**What did Ambulance drivers wear in WW1?**

**Uniform**

Women’s ambulance drivers had to wear a uniform when outside:

> **Hat** – blue felt, shape as straw, regulation ribbon

> **Gabardine cap** – blue, of special Red Cross Pattern, with peak to front and strap over top

> **Long coat** – blue, double breasted, cut loose, inverted pleat, with belt of same material. Sleeves loose, with strap and button at wrist. Roll collar to button over ears or to wear open. Plain shoulder straps. British Red Cross Society’s county badge or emblem should be worn on left breast.

> **Long coat** – for summer wear. Thin navy-blue serge, waterproofed stand and fall collar, turned back cuffs, plain shoulder straps, five black buttons to front, two pockets, strap at back, scarlet Italian lining; sleeves also lined. Society’s county badge or emblem should be worn on left breast

> **Jacket** – blue serge, step end collar, panel front and back, two hip pockets with square flap to button. Four special black horn British Red Cross Society’s buttons to front. Two smaller sizes on pockets. Society’s county badge or emblem should be worn on left breast.

> **Skirt** – blue serge, five gore, 13-inch inverted pleat, seams stitched, five 5 rows of stitching, patch pockets 6 ½ inches by 7 ½ inches with pointed flap to button, right hand side: centre of pocket on seam. Top pocket six inches below waistband. The skirt of the costume should be made to admit of 10-inch ground clearance.

> **Blouse** – white with polo collar, pleat down front, cuff fastening with button. Low neck blouse may not be worn.

> **A blue blouse** may also be worn as follows: navy blue thin washable material; special pattern, with two breast pockets, and detachable polo collar. Low neck blouse may not be worn.

> **Tie** - plain black crepe de chine, wide ends

> **Belt** – black patent leather 1 ½ inches wide

> **Woollen jacket** – ladies, knitted colour lovat mixture (or plain grey), plain back, full-length sleeves, two hip pockets, six small black British Red Cross Society’s buttons to front

> **Mackintosh** – black rubber proof, stand and fall collar, five black four-hole British Red Cross Society buttons to front, strap and button on cuff, two square hip pockets

> **Gloves** – white. Except on parade, light grey in lieu of white gloves may be worn

> **Boots or shoes** – ordinary black with black stockings

> **Haversack** – blue jean with detachable white lining. To be worn unrolled on the left hip a little to the back, the sling stall pass under the right shoulder strap; the rear sling of haversack to pass under strap at back of coat to retain in position.

A vintage photo of a group of people posing for the camera

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