

Army Ground Forces Association

Policies Governing Individual Clothing and Equipment for the 1943 time period at Fort Hancock (exceptions noted as appropriate for 1940-42 time frame). These guidelines are appropriate for any US Army interpretive impression in the central and northern US area in the years as stated below.

SERVICE UNIFORMS (worn in garrison or for special events such as dinners and ceremonies)

- Summer (May-Sept; temperatures above about 65 degrees)
 - Class B - Khaki shirt and trousers with khaki overseas cap and tie. Dickies Brand work clothing is a very near match for this uniform. Enlisted shirts lack epaulets (shoulder loops) and officer's shirts require epaulets.
 - This uniform also serves as a fatigue or field uniform for some early-war impressions (1940 to 1942 in the Pacific or Panama as an example).
 - Class A (optional) - Khaki (or Tan) Tropical Worsted Wool or cotton Four Pocket Blouse (tunic). For Enlisted, Leather Garrison Belt is optional in 1943, required 1940-1942). For officer's, Sam Browne Belt is optional 1940-1942).
- Winter (Oct-Apr; temperatures in the 50s or lower) -
 - Enlisted Class A uniform - M1938 Enlisted Four Pocket blouse (tunic) with OD (olive drab) wool trousers. The M1944 blouse (a.k.a. Ike jacket) was not issued until very late 1944. Worn with OD shirt or khaki shirt. Leather Garrison Belt is optional in 1943, required 1940-1942).
 - Officer Class A uniform - dark OD four pocket blouse with cloth belt (1940-1943) or Sam Browne Belt (1940-1942). Worn with either Dark OD or Khaki officer's shirt (with epaulets) and either Drab (pink) or OD trousers.
 - All "Class A" uniforms shall be void of all valor medals, achievement awards, and discharge patches (Combat Infantry Badge, bronze stars, good conduct, etc) unless authorized by the board of Directors and specifically awarded to the wearer during honorable service in the US Military.
 - Enlisted Class "B" uniform (no tunic):
 - Shirt, Wool, M1937 OD, light shade (mustard), enlisted pattern (without epaulets - shoulder loops)
 - Trousers, wool serge, M1937 OD, Light shade (mustard), enlisted pattern. Be aware that the M1945 trousers are close in color but have a

pocket flap for the rear pocket. This uniform also serves as a fatigue or field uniform for some impressions.

- “US” and “Coast Artillery” brass disk insignia worn on collar of OD shirt (enlisted) with Neck Tie(tucked in between second/third button from collar button).
- Jacket, Field M1941. Original M1941 jackets are expensive and hard to find in good condition, we recommend purchasing an authentic reproduction.
- Officer Class “B” uniform (no tunic):
 - Shirt, Wool, Dark OD, (“chocolate” with epaulets - shoulder loops)
 - Trousers, wool serge, Drab shade (pinks), or Dark OD (“Chocolate”) shade.
 - “rank insignia” (“US” pre-1943) and “Coast Artillery” brass insignia worn on collar of OD shirt and distinctive unit insignia (and rank pre-1943) on epaulets with Neck Tie (tucked in between second/third button from collar button).
 - Jacket, Field M1941. Original M1941 jackets are expensive and hard to find in good condition, we recommend purchasing an authentic reproduction.
- Cap, Garrison (a.k.a. Overseas cap), OD Wool and Khaki cotton, with red (artillery) or other branch appropriate piping (1940 to 1943).
- Hat, Campaign (a.k.a Smokey the Bear Hat), with red cord (or other branch color as appropriate) and acorns (1940-1942).
- Neck tie, khaki (primary - 1941 to 1943), black (1941 and earlier) and OD (starting late 1943)
- Belt, trousers, light OD or khaki with open square frame buckle (field) or closed brass buckle (garrison).
- Socks, light OD wool/cotton cushion sole.
- Low Quarter Russet Service shoes, Russet color to be worn with the Class A uniform required for officers and optional for NCOs. A correct period Oxford type shoe may also be worn.
- Ankle Boots, Russett Brown (Black boots or lug soled boots are NOT acceptable). The ankle boots are preferred as they can be worn for both early and late war events. We recommend purchasing authentic reproductions from either WWII Impressions or At The Front.
- Eyeglasses - if worn, round gold or silver metal frames are time period correct.
- Wristwatches - GI or civilian, correct style of the period.

- If individual weapons are carried, pistol belt or cartridge belts are worn with pistol or M1905 bayonet only - no haversacks (or suspenders), canteens or first aid pouches.

FATIGUE (FIELD) UNIFORMS (worn in field environments such as at Gun Batteries)

- Any time of year:
 - M1937 and/or M1940 Blue Denim two piece uniform with blue Daisy Mae.
 - 1st Pattern HBT (Herring Bone Twill) Uniform with either Daisy Mae or Cap in HBT fabric.
 - 1st and 2nd Pattern HBT Coveralls (light shade) with either Daisy Mae or Cap in HBT fabric.
 - Khaki or OD wool garrison cap can also be worn (seasonal for each).
 - Officers and senior NCOs will wear service shirt under HBT/Blue Denim jacket or coveralls. The shirt will be Khaki (summer) or OD (winter) with neck tie.
- Winter (Oct-Apr) -
 - Shirt, Wool, M1937 OD, light shade (mustard), enlisted pattern (no epaulets - shoulder loops) or officer's pattern (with epaulets and often a darker shade than mustard OD but lighter than OD Chocolate).
 - Trousers, wool serge, M1937 OD, Light shade (mustard), enlisted pattern (for both officer's and enlisted). Be aware that the M1945 trousers are darker in color and have a pocket flap for the rear pocket. This uniform serves as a fatigue or field uniform for some impressions. Both wool shirt and trousers are worn together.
- Jacket, Field M1941
- Leggings, M1938 dismounted, light OD.
- Ankle Boots, Russett Brown
- Neck Tie required for officer's and senior NCOs.
- Appropriate field equipment (see field equipment section).

OPTIONAL UNIFORM ITEMS

- M1939 / M1942 Wool overcoat. The M1939 will have brass buttons and the M1942 coat will have plastic buttons. Either version is appropriate for Fort Hancock.
- Sweater, OD, 5 button, "V" neck, crew neck, or vest. Avoid the modern issue sweater.
- Gloves. Leather palmed wool gloves or OD wool (acceptable for service uniform or field uniform)
- M1938 Mackinaw jacket.

- M1941 "Artic" jacket (though not seen at Fort Hancock in 1943, it is acceptable given the severity of the cold in the winter months).

INSIGNIA

Appropriate insignia follows, and shall be worn on all jackets, shirts, and blouses at the locations indicated:

Fort Hancock, New Jersey and other forts in Harbor Defenses of New York (HDNY)

- 2nd Coast Artillery District / New York/Philadelphia Sector patch or Second Service Command patch
- Distinctive Unit Insignia -primarily the 245th CA Regiment (primary), 265th CA, 7th CA or HDNY. Enlisted wear on campaign hat, overseas cap, and Class A blouse (tunic) collars. Officers wear on campaign hat, overseas cap (pre- May 1942 impressions), and shoulder loops (when uniform has them) for shirts and tunics.

Cape May, Fort Miles, and other forts in Harbor Defenses of Delaware River (HDDR)

- 2nd Coast Artillery District / New York/Philadelphia Sector patch or Second Service Command patch
- Distinctive Unit Insignia - 21st Coast Artillery, 7th Coast Artillery, or 265th Coast Artillery Regiments. Enlisted wear on campaign hat, overseas cap, and Class A blouse collars. Officers wear on campaign hat, overseas cap (pre- May 1942 impressions), and on the shoulder loops (epaulets) for shirts and blouses.

FIELD EQUIPMENT

- Helmet, M1 and liner, w/light OD web straps. This is the primary helmet for Ft. Hancock events which are 1943 time period. Helmet must be dark OD in color and should have the seam in the front with either fixed or swivel bales. Though not required, a WWII period liner is preferred. These liners can be identified as follows - the webbing inside the liner will not be stitched together as this is post- war, the internal loops will be tied together with a cord. The chinstraps of the helmet must be SEWN and not clamped onto the metal loops of the shell.
- Helmet, M1917A1 - worn through summer 1942. Consult an AGFA board member before you purchase this helmet, as it is easy to make a mistake and purchase a British or US WWI helmet (M1917).

- Cartridge Belt, M1910 or M1923, light OD or khaki or Pistol Belt M1936 or M1910.
 - The M1936 suspenders and mussette bag shall be worn by officers and senior NCOs at their discretion on the cartridge belt or pistol belt.
 - The cartridge belt may be either worn by itself or with the Haversack (preferred w/Haversack, M1910 or M1928), both methods are proven through period photographs and accounts. If a canteen and/or inert ammunition is carried, the haversack will be worn. The intent is to keep the belt at waist level and not to let it "sag".
- Canteen, M1910 or M1942 with light OD or khaki cover and cup.
- Pouch, First Aid, M1910 (two button) or M1942 (single snap), light OD or khaki with Carlisle first aid packet
- Haversack, M1910 or M1928, with meat can carrier, light OD or khaki.
- Meat Can (Mess Kit), M1910 or M1926 with utensils.
- Entrenching tool, M1910 (T-handle shovel), with M1910 carrier.
- M1A1 service gas mask and bag. This is the early war kidney shaped bag.
- When purchasing equipment it is better to look for gear from the early part of the war, pre-1943. These items will be more khaki in color, which is correct for our impression. Dark OD green items were issued later in the war and should be avoided. M1944 and M1945 field gear will not be worn for 1943 or earlier period events.

HISTORIC WEAPONS (primary for individuals)

- M1905 16" Bayonet (including those manufactured in 1942/43 or reproductions)
- M1903 Rifle, with reproduction M1907 leather sling or web sling. The M1903 is most common rifle within Harbor Defenses. Demilitarized bolts provided by AGFA to members and guests for use at Fort Hancock.
- M1 Garand Rifle, with reproduction M1907 leather sling or web sling. This rifle began to appear at Fort Hancock in the summer of 1942. Demilitarized bolts required by AGFA members when at Fort Hancock.
- M1 Carbines cannot be used at Fort Hancock or Cape May unless they are theatrical dummies).
- M1911 and M1911A1 Pistols (good quality theatrical dummies required at Fort Hancock and Cape May). Used by officers and senior NCOs as appropriate.