

OBJECT ID	F2014.83
OBJECT NAME	Photograph
DATE CREATED	circa 1900
ACCESS POINTS	Military Military Uniform moustache Photographic Print portrait Sepia Sword table

OBJECT DESCRIPTION

Photograph of a moustached man wearing a military uniform. The photo is from mid-thigh and up. He holds his gloves, hat, and sword in his hand. Behind him are curtains and a small table. The photograph is in sepia and its upper right corner is missing. The back has traces of what appears to be some sort of sticking mechanism--it was probably glued to an album page at some point.

ORIGIN

This man's uniform coincides with the uniform design of the Balkan Wars (1908-1915), the First World War and Greco-Turkish War (1915-1922), or the Second World War.

Following the humiliating defeat of 1897 by the Ottomans, the urgent need for modernisation was felt by both the Government and the Staff of the Greek Army. The idea of khaki uniforms was introduced, just few years after the British had introduced their service dress, making Greece one of the first countries to adopt a modern look for its military. The use of off-white and drab uniforms was already common for summer use of the officers, who traditionally had the option of choosing privately tailored items. It was soon expanded with the universal introduction of the 1908 model for other ranks.

This uniform included a near-copy of the British four-pocket tunic of the time, in olive green wool cloth or serge, with the addition of pipings and removable shoulder boards in branch-of-service colour cloth (Red: Infantry and Staff; Bright red-purple: Cavalry; Dark red-burgundy: Artillery; Light Blue: Engineers; Dark Blue: Gendarmerie). Brass-metal buttons were used for the majority of uniforms. The pants were straight with side pipings, designed to cover the ankle lace-boots, but in campaign the majority of soldiers found these cumbersome and used cloth puttees or stuffed them in their boots to hold them tight. A khaki single-breasted greatcoat was issued for winter.The black equipment was also replaced by a natural-brown leather set.

CITATION

Photograph, circa 1900, *National Hellenic Museum*, https://collections.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/Detail/objects/. Accessed 03/29/24.