

## WAAF Costume Guide

The military uniforms of WW2 are an iconic part of the period. We're hoping to create a strong look for the game which sticks quite closely to accurate clothing. That said, we're conscious of cost and so small variations will be expected, as well as accurately reflecting the early years of the war, when uniforms were in short supply, frequently privately purchased and changing design reasonably regularly. Women were generally issued a lot of men's kit, and some of it never fit correctly.



### General information

For those looking for a bit more guidance, [this](#) is a great guide to the uniform, although it goes into far more detail than we really need to!

## WAAF - Essentials

These items are the basis of the WAAF costume. We've managed to find all of these items quite cheaply online and estimate a complete basic costume should cost no more than about £55 even if you need to buy everything.



**Shirt** - A blue/grey colour button up blouse with no pockets. Men's can be worn with the pockets removed, Link [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

**Tie** - Made from woven black wool or a **non shiny** synthetic. Charity shops and ebay are good for these, Link [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

**Skirt** - Blue wool barathea in an a-line shape. Ideally without a pleat but with is perfectly acceptable! Note - if you're planning to buy a jacket as well, look for the 'Number 1 Heavy weight' style of skirt as this will match the fabric of the jacket. Number 2 fabric is slightly different but will look fine on its own! Surplus versions are all over eBay Link [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

**Stockings** - 40 denier tights, grey, Link [1](#)

**Shoes** - Plain black lace-up shoes with a minimal heel, shiny but not patent, Link [1](#), [2](#)



## Sewing

Sewing your own uniform is also an option, if you fancy it! Eva found us a perfect looking jacket [pattern](#) and a whole [pinterest board](#) dedicated to re-making a uniform! There's also a good [sewing guide](#) for the skirt, which is very simple.

For fabric, there are some similar looking wools and synthetic fabrics available on ebay from time to time, or you can always go directly to Hainsworth, who make the real RAF uniform [fabrics](#).

## Hiring

There are a few companies hiring out complete WAAF uniforms, if this is easier for you than buying the bits separately. [Maddermarket theatre](#) is our recommended rental company, and we are able to collect and return any costumes hired for the game. Please simply state that the rental is for Wing and a Prayer when you make contact.

Other companies include: [Angels](#), [1940s Costume Hire](#), [Masquerade](#).

## Optional Extras to Buy

These items are optional extras. There's no need to get these, but if you're looking for ways to add to your kit, this is where we'd recommend starting.

**Hat** - WAAF kind, relevant to rank. [Other ranks](#), [Officers](#)

**Jacket** - Reproduction or altered RAF jacket. Don't worry too much about altering a modern men's jacket to look 1940s, but if you want there's a (somewhat sexist, sorry) guide [here](#). Link [1](#), [Modern RAF jacket](#). **NB. If you choose to buy a jacket, please check the [Uniform Badges guide](#) to make sure that you get the correct rank badging added.**

**PT kit** - Blue shorts, white aertex t-shirt, black plimsolls, white socks. PT (physical training), and sports will be entirely optional out-of-game, but if you want to participate you'll need something to wear. These don't have to be spot on at all! Anything vaguely correct will be fine. [Shorts example](#), [Shirt example](#), [plimsolls](#)

**Handbag** - Usually a [gas mask bag](#), a black leather bag in 40s style could also be used.

**Helmet** - Standard WW2 style but needs to be RAF grey, Link [1](#). Some more information on helmets [here](#)

**Great coat** - Full length, double breasted RAF wool coat - it's unlikely to be cold enough to need (or want) one of these, but if you have one by all means bring it! Easy to find on Ebay

**Pyjamas** - Blue and white striped pyjamas - shirt and trousers style (anything that fits this description should be fine as you'll be wearing them in the dark mostly!) [Example](#)



### WAAF - Hair and make-up

Make-up should be on the more simple, natural and understated side for WAAFs on duty. A good guide can be found [here](#). More hair and make up [tutorials](#). Not wearing make-up is also fine.

Hair should be tied back in a bun, plait or ponytail, or a more 'professional' 40s style. Loose hair is not allowed on shift.

For the evenings feel free to draw from any of the earlier 1940s styles!

### The Dance

All characters are welcome to wear civilian clothes in any late 1930s or early 40s style at the dance should they prefer that to their uniform.

The most common thing to wear to this sort of dance (other than uniform) seems to have been a 'tea dress' or a skirt suit. There's plenty of inspiration out there for this sort of costume and thankfully loads of modern dresses in this style! Aim for an a-line skirt, puffed or padded shoulders and a nipped in high waist.





