



**SUPPLY
LINE**

Army Battle Dress Jacket

Battle dress was the Canadian army's standard uniform during the Second World War. It replaced the First World War service dress uniform that Canada was still using in 1939. The Royal Canadian Navy and Royal Canadian Air Force also had their own versions in different colours.

Reproduction



Army Battle Dress Jacket © Canadian War Museum

The Standard Uniform

Battle dress was the Canadian Army's standard uniform during the Second World War. Starting in 1939, it replaced the Service Dress uniform of the First World War. The battle dress jacket is much shorter than the service dress jacket, with a waist strap and buttons hidden under fabric flaps.

The British Army developed Battle Dress in the 1930s. It used less fabric, and was more comfortable to wear than Service Dress. Canada's army used this design until 1947, when it was replaced by an updated version.

Different Kinds of Battle Dress

The battle dress jacket is made of wool. It was worn over a shirt. The inside pockets and some labels and trim are cotton. Buttons and other fasteners are metal.

The example in the Discovery Box is a khaki colour. It is like those worn by the Canadian Army, although the cloth has a softer texture and the buttons are made of plastic.

The Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force had their own versions. The navy's was a dark blue, and the air force's was a lighter blue.

Battle dress was also issued to Canadian military women serving in areas including Italy and Northwest Europe. These women included members of the Canadian Women's Army Corps and nurses with the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Insignia and Badges

Battle dress and other uniforms had insignia and badges. These helped identify the rank of the wearer. They also identified the person's military unit.

Some badges showed how long someone had served, and if they had been wounded. Ribbons on the left chest indicated medals that had been awarded. The jacket in the Discovery Box features the badges that would have been worn by members of Le Régiment de la Chaudière.

Did You Know?

Woollen uniforms were too warm to wear in hot weather. Lighter-weight cotton uniforms were provided for summer and in tropical locations. Summer uniforms sometimes included shorts.