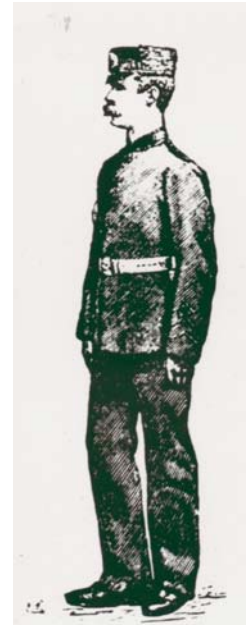


ST JOHN AMBULANCE MALE UNIFORM

The basic pattern of the Brigade uniform of black trousers, cap and tunic was first adopted in 1880s by members of the early Ambulance Corps, based on designs of contemporary military uniforms. The first dress regulations stated that wearing uniforms was optional. However following the first Brigade Conference in 1895, detailed dress regulations were published to provide a common pattern of uniform for Brigade members all over the country. These included full dress uniforms for Officers with ornate braiding, like those of army Rifle regiments. Not all Divisions adopted the uniform immediately. Many members found uniform a considerable expense, and with the distinctive white stripe down the trousers (introduced before 1911) members were discouraged from wearing uniform for anything else but Brigade duties.



Sketch of 1895 Uniform

The style of the jacket was basically the same for most ranks, with differences in the amount of corded decorations and mohair braid on the jacket (although senior Officers wore frock coats). Members wore a white belt and white gloves and carried a black first aid pouch, a haversack and a water-bottle. The cap for members and non-commissioned Officers was the forage cap or pill box pattern.



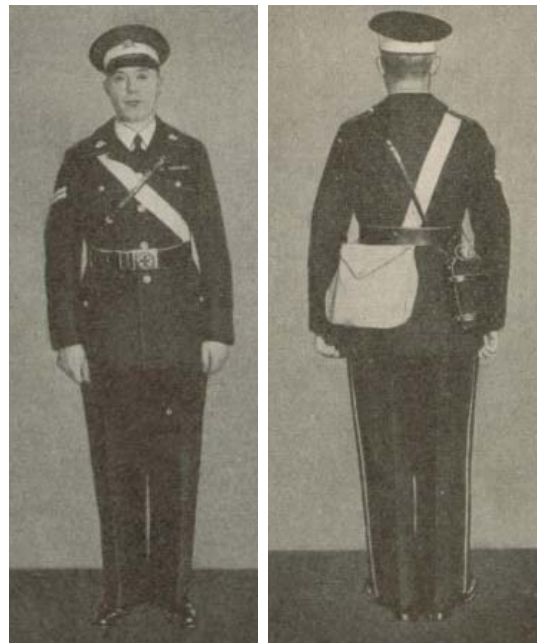
In 1911 the cap changed, with the adoption of the 'universal army shape'. This was black cloth with black cloth welts, with a white cloth band 1 5/8" deep, black patent leather drooping peak, black patent leather slide chin strap, buttoned on to two regulation plated metal buttons at sides with the SJAB badge in front. The haversack for the first aid kit was white

Uniform 1939 . Officer (left) Private (right)

canvas by this date.

From the end of World War One the design of ambulance members and Officers uniforms changed very little. Up to 1930s Ambulance Members wore their tunics buttoned up to the neck, but since then Ambulance Members and Officers alike have worn a collar and tie.

In 1968 subtle changes were made to the uniform. The material used became lighter. The haversack became white plastic and the water bottle fitted into it. Also the leather belt was disregarded and all ranks began to wear a cloth belt.



1950s Private's uniform, front and back

In 1980, 'the Year of Nursing' a practical white nursing tunic was introduced for men. This was worn with Brigade uniform trousers, with or without a shirt and black tie.

The white stripes down the side of the Member's trousers were removed around 1976.

Uniforms were updated in 1985, aiming for "simplification of styles, lower prices, fewer trimmings and more practicality: protection and comfort in all weathers, suitability for all types of duty, outdoors and indoors." There had also been criticism that the uniforms looked too much like the police and were too expensive. The same style of suit was worn by all Presidents, Officers and Members. It remained the basic black suit with white shirt and black tie, with (for Members) the white cross belt and haversack. However, there were fewer trimmings: badges were to be of cloth rather than of metal and were simplified – the St John badge on the shoulder became the single eight pointed cross, the lion and unicorn removed. Special duty uniforms included a



2006 formal uniform

NATO tight-knit style black wool jersey, body warmer and water proof reversible anoraks. Considerable flexibility was allowed in selecting the items to be worn.

By 1992 the sweater could be worn with formal uniform instead of the jacket. A Saturn yellow special duty high visibility boiler suit was also introduced.

The 2006 uniform is on the same lines. The formal uniform remains a black tailored jacket and trousers with a white shirt and black tie; the woollen NATO tight-knit style sweater can also be worn.

Operational duty-

wear is either a white shirt and white shirt and

black tie with the black sweater or fleece with a black and white belt, worn with black trousers, or a green two-piece suit in a polyester/cotton mix with reflective strips at ankles and wrists (the yellow suit was short-lived, green having been recognised as the international 'medical' colour).

Additional special duty uniforms include a black fleece suitable for training events, and an over jacket worn over member's own garments for Neighbourhood First Responders.



2006 unisex green two-piece suit