

MILITARISM RAMPANT IN NEW TAILORED WEAR



Photos by -
Fashion Camera Studios, N.Y.C.

Here is a spring suit of sand colored gabardine and the ripple coat. The ivory white golden-rod satin, the ivory white of the satin being repeated in buttons of ivory tint. The military collar is faced with satin and a belt of white kid defines the waistline. The short skirt is circular in cut and reveals smart walking boots with buttoned cloth tops.

Here is a dashing tailleur of army blue cloth with vest and strappings of pussy willow silk and big little gilt buttons placed to emphasize the military note. The pleated skirt shows the buttoned boot and the jaunty coat, turned back to show its lining of checked pussy willow silk, has a military collar.

This spring wrap is the essence of smartness as well as admirably practical for all-around wear. It is in two sections, with a ripple skirt attached to a loose, upper part, and is built of black faille classique with a lining of daphne silk in one of the new checked Viennese patterns, brought out by the Wiener Werkstatte in Austria last year.

So smart and comfortable are these new topcoats for motoring, country, general wear, that every woman will want one. This coat has odd pockets, incorporated with the seams of the garment. The big button below the waistline has a vertical buttonhole, but snap-fasteners hold the upper part of the front and the collar.

This spring tailleur in plum colored mohair and worsted weaves shows the ripple effect now fashionable. The coat has the new high waistline and is lined with white golden-rod satin. Patent leather boots with buttoned tops of light cloth accompany the suit correctly.

WITH a dashing swing of skirt and a flutter of gay little veil, the trig, trim and tidy military maid of spring steps to the center of the stage to herald new fashions—fashions so absolutely novel, so strikingly "different," that everything worn heretofore will have to be thrown away and an entirely fresh outfit selected—unless one wishes to look hopelessly passé.

And this military maid of spring is undeniably fetching. The flutter of her veil and the ripple of her crisp taffeta petticoat—visible occasionally beneath a short circular skirt—are the only fluffy, feminine things about her. Otherwise she is smartly, almost severely, tailored from top to toe; and this perfection of tailoring extends to her gloves and to her boots—the latter—very obvious feature of her costume because of the abbreviated length of her skirt.

WIDE SKIRTS MUST BE SHORT TO HAVE DISTINCTIVENESS

Whether she will or not, this spring, woman must adopt the short skirt; for

only in coquettish length, showing the foot, instep and ankle, is the very wide, flaring skirt pleasing and graceful. A circular skirt which covers the instep gives an awkward line to the silhouette and suggests middle-age—perish the thought! But the wide skirt cut short enough to reveal captivating footwear is exceedingly youthful and dashing; and the obvious comfort and convenience of the short skirt make its appeal doubly strong. Naturally, with skirts six to eight inches above the ground, footwear assumes a prime importance. In truth, this 1915 spring brings the very apotheosis of the boot. Never has footwear of exclusive type held a more important position in relation to costume. With the short-skirted tailleur of conservative type are worn beautifully shaped buttoned boots with high, curved heels and rather tall tops of light colored cloth. Various fanciful but attractively smart variations on the conservative buttoned boot are shown for wear with ultra smart tailleurs for the afternoon, and there are even special military boots with high, beautifully fitting cloth tops having

sixteen and even eighteen small brass buttons stamped with Freedom's bird. These eagle brass buttons also add a lively regimental touch to smartly cut, braid-trimmed costumes.

A BRAID SEASON

There is a touch of braid on every tailored suit that counts for anything, from a style standpoint. Sometimes narrow binding braid outlines all edges—even defining the armhole of the coat. This effect is very military, particularly when accompanied by cord loops or frogs on the coat-front. Three massive frogs with a "half hitch" of cord—as the

Braids, Buttons, Frogs, Ornaments and Belts Give a Soldierly Suggestion—Swing of Wide Skirts Brings Swish of Silk Petticoats—Suit Materials Have More Substance to Express Spring Lines of Correctness—Checks and Neutral "Battle" Colors Most Favored.

sailorman would say—over equally big buttons will not hold a coat-front in the trim lines it must maintain on the figure, so the tailor adds a snap-fastener or two underneath as a stay to the outer frog arrangement. Tassels have also a military suggestion when knowingly placed, and there are various bands and appliqué trimmings of soutache ready to apply on sleeves, belts and pockets. Most of these cord and braid trimmings come in all the modish neutral shades—or "battle" colors: putty, sand, field green, army blue, battleship and smoke gray, and so on. Bright hues are not fashionable this spring—as far as tailored fabrics are concerned, though color is added to

the neutral-toned costumes by gay coat linings of pussy willow silk in flower and conventional post impressionist patterns. Coat-fronts turned back to show bright facings of silk are another feature of military effect in costume. The bright color of silk petticoat flounces peeping below short skirt hems is another vivid note in neutral-toned tailors. In the wide, short skirt, flaring away from the feet is the opportunity of the petticoat and, it may be said, petticoats are making the very most of their opportunity. The Renaissance of taffeta has come with these new be-ruddled and be-flounced skirts which must positively stand out crisply beneath the circular skirt of the suit

or frock. Taffeta is the only silk that will give just the right swing without stiffness and the favorite petticoat silk is pussy willow taffeta, whose pleasing texture and luster are combined with a satisfactory reliability of character. Plum shades are most fashionable for petticoats just now and petticoats of plum and putty pussy willow taffeta harmonize well with tailors in sand and putty tone.

COVERT CLOTH REVIVED

In the plain color worsted weaves for spring tailors covert leads in favor and this fabric lends itself well to the military lines. Gabardine is also much fancied and there are smart models of chiton broadcloth. Silk demi-tailors for dressy occasions are of golden-rod satin, a rich, lustrous satin which comes in battleship gray, anthracite, smoke, Hessian blue and other dark, fashionable shades. These satin tailors are cut on simple lines to show off the richness of the fabric and are

trimmed with braid, cord ornaments and buttons. In the very spirit of spring freshness are suits of shepherd check worsted and mohair mixture, trimmed with black braid and gilt eagle buttons and further brightened by gay little vests of faille classique. Coats are short and saucy, as are skirts, and the high waistline is suggested by cleverly placed belts and pockets and by pleats over the hip below the belt. All coat sleeves are now set into small, high-placed armholes, for it is the design of the mode to make the feminine figure small and dainty from the waistline up—all the width being in the skirt. And, in the skirt, one may have as much width as fancy dictates. The conservative, ready-made models show a width of from two and a half to three yards at the skirt hem. Some of the ultra smart, custom tailors ripple in six yard width above the top of the buttoned boot. Frequently pleats are introduced at the sides of the skirt to increase the width without broadening the silhouette.

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