

Sicherungs-Regiment 195 Unit Handbook



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About This Handbook

We believe one of the most crucial things needed for a successful reenactment group is a membership that agrees on fundamental ideas and principles. Though our members have diverse viewpoints, working with unity of vision and purpose is the basis of our project.

As a member of Sicherungs-Regiment 195, you will learn skills that would have been familiar to Wehrmacht soldiers. The purpose of this document is not to teach those skills; they will come with time. This Handbook contains essential information that every interested/potential member should be aware of before deciding to get involved with our unit. This is information a recruit needs to know *before* his first event. The learning curve is steep. This Handbook is the first step. We will help new members navigate every step of the way.

The photos in this handbook, with the exception of the reference photos in section 10, belonged to a WWII soldier in a Sicherung unit. The photos likely date from 1941-42.

1. Our Ethos and Mindset

"Sicherungs-Regiment 195" is a WWII German reenactment unit that is passionate about making the past come alive through living history. Our goal is to recreate a historical place and time as precisely as possible. We do not portray a front-line infantry unit. Instead, we seek to recreate the average, day-to-day, mundane experiences of the common German second-line security soldier in WWII.

Our group started as an idea shared by just a few people, all of whom were experienced reenactors. We wanted to create a unit that would generally avoid combat scenarios. Instead, we would focus on non-combat field settings, and activities that we could present in a manner that felt more real to us. One approach in creating a reenactment impression is to pick a historical unit, and then try to mirror *that reality*. We reversed that. Our approach was to pick a unit *that mirrored our reality*. When deciding what kind of unit to represent, we looked at what assets we *actually had*, and then tried to find a historical role that closely matched. And what we had, to start, was very little: two or three people with rifles and enough Zeltbahn shelter quarters to assemble a small tent, no vehicles, and no heavy equipment of any kind. The idea of portraying a Sicherung unit seemed to be an ideal fit. With time we have refined our portrayal, but our core values have remained unchanged.

We are a rear area unit. This does not mean we can never participate in a combat scenario. In fact, we have fielded as combat troops at events in every year of our existence. In the reality of war, with the desperate manpower shortages that the Wehrmacht faced, and as the front lines drew closer and closer to Germany itself, rear area soldiers were often swept up into the fighting. Unfortunately, these soldiers often were poorly suited to this task. They were poorly trained, irregularly equipped, and often had low morale. These units often fared very badly in combat. The real Sicherungs-Regiment 195 was destroyed in combat shortly after being committed to the fight. When we take to reenacted battlefields, we do so in a way that mirrors this reality. We will endeavor to stay in the rear. When possible, we deploy in a way that mirrors our historical role. We can guard objectives, defend crossroads, clear areas in the wake of an advance. We do our best with the skills we have, and with the weapons at our disposal. But if tasked with assaulting a position, or in heavy combat against regular military units, we may all surrender, we may all die. **We are combat ineffective.**

History is the focus. Our goal is to recreate a historical place and time, as precisely as possible. Period. That means taking slices of actual documented history and incorporating it into a reenactment setting, in whatever way we possibly can. Collecting and interpreting this documentation is a key activity in our group. We

expect the people on our team to do their own reading and research, so they have their own individual knowledge to bring to bear.

Absolute authenticity is the goal. We have a stringent approach towards authenticity. Everything used at an event is as authentic to the time period as we can get. We don't allow any excuses for using modern creature comforts that were not available in WWII, or for using things that are outside the realm of historical probability (outside of actual medical necessity). Sometimes that is uncomfortable. But achieving realism **is** the pleasure we get from this pastime. Modern anachronisms are simply not tolerated. Cameras used to document our activities are the single exception to this rule.

Awards and rank in our group are fake. They only exist as a component of a historical impression, rather than representing achievement or skill. We have no officers, and portray enlisted soldiers exclusively. We do not issue awards.

We focus on field-based, rear-area scenarios as these events are best suited for our approach. During these events, we attempt to recreate the typical, daily lives, of Sicherung soldiers. Our events sometimes include skills training in what would have been learned by the people we represent. This can include anything from how to man a checkpoint, to building a trench system. At these events, whenever practical, we reenact in the first person, to create a feeling of time travel, or "This is what it may have been like."

We are not educators. We have no credentials or curricula for "educating the public." At the same time, we believe that knowledge that is not shared is lost. Thus, we feel an ethical responsibility to share our research and assets. Our primary method for doing so is via articles that we post online (e.g. on our web site, blog, Facebook, etc.). These articles are intended to provide information to other reenactors. We will also attend public events, though we do not participate in any public battles. Our mission at public events is simply to share what we do with others who may be interested.

We are not a camping and drinking club. In a field setting, obvious drunkenness is not realistic and therefore not tolerated.

We practice First-Person interaction. This is our standard at all private events. This means talking and acting as if one was a German soldier in 1942-1945. This is an attempt to get into the mindset of what that era might have been like. It requires creativity.

We are an apolitical group. Both at events, as we relate to each other, and to other reenactors, we do not engage in discussion about modern politics/social issues. We have members with a wide range of political views and beliefs but we relate to reenacting in a way that is void of modern politics. **Discussion of modern**

politics is forbidden at events, and when dealing with other reenactors in the context of a reenactment discussion.



2. Historical Background

Note: The purpose of this section is to provide a very general outline of historical realities of Sicherung units, in the most concise and basic way possible. Every member of our group should read the book *War in the Wild East: The German Army and Soviet Partisans* by Ben Shepherd (Harvard University Press, 2004), a fantastic resource, to gain a more detailed and nuanced understanding. Another great source is *The Soviet Partisan Movement* by Edgar M. Howell (Department of the Army, 1956).

Sicherung troops were units tasked with rear-area security. They would guard supply lines, transportation routes, airports, supply dumps, and prisoners of war. They would garrison and pacify occupied territories. Because they were in the rear, the enemy they faced was usually not combat troops, but partisans. In some areas, the occupation troops lived in relative safety. But in others, particularly in the East, the partisans were a formidable foe that took a heavy toll on the security forces. The troops in these units were often not up to the task. Some units possessed no forces at all to combat actual partisans.

As the war in the East progressed, Germans in areas of high partisan activity would not stray from main arteries of communication, or walk singly even in the most strongly garrisoned towns. The feeling of isolation and danger was particularly pronounced among the outposts and “strong points” that dotted the countryside. These outposts were thinly-manned, far-flung, and isolated. Some were a disarray of rifles, uniform and equipment parts laying around in disorder. Some were left unfortified, and uncamouflaged. Squads for their defense were too small, and troops manning them sometimes chose to vegetate in their living quarters rather than guard the bridges they were assigned. Simply guarding the railways became a nightmare task, with a wafer-thin spread of manpower across an enormous area. Divisions had to drastically deemphasize active security just to guard rail lines. Even passive security entailed ridiculously long hours of sentry duty that stretched the men’s endurance to the limit.

The soldiers in these units were often older men and people deemed medically unfit for front line duty. Replacements were often over 40 years old, with officers often over the age of 50. The men in these units were often poor quality soldiers. Many of them had been in Landeschützen units, and had neither fired a shot in anger, nor thrown a hand grenade. Morale in these units was often very low, as inferior weapons, supply shortages, and limited mobility prevented any type of meaningful or powerful blow against the partisans. The prolonged lack of obvious

success, and the sheer boredom of passive security, did not help, either. Sometimes there was no leave for 12 – 18 months, if at all.

Sicherung troops were chronically undermanned. Transfers to combat units to make up for losses at the front stripped these units to the bone, they were stretched extremely thin. In the East, units were assigned to vast sectors and given orders to comb enormous forests. As one example, in July 1941, the jurisdiction of the 221. Sicherungs-Division covered 35,000 square kilometers, including 2,560 villages with 1.3 million inhabitants. This was even before things got stretched really thin. Later, the overstretch was crippling. Units were so overstretched that they could not sustain any long-term, or forcible presence in a given area to have any impact on local inhabitants. They could not provide any degree of armed presence to remind locals who was in charge. The troops were widely scattered, and always moving to different posts. Field training for Sicherung units was a grave concern, but was difficult to conduct because troops were scattered over an immense area. Some units, in sectors without major supply objectives, were constantly neglected. Sentries were killed. Partisans never let up. Some front line troops, who found themselves temporally stationed in the rear, could not wait to return to the front because conditions in the rear were atrocious, and the partisans were relentless.

Sicherung units had a low priority in supply. They were low on priority lists for everything. As a result, they were often crippled by a lack of machine guns, clothes, footwear, medical facilities. The men were irregularly equipped. The food was atrocious.

As a result of weapons shortages, Sicherung soldiers were often forced to make do with obsolete or foreign rifles. Even with these, there were not always enough weapons to go around. In one documented case, of the eight men on guard duty, only one had a pistol, and two had rifles.

Mobility for these units was third rate at best. Most units had no motorized capability at all, and in those units that did have vehicles, these were mostly foreign, with no spare parts, and frequently broke down. Units were ordered to use fuel as sparingly as possible. Long marches completely wore out troops before they even arrived in their sectors.

Sometimes these units were committed to situations in which they had to wage pitched battles, sometimes against large partisan bands. As a result of inadequate combat training, the casualties were higher than front-line troops. They were not equipped for success and their tactical employment was desultory.

“For some time a Bataillon of Grenadier-Regiment 747 had been guarding the section of track which included the Wygonitschi bridge with good success... This unit was transferred to the front and replaced with Sicherungs-Bataillon 974, and understrength Landeschützen outfit new to the area. Before the latter had been in position two weeks the region was out of control and the bridge attacked and destroyed.” - "The Soviet Partisan Movement 1941-1944" by Edgar M. Howell, Department of the Army, 1956.



3. Our Interpretation

In our view, a Wehrmacht soldier's service branch was determined by Abteilung or Regiment sized units- the unit that dictates the color of branch piping that the soldier wears on his uniform—rather than Division sized units. In a Sicherungs-Division, there could be Artillerie units, Pionier, anti-tank, etc. They also sometimes (perhaps often, or even always, at least at first) had reinforced Infanterie regiments, that were better equipped than standard Infanterie regiments. But for us, a true Sicherung unit is a Sicherungs-Regiment or Sicherungs-Bataillon, rather than an Infanterie-Regiment or a Grenadier-Regiment attached to a Sicherungs-Division.

Our specific unit designation gives us an identity and serves as a guide for further research. However, our impression is largely based on a depiction of Sicherung troops *in general*, rather than on one, specific, particular unit (e.g. Sicherungs Regiment 195) that we portray.

Sicherung units were very diverse. Conditions varied in different fronts, in different sectors, and over time. A Sicherung unit in a French city would not be experiencing the same things as an outpost in a Russian swamp. Our semi-generic portrayal gives us a huge amount of leeway to perform different tasks and shift the impression to fit a vast array of scenarios. But our focus is on the outnumbered, under-staffed, under-trained, under-equipped static guard units that were tasked with setting up remote outposts in far-flung and vast areas of occupied lands. These troops were plagued by acute shortages, execrable transportation networks, appalling conditions, poor fighting power, and collapsing supply chains. This is part of why we are not portraying a Grenadier-Regiment or a verstärkte Infanterie-Regiment in a Sicherungs-Division. Such an impression would fundamentally be no different from any other generic Infanterie impression.

4. Authenticity Standards

Our goal is to recreate a historical place and time as precisely as possible. This necessitates the highest authenticity standards. We have no authenticity officer; every man must strive to perfect his own impression, and also is responsible for making sure all other group members are meeting the strictest standards. All objects used should be as identical as is possible to their wartime equivalents. This extends not only to the basics of military issued uniform and equipment, but also to personal items, foodstuffs, hygiene items, paperwork, and the like. Personal grooming must be period appropriate. Wartime photos and other historical documentation pertaining to Wehrmacht soldiers are vastly abundant and must serve as our guide in all things. Matters of personal preference and individual taste are to be disregarded except when supported by relevant and abundant documentation.

A photo taken of any part of our outpost/designated area, at any time at all, inside or out, should never show any anachronistic item that would betray the image as a modern photograph (excluding modern intrusions that are utterly outside our control).



5. Unit Structure and Ranks

In Sicherungs-Regiment 195 we do not have any officers or NCOs, and we never will. Members new to us join at the lowest enlisted rank, and after meeting unit requirements, are promoted to Gefreiter; further promotions are not possible.

A Gefreiter could be a rifleman, a signalmann, a machine gunner, a squad leader, a driver or a clerk. Men up to the age of 59 were being drafted into the German Army in 1944, these men started at the lowest enlisted rank regardless of age; there was no correlation between age and rank.

A new member will come in at the rank of Schütze, and is expected to obtain all the items on our required kit list. There is no time limit for doing so, but on-going progress is expected, even if at a slow pace. Once a member believes he has acquired everything necessary, he is welcome to request a promotion. A future event will be designated at which this can take place. The member who is eligible will have to bring everything on the kit list, and at some point during the event, it will all be inspected. All members are welcome to participate in this kit inspection, but the ultimate determination of whether or not kit items are acceptable, and if all requirements are met, will be with whoever is designated as being in command at the event. If everything is in order, there will be a unit formation and the member or members will be formally promoted.



6. Awards

Below are the only awards approved for wear in Sich. Rgt. 195. One, *and only one*, may be worn. Some of the awards on the list are tied to military service at specific times and in specific areas. If the made-up biography of your reenactment identity does not match the qualifying criteria, then you should not be wearing that award. If you are going wear one of these awards, you must have some "back story" to your reenactment persona as to how it was achieved/earned (e.g. you must know what the award *is*, and what you had to "do" in order to "*earn*" it). The soldiers we are portraying certainly would have known that information.

Black Wound Badge

Infantry Assault Badge (Silver or Bronze as appropriate)

General Assault Badge

Westwall Medal

War Merit Cross 2. Class (with or without swords)

Ostmedaille

Luftwaffe Flak Badge

Luftwaffe Ground Assault Badge

SA Sports Badge

DRL Sports Badge

Kriegsmarine Badges (must be approved on a case-by-case basis, and no U-Boat Badge)

Wearing no awards at all is perfectly fine and also encouraged.



7. Outpost Guidelines

a.) The “Aussenposten”

In the field, we are typically in an isolated outpost (Aussenposten), with little or no connection to other outposts that form part of the security network in our sector. The Aussenposten is centered around a tent constructed of Zeltbahn shelter quarters. This meager accommodation is our home in the field.

Our expectation is that we will be here for a while. We are mostly too isolated to get rations every day, and are not being supplied daily by the Tross because it is too distant; we have to have rations on hand to last us some duration. We are lucky to have a small stove in our tent so that we can have some warmth in below-freezing temperatures. In the tent we sleep using wool blankets, and a layer of straw, when possible.

We have no camp furniture, no folding chairs or tables. We sit on the ground, or on wooden crates that we use to organize rations or ammunition. If the situation permits, we might be able to knock some logs or boards together to make a makeshift bench or table. A fire for cooking or for warmth is possible when there is no risk of drawing unwanted attention from partisans.

b.) Rules for Field Events

Unless there is a compelling reason to do otherwise, the FIRST thing anyone does when arriving at an event is to put on their uniform. This removes all chances of anyone lingering around in modern clothes after things have been unpacked from cars, etc. Moreover, it helps to enter the “reenacting mindset” from the very start of an event. In tandem to this, the LAST thing people do before leaving is take their uniform off.

From the moment camp setup is completed, no member arriving later should approach the camp unless they are in proper uniform, and carrying only period appropriate stuff. With no squad tent, camp furniture, etc. every member should (in theory) be able to carry all of their gear for a given event on their backs. Every member must have a rucksack or Tornister, and should arrive at our Aussenstelle ready to go as if he had just arrived from a transport: uniform on, rucksack or Tornister packed with blanket roll and food, etc. Sometimes, for some events (cold weather where one might want a pile of blankets or firewood, prolonged events where someone might have a box of food), this may mean two trips to the car, but we can make this work and it is for the benefit of all. We can assign people to retrieve unit-level stuff like water cans and lanterns from cars if needed. For some displays, or specific events, this general rule may have to be waived out of necessity.

8. Field and Tactical Doctrine

We portray soldiers faced with a critical shortage of weapons and ammunition, who may not have been well-trained, and with generally poor morale. We have no motorized capability, limited ammunition, only small arms, and no capability to conduct offensive operations of any kind against our primary foe, the partisans. Our anti-partisan operations must necessarily be restricted to passive defense only. We must always be wary of the ever-present danger of the partisans, but that does not mean that we are likely to ever wage a pitched battle against them. We are a security unit, and that must be the focus of our field portrayal, not combat for which we are ill-equipped and mostly untrained. Our Aussenposten is just one of many spread across a vast region. We weren't sent here to wipe out partisan bands, the command would have deployed motorized forces for that. We are here to perform security duties and also to garrison this hinterland. Our focus is not on combat but on tasks such as these:

- Guard critical road junctions or other clearly defined places with strategic importance;
- Observation duties, keep eyes on things/places to prevent partisan infiltration and/or provide early warning of possible enemy probes;
- Search for booby traps and any evidence of partisan activity, partisan camps, or search suspicious buildings;
- Aggressively patrol, day and night, to establish a Heer presence in our sector and deny the partisans freedom of movement, and to keep them on their toes.

When we deploy to the field, we undertake a series of missions. Each mission has its own objective. Usually this will either be a patrol or a static scenario. When on a mission the single most important thing is that we must be self-aware, and conscious of **what** we are doing, and **why**. Movement: is there any reasonable suspicion that the patrol may be ambushed or attacked? If so, any time we stop, we need to get down. Teams must move forward in bounds, noise must be kept to an absolute minimum. But it would be foolish to act this way on a routine patrol through an area that has previously been occupied by other security units and in which we have no reason to expect any imminent assault. Conduct on a patrol will be stipulated by the nature of a mission, and by what happens on that mission. The most routine security patrols might resemble a casual march. Maybe we do this every day as much to relieve boredom, and to keep busy as for any other purpose. Not every patrol is going to be faced with the threat of being in combat at any second. Rather than hiding and concealing ourselves we may actually want to maximize our visibility to intimidate partisans and if possible, to boost the morale of local inhabitants. But maybe we are investigating a German position that has mysteriously gone silent. Maybe we've stumbled on clear signs of very recent partisan activity. Conduct on such a patrol would be very different. It is the same with static positions, we could be guarding a road used by German forces every day without incident or we could be staring at a field where enemy probing attacks have

caused losses again and again. We must keep our guard up, but also understand that we are in a rear area and not really a combat unit. Our goal is to replicate what we, *now*, in our current-day form and ability, would have/could have realistically been doing *then*.

Regardless of the nature of our mission, if our small teams need to be separated we establish solid check-in points and times. Whenever possible, we will rotate people in and out of positions to keep people alert and ready. In any case, no matter what the scenario, weapons must always be close by.



9. Uniform and Equipment Requirements

Every unit member is required to own and obtain all of the items on this list. This is your “kit” and is the core of your impression of a Wehrmacht soldier. To help guide your purchases and enable you to care for them properly, in many cases we have been able to provide information on how these items should fit and how to maintain them. This information is from the 1942 Wehrmacht guidebook "Hilfsbuch für den Hauptfeldwebel." We are happy to discuss any potential purchase, and will work with any member to help get the best deal on usable quality items.

Our unit impression is an important part of what makes us who we are. Sicherung units were assigned an extremely low priority in supply and were faced with chronic shortages of equipment. The troops were irregularly equipped with whatever was available. We try to reflect this reality in our unit “look” while tailoring our unit impression to individual event scenarios where appropriate.

A note on the use of original items: We do allow original items to be used in some cases. However, WWII artifacts are now over 70 years old, and may no longer be suitable for field use. Leather in particular can become very fragile with the passage of time. Original items are collectible and have collector value which may be lost as the condition of the item worsens over the course of several reenactments. Therefore, we strongly recommend obtaining new reproductions whenever possible.

REQUIRED ITEMS:

Tuchsachen (wool uniform items): All members must obtain a quality reproduction wool Feldbluse (field blouse) and Hosen (trousers). New members must obtain the M40 Feldbluse and M40 Hosen. Acceptable optional Feldbluse models are M34, M36, M42, M43 and reissued Czech, Austrian or Dutch uniform jackets, provided one already owns the M40. Feldbluse must be complete with all necessary insignia including white-piped wartime or pre-war shoulder straps, Bevo woven breast eagle and first or second pattern generic collar tabs. Pre-war tunic models should have the wool nap removed and have post-1938 insignia applied, with unbacked generic Litzen, to give the appearance of a reissued garment. Belt hooks should be worn. Besides the required M40, any model of Heer issue trousers is acceptable as long as they are quality reproductions- the only exceptions are M44 trousers and the trousers intended for armored vehicle crews. The Feldbluse has to fit over a sweater in such a way that it is wide and blousy in the torso, and the man is not hindered in his movements. The belt buckle sits between the two bottom buttons. The bottom edge of the sleeve should extend 3 cm below the wrist. The collar bind (when worn) should extend 0.6-1 cm above the edge of the collar. Tuchsachen are, if possible, not to be washed. They are to be cleaned by beating and brushing. It is forbidden to use wire brushes. The lining of the wool uniform items should be cleaned with soap and a soft brush, then the soap is to be removed with clear water.

Mantel (greatcoat): M36, M40 or M42 model can be worn, quality reproduction only. The lower edge should extend to the middle of the calf. Sleeves should be 1-2cm longer than the sleeves of the Feldbluse.

Drillichuniform (HBT uniform): The reed green HBT uniform is also required and will be worn in warm weather, and as a work uniform. The two-pocket reed green tunic is required for new members. The M42 or M43 4-pocket pattern with insignia (second pattern generic Litzen, breast eagle and wool shoulder straps) is also permitted as an optional alternate item for those who already have the 2-pocket version.

Diensthemd (service shirt): Quality reproduction or identical post-war issue only. Should be white, gray or green, with or without pockets (pocketless version preferred). Knit type is preferred. Swedish-type collarless knit shirts are also permitted. A white "tank top" style undershirt may also be worn in addition to the Diensthemd, or as a substitute for the Diensthemd in hot weather. Original undershirts were commonly made of a smooth non-ribbed material.

Feldmütze (field hat): New members must obtain the M34 pattern field cap, without branch soutache. Other models of the wool Feldmütze are permitted as optional items, either M42 or M43, for those who have already obtained the M34. The cap must be a quality reproduction with insignia sewn on. Only wool Feldmützen are permitted, no tropical or HBT caps. No camouflage gear is allowed. The Feldmütze should be worn tilted slightly to the right, so that the bottom edge is about 1 cm above the right ear and 3 cm above the left, and about 1 cm from the eyebrow in front. The cockade should be in line with the middle of the face and the cap has to cover the back of the head.

Koppel and Koppelschloss (leather belt and buckle): The Koppelschloss must be the Army "Gott mit Uns" style, in either pre-war aluminum or wartime steel, painted green. Belt must be a quality reproduction. The belt rests on the hooks of the Feldbluse, and should be above the rear belt of the Mantel. The middle of the eagle of the Koppelschloss should be in line with the buttons on the front of the Feldbluse, or in the center of the lines of buttons on the Mantel.

Patronentaschen (cartridge pouches): Original, post-war or reproduction blackened leather pouches for the K-98 rifle. One or both pouches may be worn. Reproduction Czech-style 2-cell pouches are also permitted, as are WWI pattern German M1909 pouches.

Brotbeutel (bread bag): Should be postwar or reproduction. Original wartime bread bags were varying shades of brown, tan, or olive, while gray ones were manufactured before the war. All bread bags must have all the buttons and straps stitched on; riveted straps and buttons are found on inferior-quality postwar East German items that are not suitable for use. The M44 pattern Brotbeutel is not permitted. The Brotbeutel is to be cleaned with a soft brush, soap, and warm water. Drying the Brotbeutel close to an oven or stove is prohibited because the leather straps will become brittle.

Feldflasche (canteen): Original, postwar or reproduction canteen complete with brown felt cover and metal or bakelite cup.

Kochgeschirr (mess tin): Original or postwar, painted green. Must be identical to wartime or pre-war type. Standard M31 type is preferred. Reissued M1910 kits, Italian (for later war settings) or French mess kits are also permitted. Salty fluids and remains of food are not allowed to be kept in the Kochgeschirr for long periods of time. During cleaning abrasive materials such as wire brushes, sand etc. are not to be used. The simplest method is water and brush. After cleaning it should be rinsed with hot water and completely dried. Kochgeschirr and Feldflasche are not to be closed until completely dry. With use, a yellow-brown to gray-black layer forms on the metal which has no impact on the taste, look or form of the food. This is a protection against being worn out which should not be removed.

Zeltbahn: Every soldier must have a reproduction triangular shelter quarter/poncho in Army splinter camouflage. The gray WWI-type rectangular Zeltbahn is permitted as an optional supplementary item.

Gasmaske und Träger (gas mask and carrier): Original, postwar or reproduction gas mask canister, painted green. The canister should be complete with all straps. Original straps are fragile and easily broken, postwar or reproduction are preferred. You are not required to carry a gas mask in the can, though it is encouraged.

Seitengewehr (bayonet): Original or reproduction Seitengewehr for the K-98 rifle, with reproduction leather frog. Frog may be either mounted or dismounted style. Czech VZ-24 bayonets are also allowed.

Spaten (entrenching tool): Original or postwar. Shovel must be complete with reproduction leather or Pressstoff carrier. Either the straight shovel or the folding type are acceptable. Swiss straight shovels, if used, must be the round-handled type. Czech or Austrian type pointed shovels are also permitted.

Stahlhelm (helmet): New members must obtain an M35 or M40 helmet with a single decal. The M42 helmet, or helmets without decals, are permitted as an

alternate optional item for people who have already obtained the single decal M35 or M40. WWI type helmet shells (German M16 or M18, Austrian M17) are allowed as an optional item to be worn at specific events, determined in advance; these should be in a reissue configuration with an M31 liner system and single Heer decal. Original, postwar or reproduction shells are permitted (please seek guidance if looking at a reproduction shell); all must be fitted with a reproduction leather chinstrap and the correct style leather liner. Helmet must be painted green. Helmets come in different sizes and before you purchase one, you need to make sure it is the correct size for your head. Seen from the front, the Stahlhelm should be about 1 cm above the eyebrows, and from the side, it should cover half of the ear.

Stiefel (boots): New members must obtain reproduction jack boots. Low boots are permitted as an optional item. Boots should be complete with hobnails. Jack boots should be blackened, low boots can be either blackened or natural colored (for late war scenarios) but must be treated with leather grease at a minimum. Boots must be quality reproduction, no post-war conversions.

Erkennungsmarke (ID disk): We will stamp and issue the tags using correct type German stamps and unit designations as appropriate for our unit.

Decke (blanket): Reproduction, WWII type Italian blankets (brownish gray with tan stripes at each end) or gray or cream-colored wool blankets, with or without stripes, are acceptable.

Socken (socks): Gray knit wool socks. Reproduction types with size rings are encouraged but not required. Any type of sock is sufficient as long as it is gray and appears to be knit from wool. Fusslappen (foot wraps) were very widely used by the Wehrmacht; postwar East German foot wraps are available and usable. All Wollsachen (knit wool items) should be washed in lukewarm water or soapy water. Boiling them, or treating them with hot water, as well as the use of brushes for cleaning, are forbidden.

Essbesteck (eating utensils): All members must carry an issue folding spoon/fork set (the "spork"), reproductions are widely available.

RG 34 (rifle cleaning kit): Original and identical postwar rifle cleaning kits are available. Must be serviceable; we use these.

Taschenlampe (Flashlight): Various postwar types are available. Must have red and green filters for signaling. The two largest wartime suppliers were Daimon and Pertrix.

Rucksack or Tornister: The Tornister is our preferred "pack," though the Rucksack may be substituted in its place for late war events. Either the WWI-pattern M95 or the WWII-pattern M34 or M39 Tornisters are acceptable. The M95 or M34 model is preferred, as these do not require Y-straps.

Mantelriemen (equipment straps): Should be reproductions or identical postwar types. You need to have at least 5 equipment straps.

Waffen (Weapons): Every member must have a Gewehr (rifle), either an original rifle, or one that has been postwar arsenal reworked by another country (such as Yugoslavia). Rifles must be complete with slings. When possible/applicable, rifles should be complete with cleaning rod and sight hood. Any of these rifles are acceptable:

- K98k
- Vz24
- G98(m)
- Kar98AZ
- Kar98a
- Wz.29
- Wz.98

Every member must have a rifle from the above list but can also use the following, as scenario permits:

- MP 38, MP40
- MG 08/15
- MG 34, MG 42
- Czech ZB26, ZB30
- Russian machine guns

Only one person is allowed to carry an MP at any given event. Anyone intending to use an MP should make that clear prior to the event to avoid any issues.

When a machine gun is used, it is to be complete with all accessories for the gunner and team, as needed. The gunner should have a tool kit and pistol, if required by regulation for that weapon. Members portraying roles other than the MG gunner are permitted to use a pistol as a sidearm at garrison events only, except as ordered based on specific scenarios.

Soldbuch (pay book): This must be carried at all times. Members must supply a blank book which the unit will fill out and update as needed.

Rasierzeug (shaving kit): All members must have a usable period type razor for shaving. The razor can be an original as used in the 1900s-1940s, or a new razor in the same style (made today by Merkur, among other brands). A shaving brush, a dedicated shaving bowl or mug, period type soap, and a small pocket mirror may also be helpful, though only the razor is absolutely required.

OPTIONAL ITEMS:

Not mandatory, but helpful. Here are some other items you may wish to purchase.

Koppeltraggestell (Y-Straps): Quality reproductions of the leather straps. Must be the standard Infantry type with D-rings for attachment of the rucksack. Use of these is generally discouraged.

Kopfschützer (Toque): A knit wool tube worn on the neck or head, under the Feldmütze or Stahlhelm. These were often issued in pairs. Reproduction or postwar allowed.

Schal (scarf): Plain color gray, green or blue, postwar or reproduction, with or without a stripe on the end.

Handschuhe (gloves): Postwar or reproduction gray knit wool gloves, with or without size rings. Period civilian type gloves or mittens are acceptable.

Fettbüchse (butter dish): They may be orange, black, white or green plastic, or made of metal. This is carried in the Brotbeutel and used to hold spreads such as butter, lard, honey or cheese.

Esbitkocher (Esbit stove): A small collapsible ration heating stove capable of warming a can of soup when a fuel tablet is used. This handy device is still in production to this day.

Zeltausrüstung (Tent poles and pegs): Either reproductions, or postwar surplus items that closely resemble wartime types. Camouflage bags for the tent poles and pegs are Swiss made and are not correct.

Personal Items Guidelines: Personal items are key to a great impression. Many such items are available as originals or reproductions including photos and letters from home and other paperwork, pens/pencils/erasers, combs and hygiene items, bandages, food and drink items, etc. You will want a period-type sewing kit for maintaining your uniform in the field. Try to get a wooden or bone-handled toothbrush and period-type toothpaste or tooth powder. If you want to smoke that is fine but NO FILTERS, and don't use any plastic or modern lighter, use a period type lighter or matches. Be creative with this, look for period type handkerchiefs and hand towels, can openers, pocket knives, playing cards, wallets, notebooks, clothing brushes, use your imagination!

10. Minimum Equipment Standards for Events

What equipment is worn at any time at an event is dependent on the specific situation. We have set standards for the minimum amount of equipment expected to be worn on sentry duty, when on patrol, and when we are deployed as combat troops. Individuals tasked with specific missions may wish to carry (or be ordered to carry) items beyond the minimum standard, such as binoculars for the leader of troops on observation duty, or a map case for a messenger.



I.) Sentry Duty, Guard Duty, or routine duties in barracks:
Single ammunition pouch on left side, bayonet, gas mask canister.



II.) Patrols and Observation Duty in the field. Same as the Guard Duty requirement, with the addition of the bread bag and canteen.

III.) Combat Duty. Full gear, including Zeltbahn and mess kit. Use of two ammunition pouches is optional. Other ways of carrying this gear are also permitted, but all must be carried. At least one man is to be equipped with an entrenching tool when we deploy as combat troops.



11. Safety Policy

Reenacting is a hazardous activity. We traverse difficult terrain and obstacles, use abandoned buildings in a variety of physical conditions, detonate and generally manage explosive materials, and use various weapons. We as a unit must be accountable for our own conduct. Each man is responsible for immediately addressing any dangerous conduct by any unit member.

12. Social Media Policy

Members of our unit have a range of political views, which is great. Some are passionate about their views and that is fine. As reenactors we are, and must, remain apolitical. Many members have social media accounts that are primarily for interacting with reenactors. Any social media account (on Facebook or elsewhere) that has your impression name, or that primarily exists for the purposes of reenactor discussion, is regarded as a reenactor account. Non-reenactor personal social media accounts are beyond our scope. But on reenactor accounts, for members of this unit, **NO MODERN POLITICAL POSTS WHATSOEVER**. The only exception would be about things like legislation or press coverage that very directly relates to the hobby in an immediately obvious way. Allowing **NO** political posts on reenactor social media accounts is the only fair way to ensure that we remain totally apolitical as ambassadors of our unit on the Internet.

Likewise, negative comments about any other reenactor, any other reenactment group, or any reenactment event, on any social media platform, opens the door for drama, and can only create problems. Such comments are **NOT ALLOWED ON SOCIAL MEDIA**. We need to focus on leading by example and sharing information, and keep it professional.

If you want to scold/rebuke/criticize any fellow Sicherungs Regiment 195 unit member, think twice. We are all men and can take some well-meaning negative criticism when appropriate, but we are also Kameraden who should be looking to help each other rather than hen-pecking. If negative criticism is warranted, post it on our private unit forum or simply message the person in private. Do not upbraid other unit members in public or on social media. That is poor Kameradschaft.