

軍服變革

時代更替，軍服也在不斷變革。清代中葉以後由於槍炮等火器盛行，以金屬製成的鎧甲的防護作用日益薄弱，士兵上戰場往往只穿上輕巧毛料造成的軍服，摒棄重型的鎧甲。

棉甲可視為鎧甲的進化版。棉甲纖維強韌，且價格低廉，不像鎧甲需要量身定做，方便大量生產。棉甲最外層為布料，內敷棉花。工匠先將棉花浸濕後踏實，重複這項工序數次，再將棉花曬乾後取用。有些棉甲的內層更會釘上鐵片。

军服变革

时代更替，军服也在不断变革。清代中叶以后由于枪炮等火器盛行，以金属制成的铠甲的防护作用日益薄弱，士兵上战场往往只穿上轻巧毛料造成的军服，摒弃重型的铠甲。

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Evolution of Military Uniforms

As time went by, military uniforms kept evolving. Since firearms such as guns and cannons were widely used from the mid-Qing onwards, the protection offered by metal armour became inadequate, so on the battlefield, soldiers often wore lightweight military uniforms made of fabric.

Cotton armour evolved from its metal counterpart. The fibre of cotton armour was strong and durable. Unlike metal armour, which had to be tailor-made, cotton armour could be mass-produced at low cost. The cotton armour had a fabric shell and cotton lining. Craftsmen soaked the cotton in water, repeatedly stepped on it to compress the fibre, and laid it in the sun to dry. Some cotton armour had iron discs sewn into the lining.