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The Staff: Officers' Corps, General Staff and Generals in 1914

Forage Cap M 1914

The forage cap M 1914, having a uniform height of 14 cm, displayed a 2.7 cm strip in a distinctive colour, or two 2-cm strips (senior officers) with a 4 mm space in between. The flame was symbolised by a golden application 2-4 mm in width. The black patent leather chin strap was worn on horseback. In the cavalry, forage caps M 1863/1891 were still being worn (distinctive band 1.7 cm wide; height at the front: 14 cm; at the back: 15 cm).



Forage cap M 1913 for an infantry officer; system for fastening the chin strap.



KLM/MRA 802281



KLM/MRA B.1.98.232

Lieutenants and captains of the 2nd regiment of Guides, end of August 1914.

The Staff: Officers' Corps, General Staff and Generals in 1914



KLIMMRA 801742



Forage cap for a senior officer of the general staff, though curiously fitted with a tassel for a junior officer.



KLIMMRA 802408 et 802409



Forage caps M 1913 for junior officers with the railway corps and the mounted artillery.

1915-1918: The Belgian Army Adopts Khaki

Tunic M 1915/1918 (Circular of 22 March 1918)

The circular dated 22 March 1918 specified for the “tunics to be made in future” shoulder pieces with two buttons so that these could be easily removed. The fact that shoulder pieces and coats could be manufactured separately speeded up and rationalised the production process. Due to their late introduction (final offensive 1918), these tunics were later known as “demob models”. The conscripts of 1919, the “special contingent” not conscripted during the war, were equipped with this model.

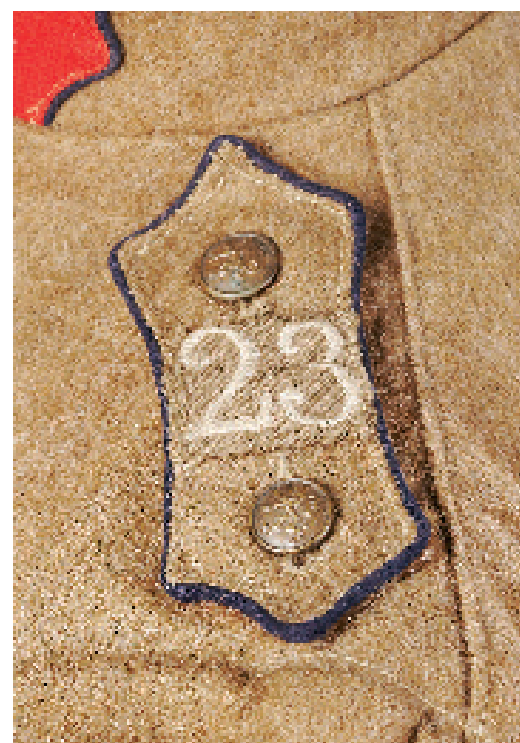
From 1916, the sailcloth uniform also received distinctive corners to the collar, with no piping. The next year, the under-collar made from cotton khaki, which had thus far been removable, was stitched fast to the tunic and the replacement under-collar disappeared on 22 March 1918, having lost its use.



KLM-NRA 9602108



This tunic M 1915/1918 (infantry) was produced in France and belonged to 1st Sergeant Lucien Lefèvre of the 23rd line infantry regiment. The regimental number follows the regulations of 24 March 1916, the shoulder pieces those of 22 March 1918. The tunic has five front stripes as specified in the regulations of 20 January 1917 and two injury stripes (regulations of 21 April 1918). It has no piping around the collar, and this soon became the norm in order to speed up production and issuance.



1915-1918: The Belgian Army Adopts Khaki



KLM-MRA coll. Ramet 348

Tunic M 1915/1918 (chasseurs à pied). It was made in France and has the emblems of one of the regiments of chasseurs à pied. The shoulder pieces follow the regulations of 22 March 1918. The lining is provided with the name of the maker and has the receipt stamp of the Belgian army.

A non-commissioned officer, wounded during the final offensive, being carried off on a stretcher. The stretcher bearers are wearing the tunic with the shoulder pieces specified in the regulations of 22 March 1918. This change was restricted to newly produced articles; when the armistice was called, the old model was therefore still in use.

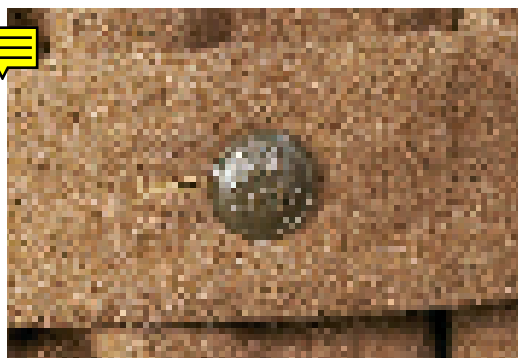
1915-1918: The Belgian Army Adopts Khaki

Greatcoat M 1915/1918 (Circular of 22 March 1918)

Like the tunic, the greatcoat worn by the infantry, the cavalry and the cyclists changed: the shoulder pieces were attached with two buttons. But here, too, the modifications were limited to items newly manufactured. The change had no effect on the old model that was still in general use at the time of the armistice.



Greatcoat M 1915/1918 (infantry). The shoulder pieces of this infantry greatcoat manufactured in Great Britain follow the regulations of 22 March 1918. The yellow piping is for the regiments of the **carbine** and chasseurs à pied. This example also has the typical buttons produced in Great Britain.



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