

Armée Française Guidelines
Series B-Reservist (213^e)
Metropolitan Army
11/26/2021

These guideline are being put together to help new reenactors who want to portray the 1939-40 French Reservist (Series B) impression. There are several documents and YouTube videos covering the Active 1940 French Soldier (Series A). This information is directed to those who want to be a 1939-40 French Reservist (Series B). Since Reservists (in all periods) use equipment from the previous war, WW1 French reenactors will already have much of the equipment needed to portray a 1939-40 French Reservist.

The information presented was taken from **Fall Gelb: 1940 France** (Mark Ragan) and expanded with information from **"1940 Le Soldat Français" by Oliver Bellec, Tome 1 & 2** and **"MAI-JUIN 1940 L'ARMÉE DE TERRE FRANÇAISE" by Oliver Bellec** . These books are back in print and can be obtained at https://www.librairie-hussard.fr/librairie/livres_details/4507 & https://www.librairie-hussard.fr/librairie/livres_details/4508 for 29.95 Euro each, plus shipping.

I welcome all comments and suggestion, but add this one request. If anyone has anything to add or modify, please reference the source for your comments so we can all research it ourselves.

These guidelines will be presented in four parts

1. Uniforms/Clothing
2. Web/Field Gear & Weapons
3. Personal Items (LATER)
4. How to pack/wear items (LATER)

Each part will include a simple summary sheet followed by details that back up the selections listed.

Attached is the first two parts for review.

Louis Alarie
SDT Soldat 213 RIL




1940 Series B (Reservist) List of Infantry Uniform/Clothing Items

Individuals with inventories for sale:
Ron Dufault Jr frenchy26yd@cox.net
Brett Johnson brettvj@hotmail.com
 eBay France, UK and USA are the default search for original items.

Unit members may also have spare items for sale that may not be readably available from other sources.

This list provides the basic kit items.





If it's not on the list, please ask before purchasing to avoid unnecessary expenditures.

	NOTES	COMMENTS	Procurement Sources
1a		<p>M1878/23 CHEMISE EN FLANELLE DE COTON</p> <p>Cotton flannel with stripes or white/off white and sometimes small squares. It has a chest slit with two buttons, and a third for the right collar. The small collar, cuffs and sides rounded at the corners. It has bone or porcelain buttons.</p>	<p>Frogsacks</p> <p>Check internet as suppliers have been available</p>
2a	 <p>Image on right: Blue calico tie from the barracks of the 154th RAP and khaki cotton tie dated 1939.</p>	<p>M1860/1930 CRAVATE EN COTON</p> <p><i>Navy blue cotton calico for the metropolitan troops</i>, and khaki for the African Troops. It is derived from the 1860 model, dimensions fixed at 120 x 21 cm in 1933.</p>	<p>Frogsacks</p> <p>Check internet as suppliers have been available</p>
1b		<p style="text-align: center;">Shirt</p> <p>M1935 chemise equips mainly the French Army in 1939. It is made from khaki canvas in shades varying from green to yellow</p>	<p>Hiki Shop</p> <p>http://www.hikishop.com/ww2-france-french-enlisted-m1935-m35-cotton-service-shirt-khaki-p-1334.html</p> <p>(order at least one size larger that what you normally wear. Two sizes larger is better. They do run small.)</p>




**1940 Series B (Reservist)
List of Infantry Uniform/Clothing Items**

2b		<p align="center">TIE</p> <p>Used with M1935 chemise. This M35 cravat is in a shape called "Regatta Tie" and comes in various shades and is 140 cm (55") long.</p>	<p align="center">NiceCollection</p> <p>https://www.nicecollection.fr/en/reproductions/49-446-tie.html#/60-fabric_color-brown_khaki</p>
3		<p align="center">Socks</p> <p>They come in gray, khaki & brown, wool/rayon knit with size rings at top.</p> <p>The French had size-ringed socks, like the Germans, at this time. A few variant colors, with medium browns being more common, but grey as well.</p>	<p align="center">At The Front</p> <p>https://www.atthefront.com/product-p/gbsock.htm</p> <p align="center">Hessen Antique</p> <p>https://hessenantique.com/german-military-wool-socks/</p>
4		<p align="center">Underwear</p> <p>The M1923 & M1930 underpants are basically the same except the M23 has a laced tie-back and the M30 has 2 button tabs on back</p>	<p>eBay France occasionally has them up for auction.</p>
5		<p align="center">Flannel Wrap</p> <p>M1915 flannel wrap is 400cm x 39cm. M1923 is 224cm x 39 cm</p>	<p>Currently no know source for these wraps.</p> <p>Contact Craig Alarie for possible unit for procurement</p>

1940 Series B (Reservist)
List of Infantry Uniform/Clothing Items

6		<p style="text-align: center;">Breeches</p> <p>M1922 trousers were issued to all foot troops. M1938 trousers were issued to all foot troops from winter 1939-40.</p> <p>M1938 is currently the only version known to be available.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hiki Shop</p> <p>http://www.hikishop.com/ww2-france-french-m38-m1938-wool-pants-breeches-p-1333.html</p>
7		<p style="text-align: center;">Suspenders</p> <p>Derived from a commercial model widespread during WW1.</p>	<p>Currently no known source for these suspenders. Contact Craig Alarie for possible unit procurement</p>
8		<p style="text-align: center;">Boots</p> <p>The style put into service in 1918 were worn without change in 1939.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What Price Glory</p> <p>https://onlinemilitaria.net/products/6023-French-Mle-1912-16-Boots/?bc=no</p>
9		<p style="text-align: center;">Leg Wraps</p> <p>M1915 leg wraps are straight cut 220cm x 14.5cm.</p> <p>M1919 are curved 220cm long x 7.7cm at ends and 14.5cm in center.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hiki Shop Straight Style http://www.hikishop.com/ww2-france-french-wool-leggings-puttee-pair-p-1326.html</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NiceCollection Straight style: https://www.nicecollection.fr/en/reproductions/48-464-2-straight-model-puttees-in-khaki-wool.html#/33-wool_color-khaki/57-length-220_cm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">curved style: https://www.nicecollection.fr/en/reproductions/52-468-2-curved-puttees-in-khaki-wool.html#/33-wool_color-khaki</p>

**1940 Series B (Reservist)
List of Infantry Uniform/Clothing Items**

10		<p align="center">Jackets</p> <p>They were issued to all combat troops with the exception of Colonial troops. M1920/35 is preferred version but the M1938 is currently the only version known to be available (Hiki Shop). It is similar to M1920/35 except it has 5 buttons. The originals had collar flaps to cover unit insignia. The Hiki Shop version is missing these. They can be added. The original version also has metal shoulder tab buttons. Hiki Shop has dome buttons which should be replaced.</p> <p><i>NOTE: This item is optional as camp wear. They were not worn in the field.</i></p>	<p align="center">Hiki Shop</p> <p>http://www.hikishop.com/ww2-france-french-m38-m1938-wool-tunic-jacket-p-1323.html</p>
11	 <p align="center"><small>Jersey 1936 original</small></p>	<p align="center">Sweater</p> <p>M1936 Jersey was intended to replace the jacket when on campaign</p>	<p align="center">Le Jersey 1936 (on Facebook)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/jersey1936/?hc_ref=ARTbw367c-</p>
12		<p align="center">Overcoat</p> <p>M1920/35 Overcoat olive brown wool, double breasted, 6 rounded olive green buttons down each side</p>	<p align="center">Hiki Shop</p> <p>http://www.hikishop.com/ww2-france-french-m22-m35-wool-great-coat-overcoat-p-1354.html</p>

1940 Series B (Reservist)
List of Infantry Uniform/Clothing Items

13		<p style="text-align: center;">Field Cap</p> <p>WW1 (M1918) style Field Cap (khaki brown wool blend) was worn in 1939-40</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Hiki Shop</p> <p>http://www.hikishop.com/ww2-france-french-wool-side-cap-p-1325.html</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Nice Collection</p> <p>https://www.nicecollection.fr/en/reproductions/8-10327-police-cap-model-1918.html#/1-cap_size-56_cm/33-wool_color-khaki</p>
14		<p style="text-align: center;">Collar Unit Insignia</p> <p>Tabs are khaki soutache is dark blue number is dark blue</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NiceCollection</p> <p>https://www.nicecollection.fr/en/reproductions/12-12754-2-collar-tabs-for-1935-model-greatcoat.html#/</p>

**1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles**

ITEMS		Reservist (213 ^a) Ancien Modèle	Reservist (213 ^c) Interwar Models	
English Term	French Term			
Web Equipment/Rifle				
steel helmet	casque	M1915 with "flaming bomb" badge, painted flat khaki green	M1926 with 1915 "flaming bomb" badge. Then in 1937 with round "flaming bomb" badge, all painted flat khaki green	Note 13
belt	ceinturon	M1903/14	-----	Note 14
cartridge pouches	cartouchières	M1916	M1916/34 or M1936	Note 15
bayone scabbard	porte-baïonnette	M1888	-----	Note 16
bayonet	baïonnette	M1886/M1886-15	-----	Note 17
"Y" straps	bretelles de suspension	M1892/14	-----	Note 18
gas mask	masque à gaz	not used	T 31 (ANP 31)	Note 19
gasmask bag	sac de transport	not used	ANP 31 Type 1 or 2	Note 20
Marching Pack	Haversac	M1893, M1893/14	M1934	Note 21
tent section	tente individuelle	M1897	M1935	Note 22
half blanket	demi-couverture	1913	1939	Note 23
bread bag	étui-musette	M1892	M1892/34 or M1935	Note 24
canteen	bidon	M1877	M1877 modified in 1934 or M1935	Note 25
Mess kit	marmite individuelle	M1852	M1935	Note 26
drinking cup	quarter ou tasse	M1865	M1935	Note 27
fork/spoon		ww1	M1935	Note 28
rifle	fusil	Lebel 1886/93, Berthier M1907/15, Berthier M1907/15 M16		Note 29

Red = Preferred Item

1940 Reservist (Series B) List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles

"Individuals with inventories for sale:

Ron Dufault Jr frenchy26yd@cox.net




Brett Johnson brettvj@hotmail.com

eBay France, UK and USA are the default search for original items.





Unit members may also have spare items for sale that may not be readably available from other sources.

This list identifies the basic kit items.



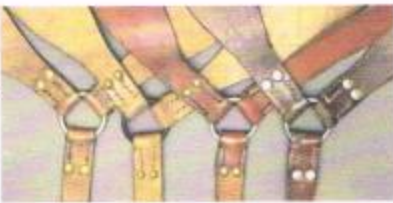

If it's not on the list, please ask before purchasing to avoid unnecessary expenditures.

NOTES	COMMENTS	Procurement Sources
<p>ACIER</p> <p>1915</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Helmet</p> <p>Quantities of helmets from WW1 were reused in 1939 after applying a coat of khaki green paint.</p> <p style="color: red;">The M26 model helmet was the most representative of the helmet types used during 1939-40.</p>	<p>eBay France, UK and USA</p> <p>Soldier of Fortune https://www.sofmilitary.co.uk/ww1-french-m15-adrian-helmet.html</p>
<p>13</p> 	<p>M1926, solid shell, separate comb, four metal liner clips, black leather liner, brown leather chinstrap w/black square buckle, and 1915 "flaming bomb" badge, all painted flat khaki-green paint. M1926 shell was identical to the 1923 model with a new cap fixing system: four riveted spring blades hold the cap in place with metal clips sewn on it. It had a strong chin strap in fawn leather, made removable by a double brass button or a screw system. It had a black glossy sheep headdress with thick felt head band.</p>	<p>World War Suply.</p> <p>They will need to be repainted khaki green.</p> <p>Repair Parts for the helmet are available at: Nice Collection https://www.nicecollection.fr/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">and</p>
	<p>In 1937 the M1926, received the 1937 round "flaming bomb" plate , all painted flat khaki-green paint.</p> <p style="color: red;"><i>(Listed for reference only)</i></p>	<p>Normandy Accessories https://www.normandy-accessories.com</p>



**1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles**

14		<p align="center">Leather Belt</p> <p align="center">M1903/14 version was used .</p> <p>55mm wide, 110-125 cm long. Brass double-prong roller buckle</p>	<p>eBay France, UK and USA</p> <p align="center">Merrick's Custom Leather speedybri@comcast.net</p> <p align="center">Eugene Gaponov e_gaponov@inbox.ru</p> <p align="center">Oleg Abeydulaev abeydulaev@yandex.ru</p>
15		<p align="center">Cartridge Pouches</p> <p>M1916 was the majority type used. In 1934 the pouches were fitted with "D" rings to clip the canteen & musette bag to the belt.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Model 1888 2. Model 1916 in simplified production of the First World War 3. Model 1916 with special flat iron ring 4. Model 1916 type. 	<p>eBay France, UK and USA</p>
		<p align="center">Modified cartridge pouches 1934</p> <p>Whatever their type (1888, 1905 or 1916), they symmetrically receive a black painted iron D-ring allowing the hanging of the musette bag and the canteen</p>	<p align="center">Merrick's Custom Leather speedybri@comcast.net</p> <p align="center">Eugene Gaponov e_gaponov@inbox.ru</p>
		<p align="center">Modified cartridge pouches 1936</p> <p>On April 28, 1936, the cartridge pouches were fitted with lugs with buttonholes and a throat button. These tabs can be made from canister belts.</p> <p>Pair of modified cartridge cases 1936. They differ from the modification of 1934 by their locking tab which allows them to be stored correctly in the prone position, like those of the 1935 equipment.</p>	<p align="center">Merrick's Custom Leather speedybri@comcast.net</p> <p align="center">Eugene Gaponov e_gaponov@inbox.ru</p>






**1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles**

16		<p align="center">Bayonet Holder</p> <p>The 1888 bayonet holder was used with the 1886 bayonet.</p>	<p>eBay France, UK and USA</p> <p align="center">Merrick's Custom Leather speedybri@comcast.net</p> <p align="center">Eugene Gaponov e_gaponov@inbox.ru</p>
17		<p align="center">Bayonet</p> <p>The 1886 & 1886-1915 bayonets were the main type used with the Ancien Modele fusils.</p>	<p>eBay France, US, UK</p>
18		<p align="center">Y' Strap</p> <p>The M1892/1914 'Y' straps (9 holes) remained in use during WW2.</p> <p><i>Note: There is no alternative to this, as the WWI model was still in use in WWII.</i></p> <p>The 11-hole version was a post war issue.</p>	<p align="center">Merrick's Custom Leather speedybri@comcast.net</p> <p align="center">Eugene Gaponov e_gaponov@inbox.ru</p> <p align="center">Oleg Abeydulaev abeydulaev@yandex.ru</p>
19	<p>Une précédente, les gaz Si la France a souscrit ni à ne pas employer sans tant que l'ennemi herches sont ai guerres. Un corps de troupe.</p> 	<p align="center">Gas Mask</p> <p>T 31 gas mask was the most representative mask used in 1939-1940.</p> <p><i>Note: These are very hard to find. eBay France occasionally has some listed. Therefore, they are not a required item.</i></p>	<p>eBay US & France</p>





**1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles**

20		<p align="center">Gas Mask Bag</p> <p>The M1937 ANP 31 was the bag used with the T 31 gas mask</p> <p>Type 1 khaki tan canvas shoulder straps, leather flap closure strap.</p> <p>Type 2 light olive, similar to Type 1 except seam of the bottom reinforced with leather, rounded flap, reinforced closure system without the metal tip, removable ventral strap.</p>	<p align="center">eBay US & France</p>
21		<p align="center">Equipment Pack</p> <p>Modified in 1934 to ride lower on hips. Many 1893 & 1893/14 versions were still used in 1940.</p> <p><i>Note: These were left in baggage train/rear area and not carried into combat.</i></p>	<p>eBay France, UK and USA</p> <p>Eugene Gaponov e_gaponov@inbox.ru Soldier of Fortune https://www.sofmilitary.co.uk/french-m1893-m1914-knapsack.html</p>
22		<p align="center">M1897/14 - M1935 Tent Sections</p> <p align="center">Either version can be used.</p> <p>Model 1897/14 Tent fabrics, note the variety of eyelets and string passages</p> <p align="center">Interwar Model M1935</p> <p>The buttoned central opening for the head and the camouflage ribbons are easily identified. The seals are affixed to the borders, often near a corner.</p> <p>Tent accessories for each man:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 support pole sections (2 are shown) • 3 tent stakes (sardines) (2 are shown) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 short cords for corner stakes • 1 long cord for use as end guide rope 	<p align="center">eBay US & France</p>

**1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles**

23		<p align="center">Blanket</p> <p>Same version as WW1 with a later date (i.e. 1939). WW1 versions were also used. Any plain brownish wool blanket</p>	<p align="center">Frogsacks.com</p> <p align="center">eBay US & France</p>
24		<p align="center">Musette/Bread Bag</p> <p align="center">Ancien Modèle (WW1 Era M1892)</p> <p>The musette case worn permanently on each soldier has the following contents: cutlery, quarter (cup) and daily food that would not have been stored in the mess kit.</p>	<p align="center">Doursoux</p> <p>https://www.doursoux.com/fr/accessories-ww1/2516-musette-a-pain.html?fbclid=IwAR1jRuYBJQOtIpEi7Nfzl7oDnFFUAb1GFWzgKJryE-B30CWxFpaKoEplr0Y</p>
	<p align="center">Interwar models (M1892/34)</p> <p>Used by all the soldiers. In 1934 & 1935 it was modified to be able to be clipped to the web belt.</p>		
	<p align="center">Interwar models (M1935)</p> <p>At the beginning of 1936, some modifications were made to the musette bag now designated as "1935 model". The carabiners are replaced by more economical models in black painted iron.</p>		
		<p align="center">Frogsacks.com</p>	





**1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles**

		<p align="center">Canteens</p> <p>M1877 canteens with brownish wool covers in place of the horizon blue. In 1934 & 1935 it was modified to be able to be clipped to the web belt.</p> <p>On the bottom of the cover there is a piece of unbleached cotton intended to receive the soldier's serial number. In the image on the left, the center canister carries the straps of the 1935 equipment, while the right one is fitted with the classic leather strap.</p>	
25		<p align="center">M1877 modified in 1934</p> <p>The water canteen receives two straps cut in its strap, each fitted with an "officer" clip.</p>	
		<p>M1935 model canteens fitted with the 1935 model equipment straps or the classic leather strap. Some examples will only receive one coat of paint as an covering in place of the wool fabric.</p>	
26		<p align="center">Mess Kit</p> <p>M1852 mess kit is shown in the top image. M1935 mess kit is shown in the bottom image.</p> <p>In 1940 the M1935 mess kit partially replaced the 1852 model so the 1852 model was still in considerable use.</p>	<p>eBay US, & France Frogsacks (M1852)</p>

eBay France & US
Soldier of Fortune
<https://www.sofmilitary.co.uk/french-m1877-water-bottle-and-strap.html>

When purchasing repros, make sure the inside is clean when you get it and seal inside to keep from rusting.

1940 Reservist (Series B)
List of Infantry Web/Camp Gear/Rifles

27		<p align="center">Drinking Cup</p> <p>The M1865 drinking cup was used with the 1877 canteen.</p>	<p>eBay US, & France</p> <p align="center">Frogsacks</p>
27		<p>M1935 drinking cup accompanies the M1935 model mess kit.</p> <p>From the point of view of packing it proves to be very practical, but it's very flat shape makes its use difficult.</p>	<p>eBay US, & France</p>
28		<p align="center">Utensils</p> <p align="center">WW1 Era (on top)</p> <p>Original regulation cutlery set (consisting of spoon and fork); made of tin-coated steel.</p> <p align="center">M1935 (on bottom)</p> <p>M1935 Spoon and fork are made of beaten and tinned iron. The length is 200 mm. Only the spoon is taken in the field.</p>	<p>eBay US, & France</p> <p align="center">Frogsacks</p>
29		<p align="center">Rifle</p> <p align="center">Berthier MODEL 1907/15 and 1907/15 M16 Rifles</p> <p>The most widespread rifle in 1918 and in 1939 comes from the model 1892 carabiner, like it has a Mannlicher type magazine, the cartridges are mounted on magazine blades 3 or 5 shots (modification of 1916: 5 shot magazine and hand guard).</p> <p>Prior to and after the introduction of the MAS 36, the infantry used the Berthier rifles.</p> <p><i>Note: The carbines were used by Calvary, engineers, artillery, skier scouts and are shown here for reference only.</i></p>	<p align="center">GunBroker.com</p>