



1922 male Cadet uniform

ST JOHN MALE CADET UNIFORM

The uniform of Ambulance Cadets, introduced in 1922, consisted of black serge shorts with white piping. The shirt, in grey flannel, had a double yoke at the back and a "Lancer front" (a piece attached to the front of the shirt) trimmed with black braid. It had eight Brigade buttons. Each shirt was supplied with two detachable collars to make washing easier, and the tie was knitted black with white bars and tied with a sailor knot. The knee length socks were grey with black and white striped tops: footless 'hose' were also available which could be worn over normal socks. The cap was black and in the 'Balmoral' style. There was a soft black belt and boots were also black. White cotton gloves were worn. There was a waterproofed grey cape for outdoor use.

Bradford Division was the first cadet division in uniform. The Brigade was aware that the cost of these items might be prohibitive, and permission was given for the wearing of part uniform, such as belt, cap and badges, where the cost of the full uniform could not be met.

The cadet uniform remained unchanged for many years; revealingly an article in the St John Ambulance Journal First Aid in 1922 and the Regulations of 1939 both use the same image to illustrate correct dress. The 1939 Dress Regulations, did, however, recognise that older cadets did not want to wear shorts and states: "Boy Cadets of not less that 5ft. 6" in height or over 16 years of age may at the discretion of the Cadet Superintendent to wear grey flannel trousers of similar shade to the shirt instead of black shorts".



1962 Cadet uniform, with long trousers

Between 1944 and 1951 a few changes were made. A Ration haversack became part of the cadet uniform. It was worn unrolled on the left hip to the rear, the strap passing under the right shoulder strap and under the bottom edge of the waist belt. The shorts had changed from black to grey. The beret was made of black wool cloth with a pom-pom. The shirts were still grey but were made of cotton, with two pleated patched pockets. A white plaited cord lanyard went round the left shoulder.

1952 saw more changes. Once again the shorts, and trousers, were black, made of flannel or serge. But this time the tunic was also black, of the same material as the shorts. It had a drop collar, and patched pockets on each breast.

By 1962 they had reverted back to grey cotton shirts, and grey trousers, with shorts worn with the permission of the Officer in charge of the Division.

In 1968 the styles were updated, and became more in keeping with the adult St John Ambulance members. Dark grey or black trousers were worn, with a plain white shirt and black tie. There was also a black showerproof terylene/cotton blouse-type jacket with a metal zip-front fastening to neck, two plain breast patch pockets and an elasticated nylon hip band.

By 1992 the uniform included a NATO tight knit style black V-neck sweater, with the white shirt (long or short sleeved) black tie and black trousers and black beret. The belt was white and two inches wide. A white plastic first aid pouch, which could be worn on the belt, replaced the haversack. Special duty uniform included an anorak and T-shirt

The 2006 uniform remains similar, with some additions. The formal uniform of black sweater and trousers and beret remains. Duty wear options are either a two piece green suit or a black fleece operational jacket and black trousers. A baseball cap or even a fleece ski style hat can be worn. High visibility jackets with 'St John Cadet' reflective badge on back and front are also often worn on duties.



Cadet uniform as featured in the
1994 Supplies catalogue