

# **AUSREENACT**

**6<sup>th</sup> Rifle Division**

**84th Rifle Regiment**

**9<sup>th</sup> Company/2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion**



**Headgear**

**Basic Uniform**

**Winter Gear**

**Equipment**

**Weapons**

**Appearance and Behaviour Standards**

**Further Information**

## Prelude

This impression guide is meant to give an idea about which items should be acquired for a standard Soviet Ryadavoy (Private) and what sort of impression you would like to portray. All items are given a category, either Early War (1941 & 1942), Late War (1943-1945) or used throughout the war, indicated by (E), (L) and (T). A reasonable degree of flexibility is ok as it required lots of time to produce and deliver new equipment to the millions of men that served in the Red Army throughout the war, or to fully retire something from service. Just don't claim to be storming Berlin with 1941 equipment or defending Brest-Litovsk with 1945 equipment. These items are also grouped by similarity, such as headgear, uniform, weaponry etc. Basic information about historical use and implementation, at the end of the document is club specific information, common mistakes for new reenactors, where you can find more detailed information about the items listed and websites we recommend, with some potential issues as well. This is a guide to get you started not a definitive checklist, some items and information are not included to make sure this is not a 50-page document. If you don't see something here or would like more information, just ask. If we can't answer you, then we can tell you where to find the answer.

### Headgear

- M35 Pilotka (T)
- SSh-36 Helmet (E)
- SSh-39 Helmet (E)
- SSh-40 Helmet (T)
- Ushanka (T)
- Budenovka (E)

The Pilotka was used throughout the war without major modifications. Slight variations in colouring of it or the badge are acceptable. Must be at least brown or green in colour. Stars can be red, brown or grey in colour but must have the Soviet Hammer and Sickle on it. If your pilotka does not come with one, you can purchase the star separately.

The SSh-36 Helmet is appropriate for Early War impressions produced in large quantities prior to invasion. It was already being phased out by the new SSh-39 and SSh-40 helmets, but this was not completed prior to invasion. The SSh-39 would itself be completely phased out by the SSh-40 at the end of 1942.

The Budenovka was used during the Winter War and was found to be utterly inadequate. It was almost immediately replaced by a Soviet design Ushanka copied off the Finnish designs. Colour should be brown and have a small Hammer and Sickle star.

### **Uniform (Summer)**

- M35 Gymnastierka Tunic with Collar Tabs (E)
- M43 Gymnastierka Tunic with Shoulder Boards (L)
- M35 Charovari Breeches (T)
- Sapogi High Boots – (T)
- Botinki Low Boots with Putees – (T)
- Underwear, plain white shirt and pants (No stripes, that is Naval infantry) – (T)

### **Uniform (Winter)**

- M35 Telogreika – (E)
- M41 Telogreika with Collar Tabs – (T)
- M41 Vatnie-Sharovari – (T)
- M40 Shinel Greatcoat with Collar Tabs – (E)
- M43 Shinel Greatcoat with Shoulder Boards – (L)
- Valenki felt boots – (T)
- Woollen Gloves – (T)

Towards the end of 1942 and into 1943, the Red Army was reformed, and Stalin reintroduced some privileges the army had under the Tsar, such as shoulder boards and regimental flags, and the uniform changed to reflect these reforms. Designs also usually became simpler if possible. The winter equipment was designed after the Winter War because of the high casualty rates to frostbite and exposure. These changes proved vital during the winter months in the Great Patriotic War.

## **Equipment**

- Leather, canvas and leather, or 'captured' German belt (with appropriate defacing of Nazi symbols and replacement with Soviet ones) – (T)
- Ammunition pouches appropriate to weapon choice (More details included in Weapons section) – (T)
- Aluminium Canteen or glass flask with appropriate cover – (T)
- Tool with appropriate covering, either entrenching tool or axe – (T)
- M36, M39, M41 backpack or M30 myeshok (Myeshok most common and easiest to acquire, but variety would be nice) – (T)
- Pail or kidney style mess tin, or 'captured' Germans mess tin – (T)
- Grenade pouches, various types also included in weapons section – (T)
- Mug – (T)
- Cutlery – (T)
- Gas mask bag, gas mask optional (Gas mask frequently discarded and bag used as extra storage space) – (T)
- Plache Palatka– (T)
- Bread bag/Ration pack – (T)
- Y-Straps – (T)
- Rations – (T)

Leather was expensive so cheaper materials were frequently used for mass production. Each backpack type has different equipment sets so if acquired, ask for what should be included in what you have. They must also be packed in a certain way, but the M30 Myeshok is just a canvas bag which items can be put into in no particular order and expands or contracts based on how much is in it, but use common sense. The gas mask bag was used to store additional personal items, or ammunition. German captured items are sometimes appropriate as they were popular to have. But this is a Soviet impression so try to show off Soviet items, and leave the Germans to show off their items. Same applies to lend lease items, if it is Soviet design with 'Made in US' it is fine. Again, if you are not sure, ask.

The Plache Palatka is a raincoat, a tent, a blanket, a sleeping bag, it can be whatever you roll it into. Instructions have been provided on the forum.

## Weaponry

All firearms must be treated as loaded at all times and the use of them must comply with the rules of the club and the laws of the state. Misuse will not be tolerated.

### Mosin-Nagant (Officially the Three-Line Rifle) & Other Rifles

(M) = Modified

- M1891 Mosin – (M)
- Dragoon Rifle – (M)
- Cossack Rifle – (M)
- M1907 Carbine – (M)
- M1891/30 – (T)
- M1938 Carbine – (T)
- M1944 Carbine – (L)
- SVT-38 – (T)
- SVT-40 – (T)
- Sniper variants equipped with PE, PEM or PU scope (different calibre)

The Mosin rifle (Nagant did not like including his own name in the title) was designed by Captain Mosin of the Russian army in cooperation with Nagant as the request of the Russian government. It has many variants produced by many countries, the above being the most acceptable for Soviet WW2 Reenactors. Many slight differences exist, but the most common in service during the war was the M1891/30. Earlier versions were usually reworked into this model and can only be identified by a pre-1930 stamp. Acquire with a bayonet, sling, canvas or leather, and Mosin ammo pouches, 2 pairs for early war, 1 for late war, pair must match in colour. If you cannot acquire a later variant than an earlier one will suffice.

The SVT-38 self loading rifle was produced in small quantities before the Winter War but was found to be inadequate and production ceased. Its successor the SVT-40 was more successful, but it also had a slowing of production until 1945 when it ceased. The more expensive and complicated mechanisms were not fit for equipping millions of mostly uneducated men.

Also acquire with a sling, bayonet and ammo pouches, 1 pouch with space for two magazines and 1 standard Mosin pouch and reserve pouch for early war, or only 1 pouch for late war due to shortages. Only available as imitation.

### Sub-Machine Guns

- PPD-34 – (M)
- PPD 34/38 – (M)
- PPD 40 – (E)
- PPSH 41 – (T)
- PPS 43 – (L)

The early PPD series were only produced in small quantities with the PPD-40 being the first to be mass produced. Soldiers equipped with one at the start of Barbarossa were authorised 3 magazine pouches. It was quickly replaced by the PPSH-41 which was cheaper and simpler to make. Each came with two drum magazines stamped with the same serial number, therefore only 1 pouch is needed. Box magazines would be developed shortly after, and the appropriate pouch held 3 of these magazines. The PPS-43 is appropriate for later war impressions, it had a similar box magazine and pouch. Soviet submachine guns will only be available as imitations due to firearms laws.

### Grenades and Other Weapons

A large variety of grenades (and grenade pouches) were used during the war for different purposes. Anti-Tank grenades, anti-personnel, smoke grenades, satchel charges and Molotov Cocktails were all used of various models. Try to avoid getting grenade pouches unless you have grenades to put in them. Some of our members have imitation grenades but in very small quantities.

This document does not list every weapon used by the Soviets, as it would be too long a document and a new reenactor might not be able to afford the larger weapons. Also, a standard rifleman or submachine gunner would not have access to those weapons immediately and were not given pistols of any sort (snipers excluded). Not to mention the rarity of those weapons in Australia.

## **Dress, Behaviour and Appearance Standards**

- All members are to keep their uniforms and equipment in a serviceable condition and to wear it correctly
- They are expected to have a short hair cut for all public events
- No facial hair, the Soviets were very strict about facial hair and no one below the rank of General had a moustache
- All members will display the utmost respect for the public
- No member will speak with a media representative unless given express permission (Communist/Nazi Paramilitary Group supports X Party is too good a headline)
- Correct firearms safety will be adhered to at all times. No exceptions. Failure to comply will result in discharge papers.
- Members are expected to behave in a military manner while in uniform. You are representing the club and the men who wore it.

## **Food?**

One of our members makes Soviet Ration packs so do not buy them. They are overpriced. Modern food is tolerated as long as it is out of sight of the public.

## **Medals?**

You can only wear medals if awarded to you by the club. There will be no Georgy Zhukovs. If at tactical events the clinking of medals and the sun reflection would give your position away. So use common sense.



## **Recommended Vendors**

Epic Militaria - <https://www.epicmilitaria.com/british-ww2/ww2-russian.html>

Epic Militaria has many quality reproduction and original Soviet items for sale. Some are based on WW2 designs, others on post war designs, the latter should be avoided. It has reasonable shipping times and cost. However, it is frequently out of stock of certain items and accidentally mislabels them sometime. For example, the 'M41' Greatcoat, is actually an M43 as it has the buttons for shoulder boards and not collar tabs. Nothing serious just be a little careful. Useful for many basic uniform and equipment pieces

The Soviet World - <https://thesovietworld.com/>

The Soviet World has a wide variety of items which are not available from other vendors. Pavlov is a very nice guy and provided updates on shipping times. The prices are reasonable, but the shipping time was fairly long, this was before the War in Ukraine, where they are located. They are still committed to getting items out from their store.

Ostfront - <https://www.ostfront.com/collections/all-soviet-items>

Ostfront is located in America and has expensive international shipping rates, sometimes costing more than the items ordered. Can have some good items, some bogus items, so again be careful. At time of writing, it looks fairly low on stock on interesting items, lots of buttons and badges though.

Soviet Military Stuff - <https://www.sovietmilitarystuff.com/>

Soviet Military stuff has an extensive catalogue which you need to sift through to find WW2 reproduction or original items. Prices seem on par with the other vendors, maybe a little on the high end of the spectrum.

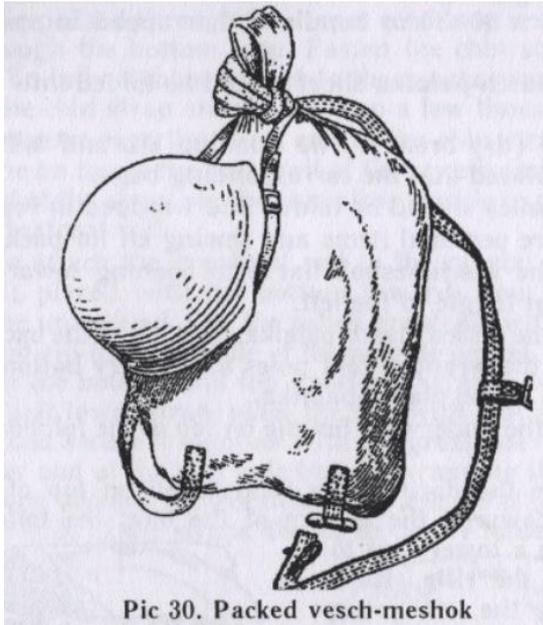
### **Ebay and Facebook Groups**

Use at your own risk.

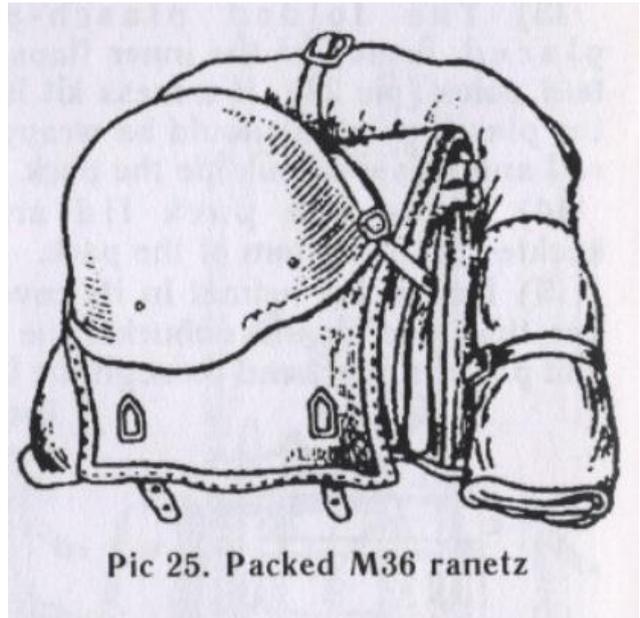
## Diagrams

\*Replace sub-machine gunner with automatic rifleman (SVT-40)

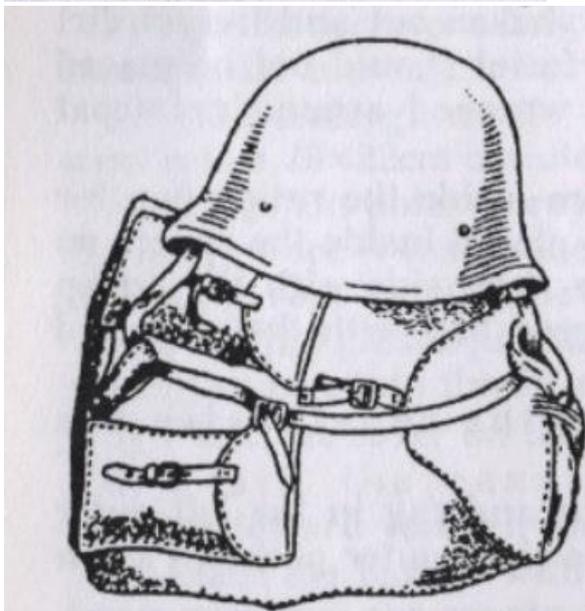
All Diagrams from a translated Soviet field manual, "Instructions on Packing, Adjusting and Wearing Field Gear For the Infantry Soldier of the Red Army: Additional Materials, Ranetz Field Kit of an Infantry Soldier of the RKKA, M1936 and M1939."



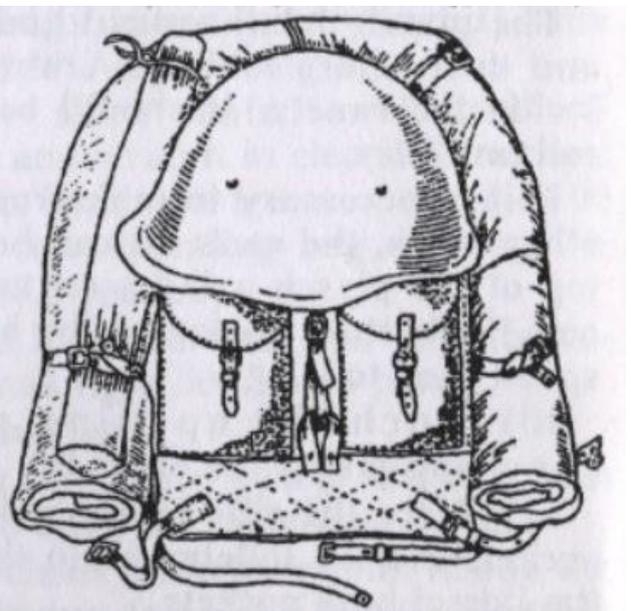
Pic 30. Packed vesch-meshok



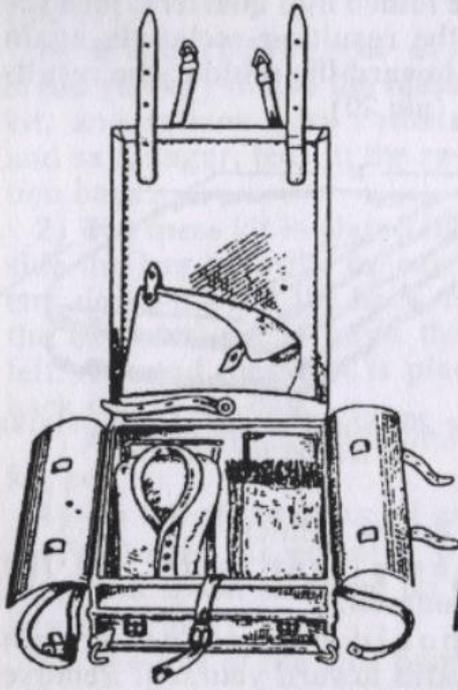
Pic 25. Packed M36 ranetz



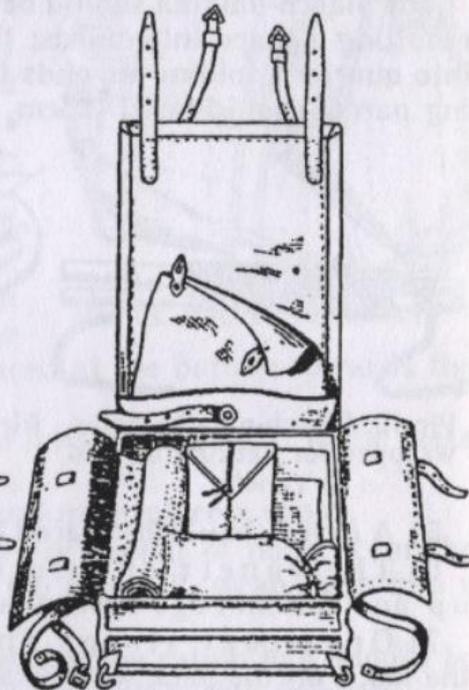
Pic 27. Attachment of helmet to M41 ranetz



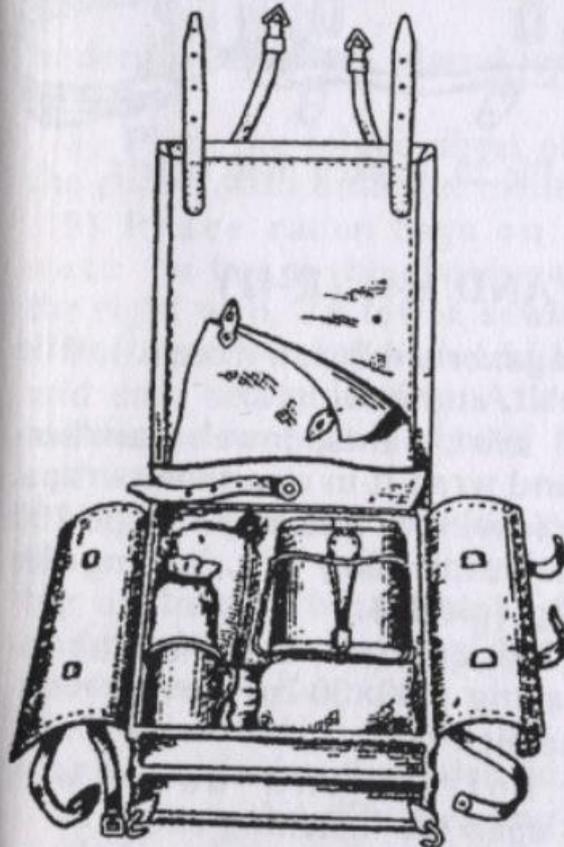
Pic 28. Packed M41 ranetz



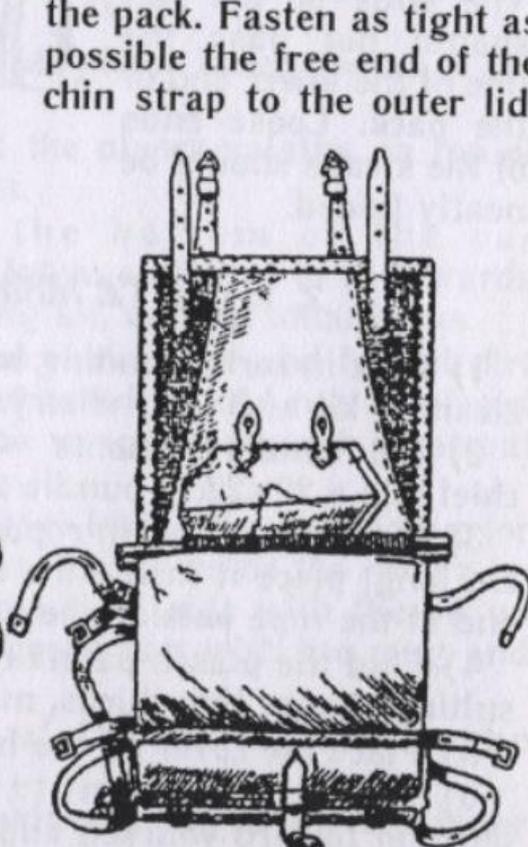
Pic 21. Packing order of the lower level of M36 ranzet



Pic 22. Packing order of upper level of M36 ranzet

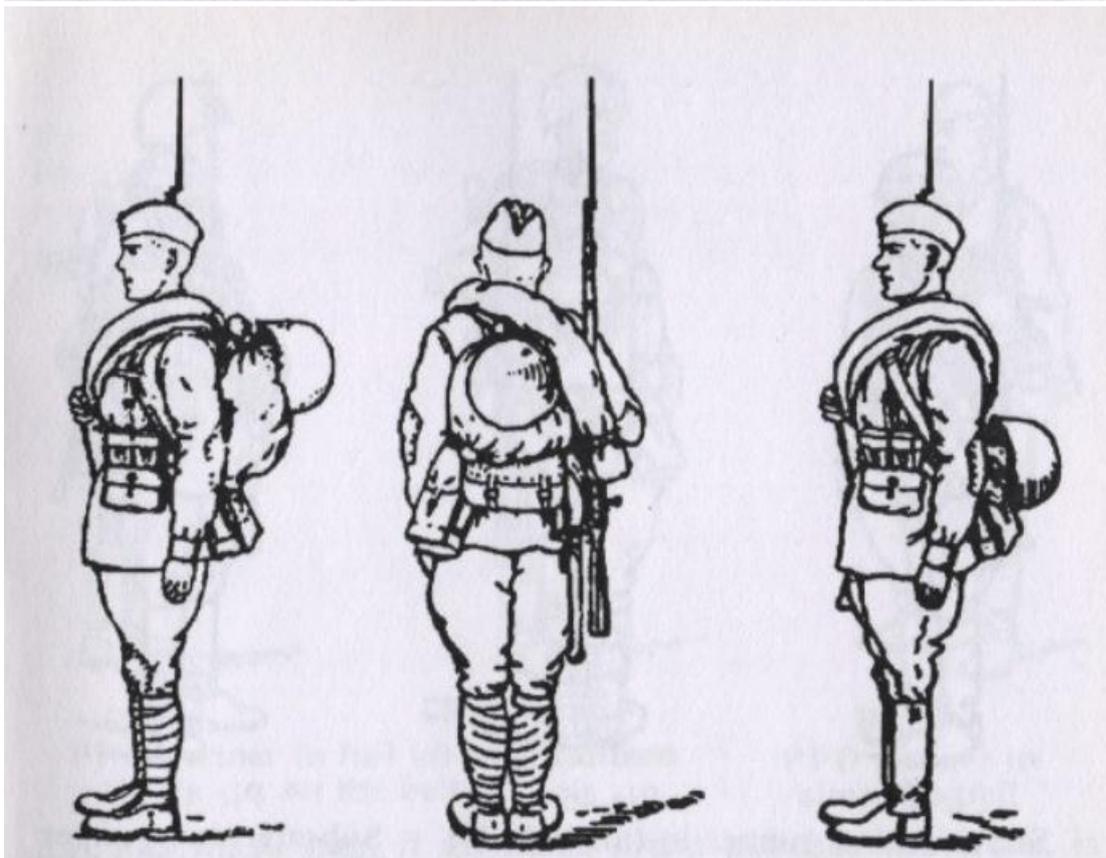
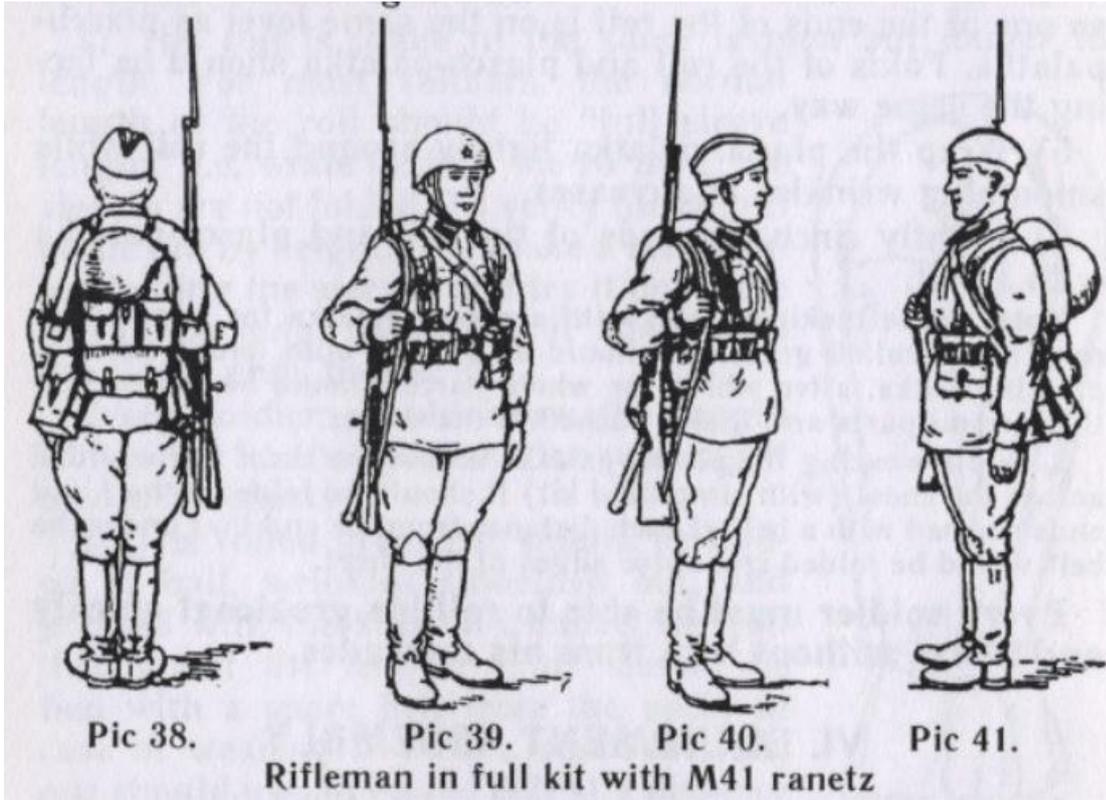


Pic 23. Packing order of upper level of M36 ranzet with mess kit inside



Pic 24. Packing of half-poles and plasch-palatka into M36 ranzet

the upper part of the pack. Fasten as tight as possible the free end of the chin strap to the outer lid.





Pic 45.  
Sub-machine gunner in full field kit  
with M36 ratchet



Pic 46.



Pic 47.  
Sub-machine gunner  
in simplified field kit



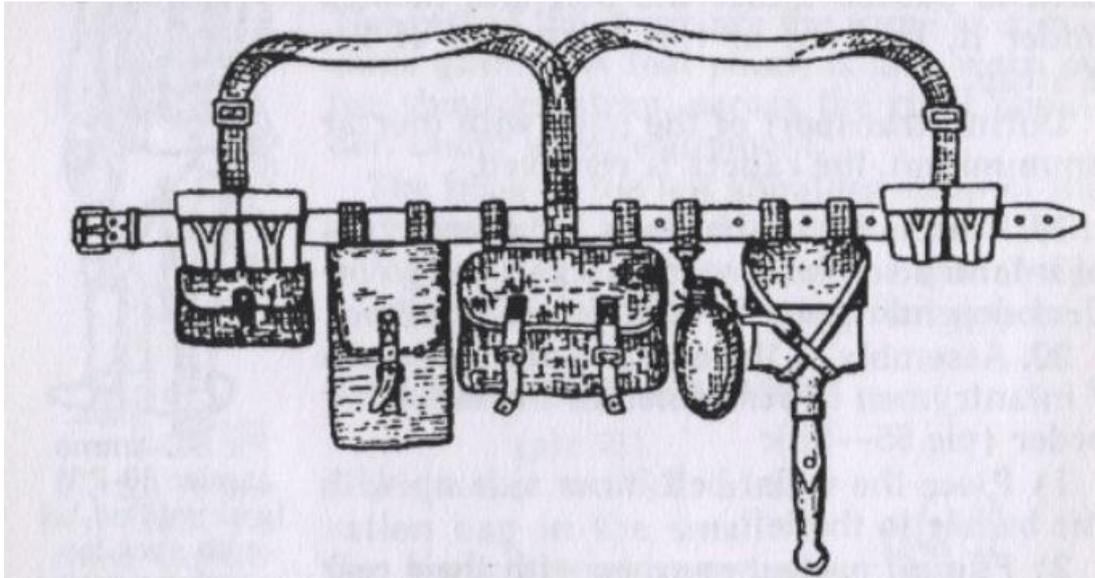
Pic 48.  
PPD gunner in full kit with canteen  
on the belt



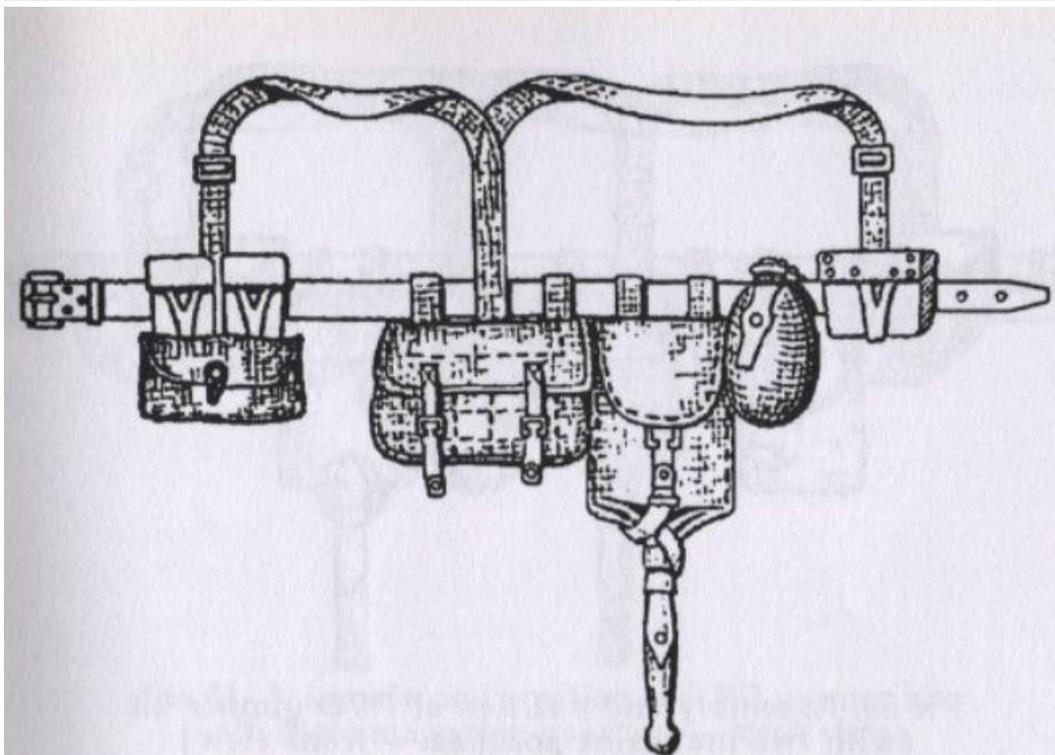
Pic 49.



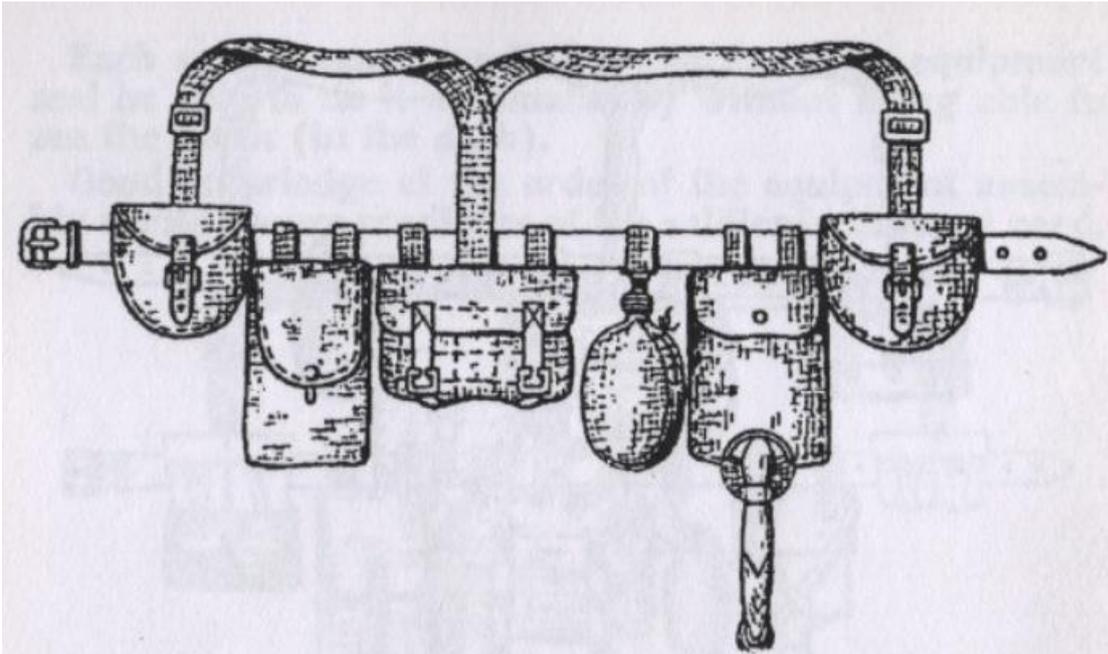
Pic 50.  
PPD gunner in  
simplified kit



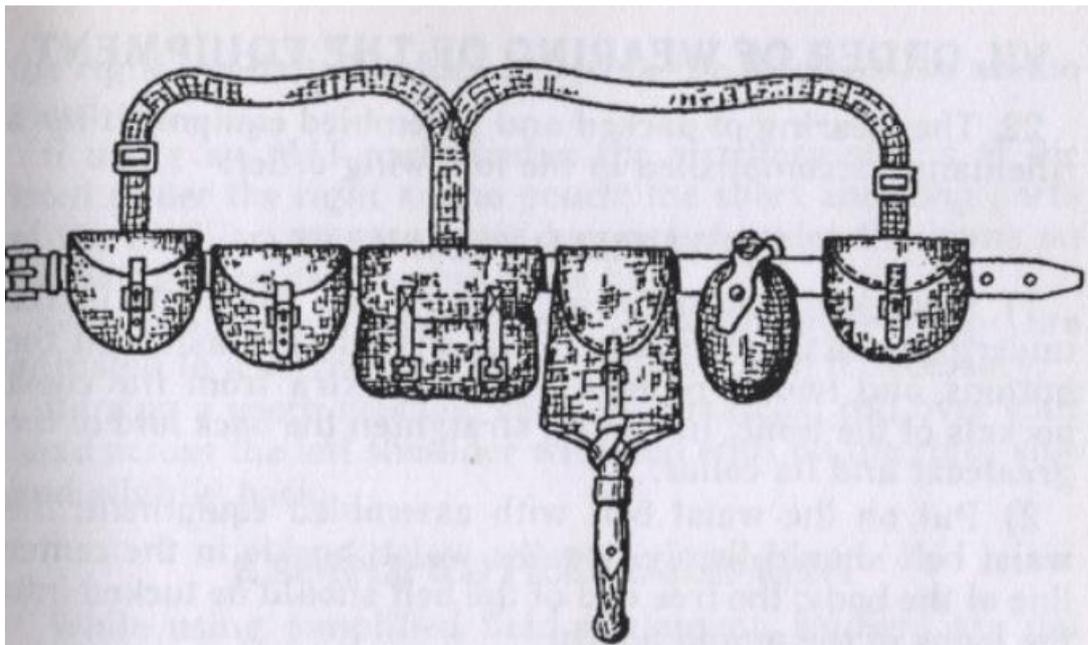
Pic 55. Assembly and position of rifleman kit (front view)



Pic 57. Assembly and position of sub-machine gunner kit (front view)



Pic 59. Assembly and position of PPD gunner kit  
(with two magazine pouches — front view)



Pic 61. Assembly and position of PPD gunner kit  
(with three magazine pouches — front view)