



### **Questions & Answers**

Below are some commonly asked questions when first considering joining the group. Take a read and feel free to ask more questions, we hope these are of some help and look forward to hearing from you.

#### **What is the 1st INFANTRY DIVISION LHG and when was it formed?**

1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG is a group of friends who celebrate a shared interest in WW2 history. The group was formed around 1995 and aims to organise and attend various WW2 re-enactments, engage in high quality living history, educate the public and keep alive the memory of those who made sacrifices during WW2.

#### **Is the 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION LHG part of any existing organization or group?**

No, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG is totally independent, but will work with other like-minded groups and individuals, particularly on trips that we attend as guests in Europe. From time to time the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG will also organise its own events where we invite other groups or likeminded individuals to come and work with us.

#### **Who is in charge of the 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION LHG?**

The Unit Commander is in charge of the group and is supported by the Committee Members. Although both the Unit Commander and Committee members are voted in annually, so the group is in affect run by members for its members. This means that every paid-up member has an equal say in the decisions and direction we take.

#### **Tell me more about the committee, what does it do?**

The committee consists of members that are voted into the committee, each year during our annual group meeting (AGM). Any fully paid group member can nominate themselves to be considered for one of these seats at the AGM. This also applies to the Unit Commander.

#### **What does the insurance cover and how much is it?**

The group holds its own public liability insurance (PLI), that covers members whilst taking part in 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG approved displays and battles within the UK. The cost of insurance cover is £20.00 pa, payable in January of each year

#### **How much does group membership cost?**

The current cost of membership of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG is £20.00 pa, payable in January of each year. This money is used for general group running costs or purchases and is managed by the committee and is held in the groups bank account.

#### **How many events do you do a year?**



The group generally does around 10 events a year both publicly and privately. The majority are weekends and are done during the months of March to September. No member is expected to attend every event we do and we do try and space events out in order to ensure a maximum attendance by all members.

#### **How are events and other information commutated?**

The group has it's own members only forum, where everything is communicated and discussed. Members are expected to visit this forum at least once a week and catch up on posts reply to information requests, etc.

#### **The uniform regulations seem a bit strict, isn't this over the top?**

The uniform regulations and attention to detail in the impressions we portray is one of the things that sets 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG aside from many of the other re-enactment groups out there.

At first glance the kit requirements seem a lot, but don't forget that this is a comprehensive list, aimed at providing information for all roles and ranks. As long as you have a basic uniform, boots and a helmet, then other gear such as webbing can be loaned, until you have the chance to buy your own.

#### **If I have any questions regarding the uniform regulations who do I contact?**

The uniform and kit requirements are designed to be comprehensive, listing exactly what you will need for the particular event impression. However, we realise that it does take some time to gain 'knowledge' of the equipment and uniform used by the American soldier in WW2. As such any questions should be asked via the forum. We've all been there so please feel free to ask questions.

#### **What do you typically do at an event?**

From the time you arrive at the event to the end of the end we try to maintain the working, training and social life of a GI. This could involve drill, weapons training, first aid, cooking, cleaning of kit and learning how a GI lived during the 1940's. At public events we will interact with the public, explaining, demonstrating and enjoy ourselves. At private events we might undertake field exercises where we will go out in full combat kit and load.

#### **Why am I expected to carry full loads when you don't even see half of what you carry?**

As you are portraying a GI on active service then we expect that you carry the loads (including ammunition) that they had too. There is little or no point carrying an empty cartridge belt, or a pack stuffed with a pillow. It's part of living history to not only 'look' period correct, but you learn and understand a lot more about the kit, by wearing it fully loaded.

#### **How much does all of this gear cost to buy?**

It is hard to put an exact price on what an impression will cost. We usually say that around £800.00 will buy you a basic stand up kit, i.e. uniform, boots helmet and a rifle.

We recommend buying original items in good useable condition, but some items such as boots



can only be bought as reproduction. In these circumstances we can recommend reproductions and group members can offer advice of where to buy certain item from.

**You say anyone can join, but if you strive for authenticity what about older or larger sized individuals?**

If you have the right attitude and your kit standard are in line with our standards, then there is little in the way of stopping you joining the group.

We have to bear in mind that the average GI in WW2 grew up in the great depression, was in his early twenties and therefore was slim and physically fit.

Therefore, a line has to be drawn somewhere in the name of authenticity. There was no 90-year-old paratroopers for example, but equally we understand that this is a hobby and none of us are getting any younger.

Although we do not hold any hard rule in regards to age and weight, at the end of the day you will have to look in the mirror and be honest with yourself. Do you look and feel like a front-line infantryman?

**Can my girlfriend/wife/partner come along**

Most members in the group have a girlfriend, wife or partner (some may have all three). These will often come along to social events we organise, or in the evenings for a drink at events. However, as the majority of impressions we do are combat front line displays, they are not suitable for women reenactors, therefore our general rule is no.

**Is there an age limit for joining?**

Yes, the minimum age is 17 and this is because of our PLI and weapon hire regulations.

**I've heard you lot take it a bit seriously, is this true?**

At the end of the day this is a hobby and we cannot force people to take orders, but a lot of what is asked is all about 'playing the game'.

After all we are portraying soldiers who were a part of a disciplined organisation and grew up in a society where authority was respected and questions never asked. As you have made the decision to do living history you will get the most out of the hobby by coming along with an open mind and a willingness to listen, learn and experience.

The NCO's in the group hold their rank, usually based upon their knowledge and ability to lead. They will not become unreasonable and power mad, but the rank they hold should be respected, as it would in the army.

**How fit do you have to be and will the events you do be physically demanding?**

The majority of events we do throughout the year are public shows and as such they are not physically demining. You will be required to set up tents and move equipment around, so it is



important that you notify us of any existing injury or complication.

Around once a year there are opportunities for us to do living history events in Europe, which usually involve a lot of walking and staying out in foxholes during cold winter nights. We also get involved in private battles, where we will immerse ourselves in a combat environment for 48 hours, taking up all roles and tasks that you would expect in a combat scenario. This can be anything from digging fox holes, patrolling and observation post duties, to assaulting enemy positions in a simulated combat attack. You will get little to no sleep throughout this 48 hours.

For battles and trips to Europe these events will be more physically demanding than normal public shows. All events are optional to go too, but if you do decide to come along then please be prepared to use your feet, to cover several miles under your own steam. You also may be expected to run short distances during mock assaults or crawl when under fire in private battles. All of this is done carrying full kit.

### **I like what I have read, how do I join?**

Firstly, you need to complete the application form that has been sent to you. Filling out this form does not automatically mean you are a member of 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG, as you will still need to complete our probation period.

### **Can you tell me about this probations period and what it consists off?**

All new members are subjected through a trial period of attending 3 events before being considered for full membership. This will give us a chance to get to know you and for you to gauge if the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG is the right choice for you. During this time you will be expected to pay £5.00 per event you attend, totaling £15.00 over the 3 event period. This cost is to add you as a temporary member under our groups PLI.

After the completion of the trial period if we are happy that you have the ethos of the group, then we will ask for a further £5.00 from you that will complete your £20.00 membership fee.

### **Can't I just skip the probation period?**

Unfortunately, this trial period is mandatory for anyone new to re-enacting, or who we are have not associated with before. It ensures a consistent quality of members into our ranks and this helps to keep up the high standards we strive to achieve.

### **I have some other questions that have not been answered here, what should I do?**

As with anything we cannot possibly cover all questions and queries you might have. If you require further information, or have questions about the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division LHG then please email us and an experienced and member will be only too happy help you.

