see phase 2) Our unit cook usually brings some extra mess gear to events we are cooking at, so It's not mandatory for the first phase

Phase 2

This will complete Summer basic impression, mostly by adding smaller pieces of kit.

Plasch Palatka. (rain cape/shelter half) Should have either leather grommets. This is a 1.8-meter square of canvas

Gas Mask bag. There are a couple of acceptable patterns both single and three compartment. Used to carry miscellaneous stuff in such as extra ammo or other items need to be accessed quickly. Check with an officer to see if a certain bag is OK before you buy

Mess Gear

Mess kit. Russian post war is ok. The Soviet round open top 1926 or 1939 pattern mess tin (small pot with a bail handle) is also acceptable

Cup: Either enameled steel or aluminum. enameled style can be either brown or green (avoid white) If you get an aluminum one wrap the handle with signal wire or string to insulate the handle.

Spoon. This is the famous "Large Spoon" that was to be brought from home according to the directions in the induction orders. This can be wood, aluminum or piece of period flatware brought from home. Should be a tablespoon size. Original and reproduction issue spoons are available, but not mandatory.

Backpack (Veshstock) This is the simple drawstring bag backpack (no pockets)

Shlem (Helmet) Should generally be the 1940 pattern. Check with someone before you purchase. M36 are acceptable only for 1941 events.

Lopatka (E-tool) preferred 1941 pattern, original are available. 1943 simplified version are acceptable. Use canvass cover.

Phase 3 Cold weather gear.

The 193rd does several cold weather events each year. Acquiring proper cold weather gear eventually is a must. Either a greatcoat (shinel) or a padded jacket (Telogreika) are acceptable. Padded trousers are optional.

Greatcoat should be the WWII enlisted man's pattern, with hook closures. Purchasing a greatcoat is highly recommended

Telogreika and trousers should be the WWII pattern with the rolls on the outside

Ushanka. This should be the WWII pattern, made from ether sheep skin or artificial fur. Postwar ones are the wrong color.

five finger knit wool mittens or three finger mittens

Phase 4 Completing the impression.

An additional plasch, or better yet two, so you can pitch a shelter tent while still having one to wear in the rain. Poles and pins were usually improvised. By this stage, the typical recruit will have seen

A tunic of the "other" pattern. If the first tunic was a 35, get a 43, or vice versa. Allows having a dedicated early war and late war tunic

A second pair of trousers.

Phase 5 : small items.. optional but good to have. RKKK ID book (available from Division commander)

shaving kit (brush and razor) period style with aluminum handle. Razor (straight or safety)

bakelite ID capsule (carried in the "watch pocket")

Period glasses if needed. Round wire frames.

For all your equipment needs find FB group " Uncle Yuri's War emporium"