

## IMPORTANT INDEX OF LABELS AND USAGE GUIDE

**See notes below for packaging information**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Translation</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Print on</u>
BTM Kaffe m. Milch	BTM brand Coffee with Milk	1 tsp. instant coffee, 1 tsp. instant creamer	No. 1 coin envelope
Butterkeks	Butter Cookies (Bahlsen brand)	four cookies, overwrap in brown paper	newsprint
Dauerbrot	Duration Bread (wartime bread)	not specific; use on loaf or partial loaf	newsprint
Der Komet Scheuern Puder	Comet Scouring Powder	Comet Cleanser, std. 14oz. paper can	newsprint
Ersatz Kaffee	Coffee Substitute	2 tsp. Postum	No. 1 coin envelope
Fleischconserven	Preserved Meat	4.25 oz. Underwoods Deviled Ham Spread (NOTE: this is a pull-top can. Put the label on upside-down so that the top is not normally visible!)	newsprint
Frucht Stange – Äpfel-Kirsche Frucht Stange – Schokolade Stück	Fruit bar – apple/cherry Fruit bar - chocolate pieces	granola bar	white paper, overwrap bar
Halbeiserne Portion	Half Iron Ration	place canned meat, bread ration, and candy or cookie ration in lunch bag; fold bag down to make small, rectangular package, secure with glue or string; affix this label to top.	newsprint
Hunstücke	Chicken Pieces	5 oz. can of chicken meat	newsprint – 8 ½"x14"
Knäckebröt	Cracker Bread	4-6 hard bread crackers (about 2.25 oz.), overwrap in wax paper and brown paper, glue, use this label on top.	newsprint
Milchkaffee	Milkcoffee	1 tsp. instant coffee, 1 tsp. instant creamer	No. 1 coin envelope

Nadelsortiment	Needle Assortment	10-12 assorted sewing and darning needles	pastel blue 20 lb. paper
Gelatine Bonbon mit Orangen Geshmack	Orange Flavored Gelatin Candy	six orange slice gels	No. 5 ½ coin envelope
Rinderbraten	Roast Beef	5 oz. can of roast beef pieces	newsprint – 8 ½"x14"
Rote Ruden (geschnitten)	Red Beets, sliced	8.25 oz. can	newsprint
Shinkenstücke	Ham Pieces	8.25 oz. can	newsprint – 8 ½"x14"
Truthahnbraten	Roast Turkey	8.25 oz. can	newsprint – 8 ½"x14"
Truthahnstücke	Turkey Pieces	8.25 oz. can	newsprint – 8 ½"x14"
Zitroen Bonbon	Lemon Candy	6-7 lemon drops	No. 1 coin envelope
Volta Batterie	Volta brand flashlight battery	Garrity 4.5 volt battery	manila drawing paper
Heer Batterie	Army flashlight battery	Garrity 4.5 volt battery	newsprint or cheap white bond
Nivea Fusspuder	Nivea brand foot powder	use any foot powder	No. 5 ½ coin envelope – <u>white</u>
ERO Zahnpulver	ERO brand tooth powder	use any tooth powder (powdered toothpaste)	No. 5 ½ coin envelope – <u>white</u>
Kernseife	Weisse Kernseife	modern kernseife (from OSTFRONT)	newsprint – wrap like gift
Odol Mundwasser	Odol Mouthwash	modern Odol 75ml (from OSTFRONT)	white bond paper
Breckmann's Zahnpulver	Breckmann's Tooth Powder	use any tooth powder	manila drawing paper
Schreibblock	Writing pad	25 sheets of blue lined notebook paper cut to size so that there is no vertical margin line. Use tan or gray cardstock (heavier than cover) for backer. Staple with three staples across top, 7/16" down from top edge – one centered, one 3/8" from each side	grey cardstock

## Notes on Packaging

Simply put, the German Army of WWII was not big on modern or uniform packaging. The packaged food industry in Europe was simply not as big as it was in the U.S. (something which is still true today) and this was reflected in how the Army supplied and fed its troops. The Germans depended much more on fresh, bulk foods prepared in field kitchens than did their American counterparts. The concept of a prepackaged, daily ration such as the American K-ration was non-existent in the German Army. There were a few pre-assembled ration units, most notably the Iron Ration and the Half Iron Ration. The contents varied widely and it was more of a concept of a certain mix of foods than a "pre-packaged standard" ration. Although every soldier was expected to carry one, it was considered an emergency ration and was not to be consumed unless ordered by an officer! The cardboard packaged Nahkampfpackchen was an attempt to create something akin to the American K-ration but it was used not nearly as widely and its contents were not well standardized. The German use of packaged or canned military rations never approached the scope or consistency found in the American Army. Its application varied wildly.

That being said, it is much better to break out a period-looking ration (authentically correct or not) than a can of Spaghetti-Os. It helps keep you and your comrades more in tune with the "time warp". At a public event, it is critical to maintaining the illusion of living history. With that in mind, these labels were developed. None of the labels are "authentic", direct copies. Some are remakes of original labels, both civilian and military. Some were copied from other copies which claimed to be authentic. I can't vouch for that. A few are pure fantasy to hide every day things around camp (i.e. Der Komet Scheuern Puder). But the overall look and design, while not uniform, is somewhat consistent. Two of the ones most often questioned are the lemon drops and orange slice gels. Lemon drops actually were a staple candy of front line rations; the orange slice gels were available only to flyers as an in-flight energy snack but were highly coveted among all troops and became a valuable "trading" commodity.

### Paper Labels

The best paper I have found to print labels on is lightweight drawing paper or newsprint. The former is generally tan-colored while the latter runs more to gray. Both are wartime-like low quality papers and are available at large office supply stores. Unfortunately, neither comes in 8 1/2"x 11" size. You will have to hand cut sheets to that approximate size to fit them in your printer. It sounds like a lot of extra work but, in reality, you will only be making a few products at a time; it's not really that big of a hassle. Print your labels and then cut them out with a scissors or razor. Labels with a multi-lined border are designed to be cut about 1/16" outside the black border so that there is a narrow white border remaining. Labels with single thin line borders are designed to be cut on the line. Envelopes, of course, are not cut out. Attach labels to cans and packages with a gluestick.

### Wrapping Paper

The best wrapping paper for packaging is the cheapest brown paper lunch bags you can find. Cut them up to make flat sheets for wrapping. Most packages are wrapped like a gift and secured with glue (use a gluestick). Lunch bags can also be used for Iron Rations without cutting. Put the properly packaged and labels contents inside and just fold the top down and secure with string like a package to be shipped.

### Waxed Paper

Waxed paper can still be found in many grocery stores. It is essential and accurate for wrapping items which become stale quickly or would leach grease on to a paper wrapping. Products are wrapped in waxed paper just like any other paper and glued. In most cases it is also overwrapped with brown paper.

## Envelopes

Two sizes of envelopes are described here; both are readily available at most office supply stores. Ideally, the envelopes should be of a pale manila color. The more typical pale orange color is also acceptable. These labels files are designed to print a single envelope at a time. To print envelopes, you need to use a "carrier" sheet of plain 8 1/2"x11" paper. Place the envelope to be printed on the face of the carrier sheet centered left to right and so that the flap of the envelope goes over the top edge of the carrier sheet. Secure the flap to the back of the carrier sheet with a small piece of tape. Feed this into your printer in the normal manner.

## Cans

Cans for the Army were generally not labeled but were stamped on the lid with a very brief description. Army cans were simply bright steel cans or were lightly coated with a gold/bronze lacquer. Cans for the ~ were expected to see more harsh service because of the "elite" nature of the forces. Therefore the cans received a heavier coat of a dull, gray lacquer as a rust preventative. After removing the label which came on the can, spray paint cans with gray automotive primer. Apply your German labels after the cans have dried.

## Fonts

You will need the following fonts to see and print these labels as they were designed:

Arial	New Times Roman	Book Antiqua	Crappy Wehrmacht Typewriter
Deutsch Gottish*	Deutsch Gottish Heavy*	Fraktur	Tannenburg Fett
Haettenschweiler	Propaganda		

\*Two of these fonts which are quite important require the installation of Adobe Type Manager, available at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

## Microsoft versus Adobe

All labels are offered in both Microsoft Word/Excel and Adobe. Adobe will maintain size integrity almost regardless of your computer/printer combo. However, ensure that the sizing is set at "None" and the "Auto-center" feature is turned off. To check this, open a label in Adobe, click "File" then "Print". You will see these features noted in the dialogue box that comes up. You will also note that the majority of these labels are for ~ packaging. You may modify the labels in the Microsoft programs to fit you needs.

## Questions, Suggestions, or Requests

If you have questions, suggestions, or requests, please contact Rich at 419-878-2244 or [rbiacs@aol.com](mailto:rbiacs@aol.com).