**4th Kompanie Groβdeutschland – New Member Guide**

4th Kompanie Grossdeutschland living history and reenactment group bases its impression around February 1945 when the elite Wachtregiment Berlin, a ceremonial sub-unit of the elite Grossdeutschland formation, deployed from its duties in Berlin to fight on the front around the Seelow Heights to the east of the city. Here it became engaged in fierce fighting defending the city and its population from the Russian onslaught seeking revenge. It fought alongside a wide mix of units from other seasoned regiments through to '2nd rate' and Volksturm detachments with every man fighting for his very survival. Portraying this particular period and time allows our display to incorporate a wide range of different things, from the elite men of GD wearing brand new M36s, and still issued the very best of kit, through to the later issued equipment. It also allows us to showcase our drill displays which would have been a crucial basic part of every soldiers training, instilling in them a sense of kameraderie and discipline. We have a wide range of elements to our display, from a rear echelons camp, through to an impressive drill and firing display, as well as being able to take part in battle reenactments using authentic commands and manoeuvres with an Sdkfz 251c Halftrack, BMW R71 motorbike and sidecar, and a whole assortment of weaponry.

**Kit list and priorities!**

This is intended to be a bit of a bible for all new recruits who are looking at starting out and buying their kit. There will be sections on here for the lads and for the lasses and some suggestions for children, but the very fact that they all tend to be different sizes, makes it very hard to give a definitive answer on where you should go, and what size you should buy. All of these prices are a guide – and you can pay a lot more or a lot less than what is detailed below – but it gives you a rough idea, and if you’re lucky and spend enough time hunting Militaria fairs and Ebay, you’ll probably be able to save quite a bit of money!

Antony at Militaria-net is the unit recommended supplier, and if you mention my name and the unit he usually looks after you and gives you a good deal (usually around 10% off), as well as making sure you get the right kit – although that’s not to say that you’ve got to use him, or that he’s the best or cheapest.

Other potential suppliers are Soldier of Fortune, Epic Militaria, Richard Underwood, or there are numerous FB groups where people sell kit. Often you can pick bits up along the way as people sell stuff off second hand.

Finally, as a general rule, if you aren't sure that something is right, then post it up on the group first and ask if it’s correct! There is nothing worse than spending money on kit and then getting told you can't use it because it’s inauthentic!

**General Points**

**Tents:-**

3 types are acceptable on the display

Zelts – the most common type of tent that we would have used – 4 zelts make a basic tent, with one collapsible pole (most people prefer to modify a broomhandle rather than use the 4 sectional poles that would have been used – to provide extra strength). A 4 zelt will comfortably sleep 2, althought 3-4 at a push. An 8 zelt can obviously fit more in depending on how big they are. Disadvantage to these being that they are more fragile as they are buttoned together. Also, because of their low height, you can not stand in them. Due to their low height, most people prefer to sleep on the floor or the low camp beds/air beds.

Bell Tents – £300 from Canvas Tent Shop Online – comfortably sleep 4 people, with the added advantage of being quick and easy to put up, and pack down fairly tightly with only 1 pole. Another big benefit of these is that you can stand up in them and fit the taller camp beds – plus hang your uniforms etc. from the centre pole.

Officers Tents – tend to be expensive to sleep 2 people, but you can comfortably fit 2 big camp beds in them and all your kit – numerous suppliers

All other tents are to be used at the very back of the display and packed down during authentic hours or used on the plastic camp.

**Weapons**

The standard infantry weapon was the k98, and only accepted variants of this will be permitted. It is expected that all members will work towards getting one of these in their first two years with the unit. Obviously we are sympathetic to different people’s circumstances and this can be discussed with the unit leaders. Best option for rifles is a live firer – requiring a gun cabinet and firearms certificate, failing that a deactivated rifle, an airsoft one or a Denix replica– but the latter can be very poor quality. We will discuss this with new members as and when they are looking at buying one.

Pistols are a big no-no on the field. By all means buy them for camp, but that doesn't mean you'll get to use them on the field! It's looks absolutely shocking if we all went on their popping off with 8mm P38s!

We also like Machine Pistols, mortars, MGs, mines, Panzerfaust etc – but please focus on getting a rifle first – we have much of these already and can put together very good displays moving forward if people do move on to get hold of them.

**GD Soldaten**

Sources For Information

[**http://members.shaw.ca/grossdeutschland/**](http://members.shaw.ca/grossdeutschland/)

[**http://www.panzeraufgd.co.uk/**](http://www.panzeraufgd.co.uk/)

[**http://www.panzergrenadier.net/**](http://www.panzergrenadier.net/)

[**http://www.grossdeutschland.com/**](http://www.grossdeutschland.com/)

[**http://gdstab.com/research.asp**](http://gdstab.com/research.asp)

[**http://www.5thkompaniegrossdeutschland.com/about**](http://www.5thkompaniegrossdeutschland.com/about)

[**http://www.dererstezug.com/**](http://www.dererstezug.com/)

[**http://www.9thsspanzer.com/UnitInformation.htm#downloads**](http://www.9thsspanzer.com/UnitInformation.htm#downloads)

[**http://www.wwiireenacting.co.uk/groups.htm**](http://www.wwiireenacting.co.uk/groups.htm)

[**http://www.wehrmacht-awards.com/forums/index.php?s=53ef09a8e482393381560be50f884219**](http://www.wehrmacht-awards.com/forums/index.php?s=53ef09a8e482393381560be50f884219)

[**http://forum.axishistory.com/index.php?sid=25e9657ab42f9743aa1a724fb270ea6f**](http://forum.axishistory.com/index.php?sid=25e9657ab42f9743aa1a724fb270ea6f)

[**http://www.feldgrau.net/forum/index.php**](http://www.feldgrau.net/forum/index.php)

Kit Suppliers

[**http://militaria-net.co.uk/index.php**](http://militaria-net.co.uk/index.php)

[**http://www.sofmilitary.co.uk/**](http://www.sofmilitary.co.uk/)

[**http://www.epicmilitaria.com/**](http://www.epicmilitaria.com/)

[**http://www.richardaunderwood.com/**](http://www.richardaunderwood.com/)

[**http://www.theregaliaspecialist.com/**](http://www.theregaliaspecialist.com/) - Nicholas Morigi

[**http://www.ww2sale.com/**](http://www.ww2sale.com/) - use with caution!

[**http://www.hikishop.com/**](http://www.hikishop.com/) - use with caution!

[**http://www.thehistorybunker.co.uk/acatalog/Uniforms.html**](http://www.thehistorybunker.co.uk/acatalog/Uniforms.html)

[**http://www.zib-militaria.de/**](http://www.zib-militaria.de/)

American Sites:-

[**http://atthefront.com/**](http://atthefront.com/)

[**http://landser.com/**](http://landser.com/)

[**http://www.lostbattalions.com/index.html**](http://www.lostbattalions.com/index.html)

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| **Top priority!** | **Rough Price** | **Supplier/Notes** |
| M36 tunic and trousers, | £100 | Anthony |
| Insignia - breast eagle, infantry litzen, dark green infantry shoulder boards, and early war sutterlin script GD cuff title | £30 | Nicholas Morigi is best, Mil-Net is cheapest |
| Jackboots | £60 | Anthony - or DDR boots off ebay |
| Stahlhelm | £60 | Anthony |
| Belt and infantry buckle | £30 for both | Anthony |
| K98 ammo pouches | £35 |  |
| **2nd priority** |  |  |
| Side cap | £25-30 | Anthony - Erel makes are better quality |
| Bayonet and frog | £40-60 | Anthony |
| Y straps | £35 | Anthony |
| Breadbag | £10 | Anthony |
| Water bottle and cup | £30 | Anthony |
| **Other bits to acquire** |  |  |
| M36 Greatcoat | £100 |  |
| ID tag |  |  |
| Esbit stove | £5 |  |
| KFS set | £5 |  |
| Grenades - egg, stielhandgrenate etc | £10 each |  |
| footlockers to keep your kit in |  |  |
| paperwork - eg. soldbuch etc |  |  |
| Gasmask and tin | £35 |  |
| A Frame and bag | £35 |  |
| Zelts | £25-50 each |  |
| Grey Blankets | £10 each | X2 preferably – useful to cover bedding when in billets to make them authentic. |
| Tornister | £30-50 |  |
| Rations |  |  |
| Torque | £10 | green woolen |
| Gloves | £10 | woolen or black leather |
| Dress Cap (for evenings!) | £50 | black chin strap and vinyl peak! |
| White Shirt and Black tie (for evenings!) |  |  |
| Dress Bayonet, frog and troddel (for evenings!) | £50 |  |

**For Women**

Deutsches Rotes Kreuz – DRK – German Red Cross Nurses

Sources

[**http://drksoutheast.com/**](http://drksoutheast.com/)

[**http://womensreenactment.jimdo.com/uniformes/alemania-ww2/drk/**](http://womensreenactment.jimdo.com/uniformes/alemania-ww2/drk/)

[**http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm**](http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm) – good resource for setting the standards

[**http://www.soldat.com/soldat\_rotekreuz\_helferin.htm**](http://www.soldat.com/soldat_rotekreuz_helferin.htm)

[**http://www.webring.org/l/rd?ring=canhallofhonor;id=1;url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eangelfire%2Ecom%2Fma3%2FPaperDolls%2F**](http://www.webring.org/l/rd?ring=canhallofhonor;id=1;url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Eangelfire%2Ecom%2Fma3%2FPaperDolls%2F)

[**http://www.angelfire.com/ma3/PaperDolls/resources.html**](http://www.angelfire.com/ma3/PaperDolls/resources.html) - Very useful site!

[**https://ospreypublishing.com/world-war-ii-german-women-s-auxiliary-services**](https://ospreypublishing.com/world-war-ii-german-women-s-auxiliary-services) - Very useful resource for most things!

**Best bet to find out about DRK kit would be Angela White.**

**Nachrichthelferin – Signals**

**Sources**

[**https://ospreypublishing.com/world-war-ii-german-women-s-auxiliary-services**](https://ospreypublishing.com/world-war-ii-german-women-s-auxiliary-services) - Very useful resource for most things!

[**http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis\_Impressions**](http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis_Impressions)

[**http://353id.org/nach.html**](http://353id.org/nach.html)

[**http://1gd.weebly.com/uniforms.html**](http://1gd.weebly.com/uniforms.html)

**Kit Needed – Price – Where to find/notes**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Top priority!** | **Rough Price** | **Supplier/Notes** |
| Grey Wool Suit, Skirt and Tailored Jacket | £150.00 | Anthony at militaria net |
| Insignia - breast eagle, infantry litzen, dark green infantry shoulder boards, and early war sutterlin script GD cuff title | £30 | Anthony at militaria net |
| Silk Stockings Grey | £12.00 | Ebay |
| White Blouse  | £10.00 | Ebay |
| Plain Black Lace Up Shoes | £20.00 | Ebay |
| Leather Hand Bag Long Shoulder Strap | £15.00 - £20.00 | Ebay/Vintage fairs |
| Grey Wool Great Coat | £30.00 | Search for Soviet Eastern bloc greatcoats on Ebay |

**Peasant**

**Sources**

[**http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis\_Impressions**](http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis_Impressions)

**Kit Needed – Price – Where to find/notes**

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| **Top priority!** | **Rough Price** | **Supplier/Notes** |
| Long Wool or cotton Skirt dark colours Reds/Browns | £10.00 – £30.00 | Ebay/Vintage Fairs |
| Cotton blouse high necked rouged mid length sleeves | £5.00 - £10.00 | Charity Shops |
| Cotton Apron  | £5.00 | Material shop easy to make |
| Plain Shoes or Clogs | £10.00 - £50.00 | Ebay/Charity Shops |

As you can see this is the cheapest kit – and also offers the most individuality – but it also requires the most research to look at period photos and see what kind of kit they would have had and how it looked! Its extremely rewarding doing this kind of portrayal, and also means that you don’t have to worry too much during the day about getting your kit mucky – you can get changed an go out looking a million deutschmarks in the evening!

**For Battling only!**

**Russian Hilfswillige**

**Talk to Ron and Col from the Russians about this to find out where the best places are to find kit.**

**Childrens**

**Russian Prisoner**

Sources

[**http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis\_Impressions**](http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis_Impressions)

**Talk to Ron and Col from the Russians about this to find out where the best places are to find kit.**

**Civilian – Evening Wear**

**Sources**

[**http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis\_Impressions**](http://www.ddayohio.us/Reenactor%20Rosie.htm#Axis_Impressions)

**Kit Needed – Price – Where to find/notes**

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| **Top priority!** | **Rough Price** | **Supplier/Notes** |
| Day Dress | £25.00 – £65.00 | Ebay/Vintage Fairs |
| Cotton blouse high necked rouged mid length sleeves | £5.00 - £10.00 | Ebay/Charity Shops |
| Brogue/Cuban shoes  | £10.00-30.00 | Ebay/Charity Shops Research on Google for 1940’s style |
| Aline knee length skirt  | £10.00-£15.00 | Ebay/Vintage and Charity Shops |