

Battle of Vlaardingen 1018 - 2018

Kit Guide

Kees Nieuwenhuijsen
version 1.0, 5 May 2017



Cover:

Count Dirk II and countess Hildegard, grandparents of count Dirk III of West-Frisia (Holland). The portrait dates from the end of the 10th century.

's-Gravenhage, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, 76 F I, fol. 214v.

Introduction

This Kit Guide provides information for re-enactors participating in the event on 9 and 10 June 2018, to commemorate the Battle of Vlaardingen in the year 1018. In this battle, count Dirk III of West-Frisia (Holland) defeated the army of the German emperor Heinrich II.

Around the year 1018, Vlaardingen was a small settlement along the river Merwede. The population consisted of native Frisians, and immigrants from elsewhere in Europe who came to work in the peat reclamations.

The town was frequented by traders from abroad.

The Battle of Vlaardingen was fought between the locals (both professional warriors and local farmers) and an army of Lotharingians (all professional warriors).

The re-enactment event will comprise a large living history encampment and a market. On the Saturday and the Sunday, a scripted battle will be performed.

The participants will depict the inhabitants (rich and poor) of Vlaardingen and the passengers and immigrants from elsewhere in Frisia, England, Flanders, Normandy, and the Meuse and Rhine region, in the year 1018. Re-enactors can wear costumes that were common in those areas in the 10th and 11th centuries.

Traders from Scandinavia and the Baltic region may have visited Vlaardingen, but this would have been rare. On the market and in the encampment, participants with a complete Viking or Eastern outfit will be accepted.

At the battle field, authenticity rules will be stricter. No warriors from Scandinavia or Eastern Europe participated in the original battle. Therefore, typical Viking, Rusvik, or Byzantine items will not be allowed on the battle field. To be specific: fur caps, baggy Rusvik trousers, Eastern helmets, and lamellar armour will not be allowed during the fight.

Overview

A concise checklist of the items that we like to see at the event, the ones that are acceptable and the items that are not allowed.

Female

item	preferred	acceptable	not allowed
head	veil; headscarf; headband	no headwear (YOUNG); veil over decorated headband (RICH)	see footnote (1)
under dress	natural or bleached linen, ankle length	coloured linen with embroidery (RICH)	
dress	coloured wool, ankle length, with or without decoration (tablet weave, embroidery)	linen dress; hangerock and oval brooches	dress above mid-calf
legs	bare legs; naalbound socks		
feet	leather shoes, low or ankle-high	bare feet; wooden shoes (CHILD)	boots; wooden shoes (ADULT)
cloak	no cloak; mantle; rectangular cloak pinned at chest		leather or fur cloak
belts & bags	no belt	braided or woven girdle with leather or cloth sack	buckled leather belt

- (1) Adult women without head covering are acceptable only if they are part of a complete Viking portrayal.

Civilian male

item	preferred	acceptable	not allowed
head	no headwear	linen, woollen or leather hood; Frisian cap; straw hat (POOR); fur cap (21)	hood with long tail; bandana
under shirt	natural or bleached linen, knee length	coloured linen with embroidery (RICH)	
tunic	coloured wool, knee length, with or without decoration (tablet weave, embroidery)	linen tunic; ankle length (RICH)	mi-parti
legs	woollen trousers with straight or tight legs, with leg bindings; woollen hosen with integral feet and braies	linen trousers or hosen; trousers without leg binding; decorated hosen with garters below the knee (RICH); Rusvik baggy trousers (2)	

feet	leather turnshoes, low or ankle-high, with naalbound socks	bare feet; medium boots (mid-calf); shoes with hobnails; high boots (2); wooden shoes (CHILD)	wooden shoes (ADULT)
cloak	no cloak; rectangular cloak pinned at shoulder		leather or fur cloak; sheep skin around shoulders
belts & bags	buckled leather belt around the waist with knife in leather sheath	Viking-type poach; linen shoulder bag	late-medieval poach

- (2) Participants depicting Eastern European traders may wear fur hats, Rusvik trousers, and high boots, as part of a complete Eastern European outfit.

General

item	preferred	acceptable	not allowed
hair	natural colour	dyed in unnatural colour and covered	dyed in unnatural colour and uncovered
tattoos	no tattoos	Celtic or Viking designs; modern tattoo, covered	visible modern tattoos
make-up	no make-up	light make-up	heavy make-up
jewellery	in harmony with rest of outfit (RICH or POOR)		visible modern piercings

Encampment

item	preferred	acceptable	not allowed
tent	Geteld tent opening on the front; separate awning	Geteld-tent opening on the side; A-frame Viking tent	late-medieval pavilion
bed	straw mattress wooden-frame bed	modern sleeping bag; airbag or camping bed, must be covered under blanket, or in closed tent	pressed straw bales
furniture			African so-called Viking chairs
modern items		modern items in closed tents	during public hours: visible modern items outside or in open tents

Battle field

Female warriors must dress as male.

All warriors must wear gloves. All warriors are advised to also wear other protective armour.

Helmets are not compulsory, but are strongly advised.

item	preferred	acceptable	not allowed
head protection	ADVISED: conical helmet with or without nose guard	no headwear; spectacle helmet; helmet with aventail (chain mail)	bandana; fur cap; pointed Eastern helmet with horse tail; spectacles (3)
body armour	riveted chain mail, length below groin / above knee, sleeves just above elbow or longer; gambeson under chain mail	no body armour ; butted chain mail; chainmail without gambeson or vice versa; leather elbow protection	short chain mail (above groin); short sleeved chainmail (well above elbow); lamellar armour (leather or steel)
modern protection	COMPULSORY: firm leather gloves in neutral colours; ADVISED: knee-caps and elbow-caps worn under clothing; ladies: sports bra		visible knee-caps or elbow-caps; modern sport gloves in bright colours
legs	same as civilian male	same as civilian male, except Rusvik trousers	Rusvik baggy trousers
feet	same as civilian male	same as civilian male, except high boots	high boots (4); wooden shoes
further clothing	same as civilian male	same as civilian male	same as civilian male
shield	round, kite or oval shield with boss, single colour or simple design	small round shield (buckler); dragon design	triangular shield; heraldic design
weapons	10th-11th century sword with scabbard or baldric; axe; Dane axe; scramaseax; spear	round pommel sword; single edge sword (langseax); mace; longbow, crossbow and javelin (5)	francesca; late-medieval sword; any sharp weapon

- (3) In the encampment and on the market, spectacles are acceptable (but not encouraged). On the battle field, spectacles are not allowed.
- (4) High boots under straight trousers are acceptable on the battle field.
- (5) Longbows, crossbows and javelins are only to be used by designated units of warriors and according to the script.

Further details and references

The overview does not provide details such as the shapes of neck holes or the possible colours of a tunic. For such details, you can consult the kit guides and articles that were the basis of the overview:

ARCHER, Gavin, Regia Anglorum Authenticity Guide 2015

<https://regia.org/memb.../docs/2015%20Authenticity%20Guide.pdf>

ARCHER, Gavin & Louise, The Viking Age Compendium, 2016

http://www.vikingage.org/wiki/wiki/Main_Page

BRODRICK, L., Europa Re-enactment Association Inc., 2014

<http://europa.org.au/index.php>

- Norse baggy trousers
- Satchels and bags
- Tents.

CARLSON. I. Marc, Footwear of the Middle Ages, 1996-2005

<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SHOEHOME.HTM>

<http://www.personal.utulsa.edu/~marc-carlson/shoe/SLIST2.HTM>

SKODELL, Henry, Schutzausrüstung des 11. Jahrhunderts in Mitteleuropa, 2008

Frauendarstellungen in der Buchmalerei des späten 10. und (frühen) 11. Jahrhundert.

http://www.reenactment.de/reenactment_start/reenactment_startseite/diverses.html

THUNEM, Hilde, Recreating Viking Clothing, 2014-2017

<http://urd.priv.no/viking/>

UHL DE CANEHAN, Gerald, Kitguide Ottonik, 2010, and several other guides (in German)

<http://www.wilhaim.de/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Kitguide-Ottonik-2010-1.pdf>

<http://www.ffc1066.de/informationen/kitguides/>

VIKINGS AUTHENTICITY TEAM, Various Handbooks, 1992-2016

<https://docs.vikingsonline.org.uk/files>

VLASATÝ, Tomáš, Project Forlog, 2016-2017

<http://sagy.vikingove.cz>

Mostly in the Czech language, but with a few pages in English:

- Lamellar Armours of the Viking Age
- Scandinavian helmets of the 10th century
- Theories on Norse Padded Armour.

I thank the authors for their hard work and inspiration.

Illuminated manuscript

Many illuminated manuscript have been scanned and are freely available on the Internet, often in high resolution. A few examples:

Bamberger Apokalypse, Reichenau, ca. 1010

<http://bsbsbb.bsb.lrz.de/~db/0000/sbb00000063/images/>

Bayeux Tapestry, Normandy, 1070-1077

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayeux_Tapestry

Beatus de Saint-Sever, France, circa 1050

<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b52505441p>

Cædmon Manuscript, Anglo-Saxon, circa 1000

<http://image.ox.ac.uk/show?collection=bodleian&manuscript=msjunius11>

Codex Aureus Epternacensis, Echternach, 1030-1050

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Codex_aureus_Epternacensis

Heinrich II. Perikopenbuch, Reichenau, ca. 1007 - 1012

<http://daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/~db/0008/bsb00087481/images/>

Hexateuch (The Old English Hexateuch), England, 1025-1050

http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=cotton_ms_claudius_b_iv

Otto III. Evangeliar , Reichenau, ca. 1000

<http://daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/~db/0009/bsb00096593/images/index.html>

Seeon Evangelistar, Seeon, before 1012

<http://bsbsbb.bsb.lrz.de/~db/0000/sbb00000056/images/index.html>

Not advisable as a source for 11th century kit: Harley Psalter, Canterbury, 1000-1050

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harley_Psalter

The Harley Psalter was made in the 11th century, but the illustrations are copies from the Utrecht Psalter from AD 820-850. So they are a bit old fashioned for our period.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact me at kees.nieuwenhuijsen@tip.nl

You may also find information on the FaceBook page 'Battle of Vlaardinggen 1018 - 2018'.