

The Birmingham Pals Living History Association

British Infantry Kit List

Basic Kit

The minimum required to attend uniformed events:

This kit lists covers the minimum needed to turn out and parade and take part in uniformed events and camp life scenarios. In regards to quality it is advisable to get the highest quality equipment one can afford.

Names of trusted and quality uniform suppliers are **Khaki on Campaign**, **Pegasus Militaria**, **Soldier of Fortune**, **What Price Glory** and **Lawrence Ordnance**.

Names to be avoided: Padelatters and Replicaters or any company based in India/Pakistan.

Boots:

These should ideally be the brown rough out B5 Pattern with leather soles with hobnails and leather laces. Other types of boot are acceptable, such as black toe cap-less naval deck boot. **William Lennon** or **Soldier Of Fortune** can supply B5 pattern boots

Socks:

Ideally these should thick and made of wool so as to cushion the foot in new boots.

Puttees:

These should be long and made of khaki wool. They can be purchased from **Soldier Of Fortune**, although purchasing 1980's British Army short puttees and joining them together is a cheaper and more authentic option.

Trousers:

High wasted khaki serge service dress trousers with buttons attached. It is a good idea to add extra buttons in case any fall off on exercise. Usually these are purchased together with the service dress jacket as a complete suit.

Braces:

Ideally these should be made of white canvas with leather tabs. Current issue Guards braces are an acceptable substitute.

Shirt:

Any of the following are acceptable: woollen bib-fronted “greyback” shirt, a white cotton collarless “territorial” type shirt, or a collarless period civilian pattern shirt.

Service Dress Cap and/or Trench Cap:

The **Service Dress (SD) cap** is **stiff cap** to be worn on parades. Sourced ideally from **Khaki on Campaign** or **Soldier Of Fortune**.

A **Soft “Trench” Cap**. This can be worn as an alternative to the SD cap listed above.

Service Dress Jacket (tunic):

A khaki wool tunic with original buttons. **Soldier Of Fortune, What Price Glory, Pegasus Militaria, khaki On Campaign** and **Khaki Devil** are ideal suppliers. Indian supplier’s quality is variable as best.

Advanced Kit

This can be acquired after the basic kit in order to take part in displays and tactical events.

Identity Disks:

Disks should comprise of red and green tags, stamped with **Name, Number, Regiment** and **Religion**.

Walking Out Belt:

Brown leather Pattern-14 type with snake buckle, or webbing type 1908 pattern belt. Obtainable from **Soldier Of Fortune, What Price Glory, Military History Workshop**, or from within the group.

Webbing equipment - 1908 pattern:

A full set will be required consisting of a **belt, bayonet frog, helve carrier, entrenching tool carrier, braces, ammunition pouches, haversack** and **large pack**. The “High Quality” set offered by **Soldier Of Fortune** is the preferred set.

1914 Pattern Leather Equipment - this was worn by the Pals up to late 1916, and is an acceptable substitute for the 1908 Pattern equipment listed above.

.303 Short Magazine Lee Enfield Rifle (SMLE):

The Birmingham Pals were equipped with the SMLE from summer 1915 onward. This is the only type of rifle they used overseas. Either a live rifle held on a **Section 1 Firearm Certificate**, or a deactivated rifle. Members can advise on licensing.

A **European Firearms Pass** will be required to take firearms to events on the Western Front.

1907-Pattern Bayonet:

17 inches long preferably original. These can be found at almost any Militaria Fair or online.

Rifle Sling:

Webbing or leather type - leather slings are available through the group.

Pull-through and Oil Bottle:

These are to be stored in the butt trap of the rifle. These are readily available at Militaria Fairs, online (Ebay etc.) or kit suppliers.

Entrenching tool:

Mess tin and cover:

“D” tin-type mess tin with a khaki cotton cover.

Helve (handle):

Either original or from **Soldier Of Fortune**. (Replica ones can be sanded and stained to give a better appearance).

Personal Kit Roll:

Made of white canvas. Contents at owner’s discretion, but ideally containing knife, fork, spoon, razor, shaving brush, soap, toothbrush, spare laces and comb.

Spare ration bag:

White canvas bag that carries unused fresh rations.

Housewife:

A small sewing kit with needle and thread and spare buttons.

AB64 Pay Book:

First field dressing:

To be stored in the special pocket in the tunic.

Clasp Knife:

British army type held on a string type lanyard wrapped around waist.

Smoke Hood:

An early type gas hood with square window. It should be stored in its own pouch.

PH Hood:

A later type gas hood with goggle type eye pieces.

Small Box Respirator:

Steel Helmet:

Brodie type with leather chinstrap.

“Gor Blimey” type cap:

Available from either **Soldier Of Fortune** or **Khaki On Campaign**.

Bandoliers:

Cotton, 50 round bandoliers with hook or press-stud type closers.

Optional Kit

Woollen balaclava, gloves, and scarf: Useful for winter events.

Inert .303 ammunition: At least 5 rounds held in a charger.

Greatcoat: Single breasted type.

Mills Bomb: No5 type, resin or deactivated.

General Service Shovel:

Hessian Sandbags: