

~ First Person Profile ~

All of the information you need to get started can be found on this form. Use it as a template to organize the details of your persona. Upon confirmation of your membership in Der Erste Zug, you will receive a link to our online first person form where you can transfer the information for our records.

It may seem like an excessive amount of details, but it is the basic personal information required in the Soldbuch and Stammrolle forms with a little extra about "you" for our guys to write Feldpost or strike up a period conversation. We are constantly adding to the *Culture and Mannerism* articles on our website to aid in your research, but there is a great deal of information out there on the internet and, of course, through books. Also feel free to contact Jon or Brad with any specific questions relating to your persona.

Just a note, a * denotes an item that would be entered in your Soldbuch.

Personal Info

Real name: _____ Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone #: _____ Cell phone #: _____

Vital Statistics:

1. German name*: _____

(You can choose to Germanize your real name or select a totally different one. Most Germans had only a first and last name but middle names did exist. There are numerous German name databases on the internet that a little bit of research could turn up. Try to stay away from the very common ones unless you are set on one- too many units have 5 Hans, 4 Wilhelms, 7 Johanns, etc.)

2. Gasmask size (circle one) *: 1 2 3

(This will be a number between 1 (the largest) and 3 (the smallest). A man with who got a size 3 mask has a really small face -- this size was normally only issued to female auxiliaries.)

3. Blood type (circle one) *: A B O AB

(RH factor was unknown then, so the blood type will simply read A, B, O, or AB, without the "+" or "-" we have today.)

4. Date of Birth*: _____

(The most effective way is to use your actual month and day but subtract your age from 1944, perhaps adding a year or two to keep the info current. Don't forget, Germans write in dd/mm/yyyy format.)

5. City of Birth*: _____

(Not necessarily correlating to your current address. You may have immigrated to Germany at some point or moved within the country for whatever reason to add dimension to your persona. Take a look at a map of Germany for examples of cities. A bit of online research can give you the history of those cities and addresses within (especially helpful in determining if it existed prior to WWII). Many cities in Germany have websites in the format: www.cityname.de. Please try to keep your current hometown to the Niedersachsen area.

6. Religion*: _____

(This was a time when atheism was not incredibly common. Protestant was the most common affiliation in Germany with Catholicism a close second. Catholics seemed to live in the south and south-west of Germany. The eastern regions could be either. The official 'politically correct' religion was a neutral "gottgläubiger" which meant "believer in god.)

7. Profession before the war*: _____
(Most Germans only had a high school education. University students usually went on to be professionals and would likely have become officers in the war. After high school most Germans became unskilled laborers or went on to apprenticeship for certain trades. Be sure to list what your job or trade was before entering the army.)

8. Height (in cm)*: _____

9. Body Type*: _____
(slim, fat, muscular, heavy build, light build, medium build)

10. Shape of face*: _____
(round, oval, full)

11. Hair color*: _____

12. Eye color*: _____

13. Beard (circle one)*: y / n

14. Glasses (circle one)*: y / n

15. Shoe Size (convert US to German or European, [please circle which])*: _____
(German and European size notation are equally common so it's your choice)

16. Distinguishing features*:

(Common entries include: scar, burn scar, appendectomy scar, or liver spot, followed by a location of the feature (except for the appendectomy scar, of course) ie., scar on right knee. A less common but interesting entry is a scarred face which would apply to someone whose face is was scarred by acne, chicken pox, etc...)

Family & Interests:

17a. Father's name*: _____

17b. Father's profession*: _____

18a. Mother's name*: _____

18b. Mother's Maiden Name*: _____

19. Parents' address *(city, street)**: _____

20a. Marital Status (circle one)*: married / single

20b. Wife's name*: _____

20c. Wife's Maiden Name*: _____

20d. Address of Wife *(city, street)**: _____

20e. Wedding Date*: _____

21. Friends: _____

(The more detail you go into the more opportunities for interesting Feldpost there are.)

22. Interests: _____

(See if you can translate your modern day interests into period terms or come up with new ones entirely. If you're a car enthusiast and had the means perhaps you were a member of the NSKK. If you were a boy scout perhaps you were in the Hitlerjugend if age permits (you'd have to be about 28 or younger now). If you worked at a younger age perhaps you were in the RAD. Be inventive!)

23. Favorite games/activities: _____

(Germans were keen gamers whether it be card games like Skat, Tarok, and Poker or board games like chess and checkers. They were also very sporting individuals and loved physical activity.)

24. Favorite music/bands: _____

(Germany had a flourishing jazz/swing culture before the war with countless bands from across Western Europe in addition to more traditional/classical music varieties. Younger more trendy Germans would probably have kept a good pulse on the European jazz scene. Radios were fairly common in middle-income houses. You can hear original recordings at: www.weimarrundfunk.com)

25. Favorite movies/plays: _____

(Germans did go to the movies and, before the post-war advent of TV, this was a primary source for entertainment and news outside of books, magazines, and newspapers.)

26. Favorite books/magazines/newspapers: _____

(The fact is people read more back then. A little research on the internet could turn up a number of period publications that may be of interest to you. Technical journals were also quite popular.)

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27. Favorite vacation spots: _____

(Germans with the means to do so loved to go on holiday. Skiing in the Alps, swimming in the Nordsee, and the therapeutic hot spring baths are among a few possibilities. The opportunity for international travel was also greater for Germans at the time than Americans.)

Military Life:

28a. Erkennungsmarke Unit*: _____
(This is the unit designation stamped on the tag, for example: Stamm-Kp. / Gr.E.B. 348)

28b. Erkennungsmarke Number*: _____
(This is the serial number stamped on your dog tag & also the number you would mark your equipment like painted in your helmet or on your gas mask canister.)

29. Soldbuch Number*: _____
(Found on the first page of the Soldbuch was the serial number of the book, as recorded by the issuing unit. In very early-war books, or books from training units that produced very limited numbers of trainees, this number will often match the dog tag serial number. In most books, however, these numbers will not match.)

30. Entered Service as (circle one): volunteer / draftee

31. Date of Induction*: _____
(More specifically, the first day you reported to basic training. This is the "opening" date of your Soldbuch.)

32. Previous Military Service*: _____

(Are you reenacting a transfer or 'Alte Haase'? Where have you been and what have you done to date? This is just an option that most of you will leave blank.)

33. Current weapon (ie.- K.98) & serial number*: _____

34. Past weapon(s) & serial #(s) *: _____

35. Bayonet serial number*: _____
(remember, you would have probably been issued a K.98 at one point)

36. Your personal feelings on military life: _____

(Not all Germans were as straight-laced and gung-ho as we are made to think. Some had a more difficult time adjusting to military life than others. Some did not adjust well at all but the vast majority did their duty nonetheless. What do you like and dislike?)

37. Your personal feelings on the war: _____

(This would have been a rather unspoken question that was on many minds at the front. By 1944 most Germans did not believe in a victory but in buying enough time for a conditional peace. Some Germans believed in "wonder weapons" and eventual victory. Others privately felt the end was near. This sort of question puts the 'acting' in reenacting.)

37. Why do you fight: _____

(The most obvious reason is you have to, but some fought for Germany, some for Hitler, for family, for victory, honor, or any number of things...)