

Authenticity Guidelines for 10th Mountain Impression:

Gold Standard of Authenticity:

Most of us are familiar with how gold is graded for sale. There is 10K, which is sold gold alloyed with other metals for hardness, and is used where the wear is important and cost control is needed. 14K is a better quality with more elemental gold and less alloy. Cost is up, wear is down slightly. 18K is the high end of jewelry gold. It is softer, with even more elemental gold, but wears quickly and is considered fragile. Pure gold is 99%+ pure, and too soft and fragile for most applications. Below these standards are gold alloys not found in jewelry, or gold-like materials – gold filled (meaning a covering of 10k gold over some other metal so it looks like solid gold) and gold washed (meaning the coating is not thick enough to really cover everything). In reenacting and living history, just like in jewelry making, the goal is to look like pure (24K) gold, with compromises for originality (gold content), cost, wear-ability and availability. While a 10K piece may look the same from a distance, up close there is a value in the 18K item. It is up to the individual unit to define what these standards are, and what the minimally acceptable standard should be for their unit. The following is how reenacting quality can be identified and measured.

10K = Minimally acceptable standard

14K = Preferred quality standard

18K = Professional quality standard

24K = .999 pure Collector or Museum grade

10K

- Grooming to WWII military standards, including hair, beards, jewelry, visible tattoos.
- Clothing and gear may be 100% reproduction from vendors approved by the unit, or original items in less than perfect condition. "*Combat serviceable*" would be a good way to describe this level. It may make allowances for modern materials or construction methods, or the use of post-war items that appear identical to the original in color and style, but may vary in weight, material or construction, (French 2 buckle boots, etc) or other areas distinguishable from distances not greater than 5' away.
- Weapons are of a WWII pattern in style and type, with variation in date produced, caliber, markings or other areas distinguishable from distances not greater than 5' away. Propane-fired weapons are allowed at this level. Blank-firing only non guns may be acceptable only after inspection. Paint-ball and "toy" weapons are not allowed.
- Female re-enactors may reenact as males at this level if they can appear and pass inspection as a male soldier from distances not greater than 5' away.

14K

- Grooming to WWII military standards, including hair, beards, jewelry, visible tattoos.
- Clothing may be 100% high-quality reproduction and gear may be 50% reproduction from vendors approved by the unit, or original items in good condition. "Combat ready" would be a good way to describe this level. It may make allowances for modern materials or construction methods, or the use of post-war items that appear identical to the original in color and style, but may vary in weight, material or construction, other areas distinguishable from distances not greater than 2' away.
- Weapons are of a WWII pattern in style and type, with variation in date produced, caliber, markings or other areas distinguishable from distances not greater than 5' away. Blank-firing only non-guns may be allowed at this level after inspection, if materials, weight and construction are indistinguishable from originals from distances not greater than 5' away.
- Female re-enactors may not reenact as males at this level.

18K

- Grooming to WWII military standards, including hair, beards, jewelry, tattoos, with emphasis on distinctive WWII hair styles, moustaches and tattoos.
- Clothing may be 100% reproduction or 100% original and gear should be less than 25% reproduction from vendors approved by the unit, or original items in close to perfect condition. This level is at or approaching "museum quality" in its appearance, and should satisfy most any visual inspection at any distance. It may make few allowances for modern materials or construction methods, with undergarments of a type similar to original patterns. This is where the "stitch-nazi" usually resides.
- Weapons are of a WWII pattern in style and type, with no variation in date produced, caliber, markings or other areas distinguishable on close examination. Only blank-adapted original weapons of the correct date and caliber are accepted.
- Female re-enactors may not reenact as males at this level.

24K

- Grooming to WWII military standards, including hair, beards, jewelry, tattoos, with emphasis on distinctive WWII hair styles, moustaches and the like. Age and physical conditioning are correct for the time and role, using the current military height/weight/age scale.
- Clothing will be 100% original and gear be 100% original in close to "as issued" condition. "Museum quality" would be a good way to describe this level. It makes NO allowances for modern materials, as all items are absolutely original and correct. Pocket contents, materials dating, patterns and styles are absolutely correct and documented for the unit and time portrayed. Identity documents

appear correct for the role, unit and time. Uniform parts are properly matched and assembled per the regulation manuals. Repairs are period originals, or indistinguishable from period originals. Undergarments are correct and original in color and pattern.

- Weapons are of a WWII pattern in style and type, with no variation in date produced, caliber or any other feature.
- Female re-enactors may not reenact as males at this level.

AUTHENTICITY INSPECTIONS:

Inspections are done at events at several different levels, depending on the goals at the event. Most inspections will be visual, conducted from a distance of not further than 5' away, and will look for visual clues for unacceptable items. Uniforms and equipment should be consistent with items known to be used at the time and place in question, by the unit portrayed. If in doubt, a friendly and non-confrontational discussion should ensue with the inspector, unit commander and potential violator involved. Remember, however, that your participation in an event is based in part on your ability to meet the expected authenticity level for that event, and a failure to meet the standard could result in you being asked to leave.

The goal of improving the impression is an ongoing process. While the use of loaner equipment may defer the initial cost of needed items, most entry level members should plan to accumulate their basic uniform and gear within their first year of participation. As better quality items are found, or original gear substituted for reproductions, the level of the impression should gradually rise towards the hypothetical goal of 24K.

Because of the increasing value of original uniforms and equipment, it is discouraged that battle reenactments take place with 18k items, unless it is quality reproduction. Public presentations may be done at all levels, but the higher quality uniforms withstand public scrutiny better than do lesser quality reproductions.

Original items are always preferred, but with the growth of the hobby, quality reproductions may be sourced for many items. In general terms, these reproduction vendors produce material at the following "gold" level:

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| • WWII Impressions (18K) | • STURM (10K) |
| • What Price Glory (18K) | • Hong Kong vendors (10K) |
| • At The Front (18K) | • |
| • R&R Militaria (14K) | • Lost Battalions (closed) |
| • Sportsman's Guide (STURM)
(10K) | • Replicators, Inc. (<i>does not meet standards</i>) |

The following is a list of items that should never be seen.

Time-period mistakes:

- post-war NATO helmet & liner - or any pot with clip-on straps
- post-war pattern uniforms (M51, M65, etc)
- black combat boots/jungle boots
- non-period tentage (M1945 Command Post tents, M1950 Pyramid tents, GP Medium tents, vinyl tents, etc)
- carbines with bayonet lugs and/or 30 round mags (adjustable sights are very late war only)
- short sleeved uniform shirts
- modern appearing food - especially fast food - in the public's sight.

Application Mistakes:

- non US military equipment (i.e. German canteens, Russian rifles, French helmets, etc.)
 - jump boots except with a full paratrooper, FSSF or 5th Rangers impression
 - anything from REPLICATORS INC
 - incorrect or made-up camo patterns (do your research before you buy)
 - 16" barrels on submachine guns (get a SBR stamp & do it right)
 - blank-firing non guns made out of plastic & airsoft anything
 - Tankers jackets or coveralls unless supporting Armor units (701/751 TD)
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Dress Uniform (Class A):

The Dress Uniform will be worn for ceremony purposes on Memorial Day, at funerals or when appearing as a Color Guard or Honor Guard. The uniform should always be in good repair, clean and pressed with all buttons and insignia properly attached and shined.

Preferred: Overseas Cap, Wool O.D. with BOS piping
Blouse, Wool. E.M. (4 pocket tunic)
with BOS devices, rank and SSI attached.
Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M1941
Tie, Wool, Khaki
Trousers, Wool, M1937 (mustard wool)
Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
Shoes, Service Low Quarters (buster browns)

Optional (A): Service Cap, O.D. (walking out only, not for detail wear)
or
Overseas Cap, Wool O.D. with BOS piping
Blouse, Wool, E.M. M-1944 pattern (Ike Jacket)
with BOS devices, rank and SSI attached.
Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
Tie, Wool, Khaki
Trousers. Wool, M-1944
Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
Shoes, Service Low Quarters

Optional (B): Service Cap, O.D. (walking out only, not for detail wear)
or
Overseas Cap, Wool O.D. with BOS piping
Blouse, Wool, E.M. (either pattern)
with BOS devices, rank and SSI attached.
Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
Tie, Wool, Khaki
Trousers, Wool, Ski
Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
Boots, Mountain with Gaiters, Ski-Mountain (White)

Allowable insignia or decoration on blouse: Shoulder Sleeve Insignia (SSI), Rank, Service Stripes, Overseas Stripes (max 2), ribbon bars (see manual for details), name badge, qualification badge(s), CIB/CMB if allowed, Kiska patch if allowed, DI's as authorized. Crossed Skis (unofficial DIs) may be worn on the overseas cap or on the lapel.

Not allowed: ribbon bars except as authorized, combat patch except as earned in active service (except Kiska patch), Distinctive Unit Citation. (See separate insignia instructions for 99th/474th impression)

Field Uniform:

The field uniform will be worn most frequently in displays and for public events. Unless otherwise specified, any of the following uniforms are acceptable to wear at any public event. This can include Summer uniforms in HBT

Preferred: Cap, Ski Mountain (Type 1 or Type 2)
or
Helmet M-1
Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
Trousers, Mountain
Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
Boots, Mountain (Type 1 to Type 4)
Gaiters, Ski-Mountain (LOD)
Jacket, Field, Mountain

Optional (A): Cap, Jeep or
or
Helmet M-1
Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
Trousers, Wool M-1937
Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
Shoes, Service Low Quarters with Leggings, Dismounted
Jacket, Parsons M-1941

Optional (B): Cap, Jeep or
or
Helmet M-1
Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
Trousers, Wool, Ski

Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
Boots, Mountain with Gaiters, Ski-Mountain
Jacket, Parsons M-1941

Late-War Cap, Field, M-1943
 or
 Helmet M-1
 Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
 Trousers, Field, M-1943
 Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
 Boots, M-1943 (two buckles)

Summer Uniform:

Preferred: Cap, Overseas, Suntan or Helmet M-1
 Shirt, Suntan
 Trousers, Suntan
 Belt, LOD, with Buckle, Open Faced
 Shoes, Service Low Quarters with Leggings, Dismounted

Utility Uniform (also serves as optional Summer Field Uniform):

Typically no rank or insignia are applied to this uniform, as it was intended as work wear in dirty conditions.

Preferred: Cap, Utility, HBT (Daisy May)
 Jacket, Utility, HBT
 Trousers, Utility, HBT
 Belt, OD, with Buckle, Open Faced
 Boots, M-1943 (two buckles)
 Or
 Shoes, Service Low Quarters with Leggings, Dismounted

Optional: Cap, Utility, Denim (Daisy May)
 Jacket, Utility, Denim
 Trousers, Utility, Denim
 Belt, OD, with Buckle, Open Faced
 Shoes, Service Low Quarters

Ski Uniform:

Preferred: Cap, Ski Mountain (Type 1 or Type 2) or Helmet M-1
 Shirt, Wool, M-1937 or M-1941
 Trousers, Mountain
 Optional - white over-trousers
 Belt, OD, with Buckle, Open Faced

Boots, Mountain (Type 1 to Type 4)
Gaiters, Ski-Mountain (LOD or White)
Parka, Ski, Reversible (Type 1 to 5)

Underwear: Any of the following are acceptable, but will not be inspected unless visible around the outer uniform.
Undershirt – LOD or White athletic style or T-shirt style
Undershorts – LOD or white boxer style, button fly
Socks – LOD or suntan cotton or wool or ski socks in white or grey

Field Gear:

Field gear will vary based on application, equipment carried and duties assigned. Because of this, a wide variety is tolerated depending on MOS.

Preferred: Rucksack, Mountain M-1942
Belt, Pistol M-1936
Pouch, First Aid, M-1924 or M-1942
Canteen M-1910/M-1942 and Carrier M-1910
Bayonet M-1 and Scabbard M-7
Entrenching Tool M-1910 and Carrier M-1910 or M-1942 (mountain type)

Optional: Belt, Ammunition M-1923 or M-1936 (10 pocket) – replace pistol belt
Belt, Magazine, BAR M-1937 – replace pistol belt
Bayonet M-1942 or M-1905 and Scabbard M-3 – replace Bayonet M-1
Knife M-3 and Scabbard M-8 – replace Bayonet M-1
Entrenching Tool and Carrier M-1943 – replace model M-1910
Haversack M-1928

Additional: Wire cutters M-1938
Ammo pouches M-1943 – go on pistol belt to hold Garand ammo
Pistol Magazine Pouch M-1916
Grenade pouches – two pocket
Dispatch (Map) Case
Binoculars M-7
Tent, Mountain 2-man

Discouraged items:

The following items are discouraged for a 10th Mountain impression, but may be relevant for other impressions or select specialized impressions within 10th Mountain.

Paratrooper uniforms
Army camouflage uniforms
M-1936 Musette Bag & suspenders (OK for officers & HQ troops only)
Paratrooper boots
Anything USMC or Navy issue
Olive Green web gear or uniforms (except M-43 pattern)

Grooming:

Personal grooming is a major standard in how a re-enactor is compared to a period soldier. In the WWII U.S. Army, a soldier was expected to maintain certain standards of cleanliness and grooming. Hair was to be cut so that it was off the collar and not touching the ears. Usually it was a tapered cut on the sides and back, with longer hair on top. The length on top was supposed to be short enough that a medic could inspect the scalp, but it was not uncommon to see hair up to 4" long on top. Generally an acceptable WWII style haircut will allow a professional look at work or school. It is NOT the "high and tight" haircut found on today's Army base. Sides and back can be tapered or clipper cut with a #4 clipper (1/2") or shorter, while the top should be blended to the sides and back. Sideburns should be short, coming down no more than 1/4 of the length of the ear. Beards, goatees and soul patches are NOT permitted, and a clean-shaven look is preferred. Moustaches are tolerated – usually only on NCOs – and should not extend sideways beyond the edge of the mouth, nor should it be long enough to cover any portion of the lip. Hair color may be any naturally occurring shade.

Tattoos are acceptable IF they can be covered by issued clothing, or if they are a pattern that is commonly found on a WWII soldier. Facial tattoos, neck tattoos and hand tattoos are unacceptable.

Jewelry must be limited to a single ring (or paired rings), necklaces that can be hidden inside a shirt collar (no choker styles), a WWII military style watch, no earrings, nose rings or other piercings visible outside the uniform (except female WAC/ANC who may wear one earring in each ear).

WEAPONS:

In the 10th Mountain Division, almost all weapons in the Army's supply system were issued. Acceptable weapons in order of popularity are:

- M-1 Garand
- M-1903A3 Springfield
- M-1 or M-1A1 Thompson
- M-3 Grease Gun
- M-1918A2 Browning Automatic Rifle
- M-1 Carbine
- M-1911A1 Pistol
- M-1911 Pistol
- M-1903A4 Springfield Sniper
- M-1919A4 Browning Light Machine Gun
- M-1903 or M-1903A1 Springfield
- M-1942 Revolver (early)
- M-1917 Revolver (early)
- M-1897 Shotgun
- M-1912 Shotgun
- M-1919A6 Light Machine Gun (late 1944 on)
- M-1917A1 Medium Machine Gun (until 1944)
- M-2 Heavy Machine Gun (late 1944 on)
- Mortar M-2 60mm
- Mortar M-1 81mm

Weapons that exist in the inventory but are NOT frequently seen in the 10th Mountain Division are:

- M-3A1 Grease Gun (not released until after May 1945)
- M-1903/08 Pistol General Officer's Pistol (not assigned to Combat Infantry)

- M-1A1 Carbine (although 1 photograph of one officer shows one in use in Italy 1945)
- M-1917 Enfield (although reports say that this was used at Ft Lewis only)
- M-1941 Johnson (USMC only)
- M-2/M42 Submachine Gun (not issued widely)
- M-2 4.2" Chemical Mortar
- Liberator Pistol (never an issued weapon)
- M-1C and M-1D Garand Sniper (not issued until after May 1945)
- Savage produced SMLE No4 Mk1* (used at Ft Lewis only)