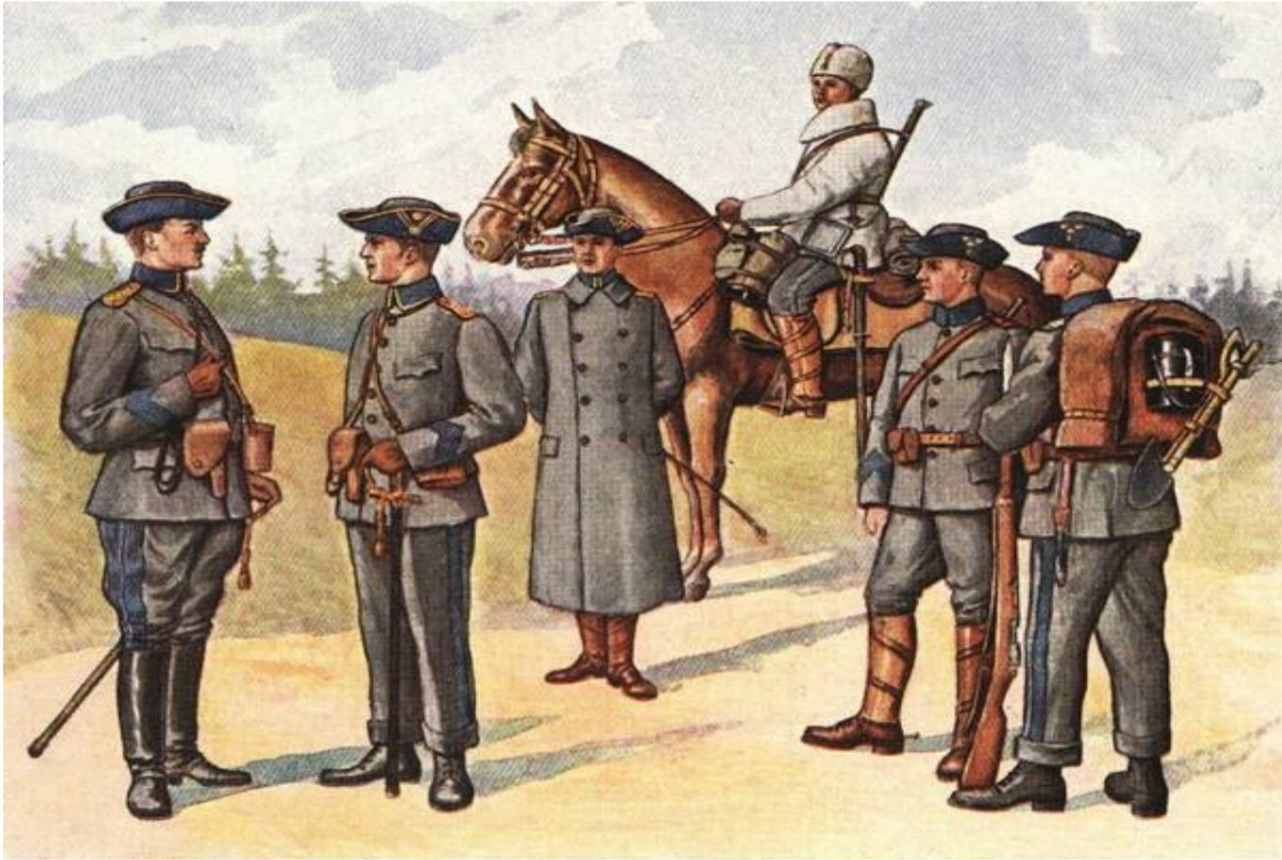


# About Swedish uniforms - Model 1910 (1906/1903), 1923 and 1939



*The Swedish Model 1910 uniform.*

The plan originates from Nordisk familjebok (1920), Volume 30 (Wikimedia).

From the left you can see:

1. Captain, General Staff, in field uniform
2. Lieutenant, Infantry, in field uniform
3. Major, Infantry, daily service uniform
4. Private, Cavalry, winter uniform
5. Private, Artillery, in field uniform
6. Private, Infantry, in field uniform

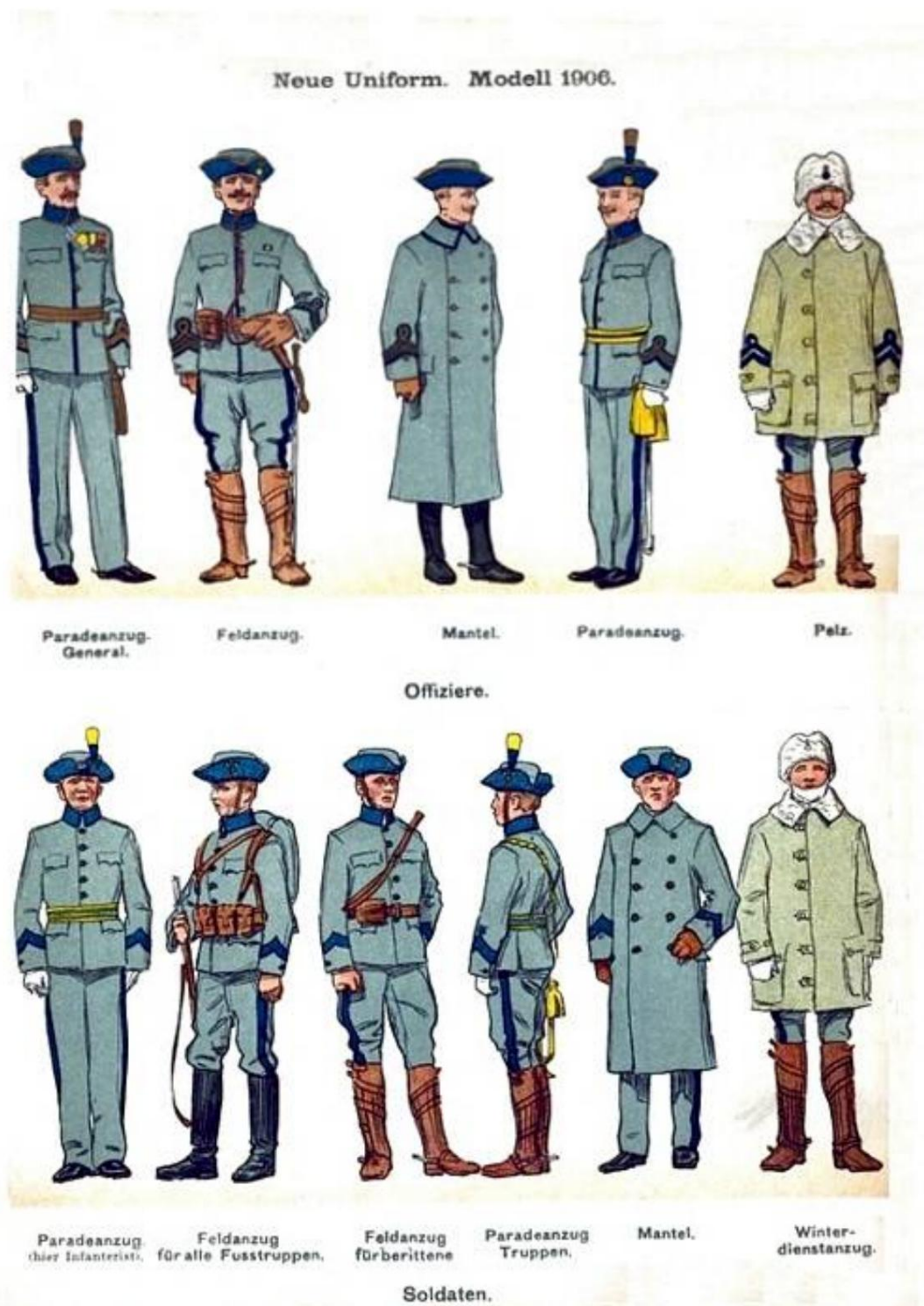
## Introduction

This article can be read in conjunction with the article *The Swedish Army - The uniforms worn during World War Two* by Ronald Kidd, *Military Modelling*, November 1985, which details the various uniform systems.

## Uniform Model 1910 (m/1910)

In the present article, a number of contemporary illustrations of "modern" Swedish military uniforms are reproduced. Although the uniforms bear the 1910 model year, originally introduced in 1906 after trials in 1902/3 and 1923 respectively, they were still used during the Second World War, particularly early in the period and by secondary units. Furthermore, reproductions of the Model 1939 uniforms, which were the actual field uniforms during the Second World War, are brought.

The direct reason for the publication of this article is an almost accidental finding of the plates with the 1910 and 1923 uniforms during an internet search for completely different subjects. However, the plates are so illustrative that they deserve to be added to our collection of uniform plates on the Chakoten website.



The Swedish Model 1906 uniform.

## Uniform Model 1906 (m/1906)

The gray uniform with the triangular hat was introduced in the Swedish army in 1906, and was designated m/1906. The main difference between the 1906 and 1910 uniforms was that the 1906 uniform did not have shoulder pads ("shoulder straps")

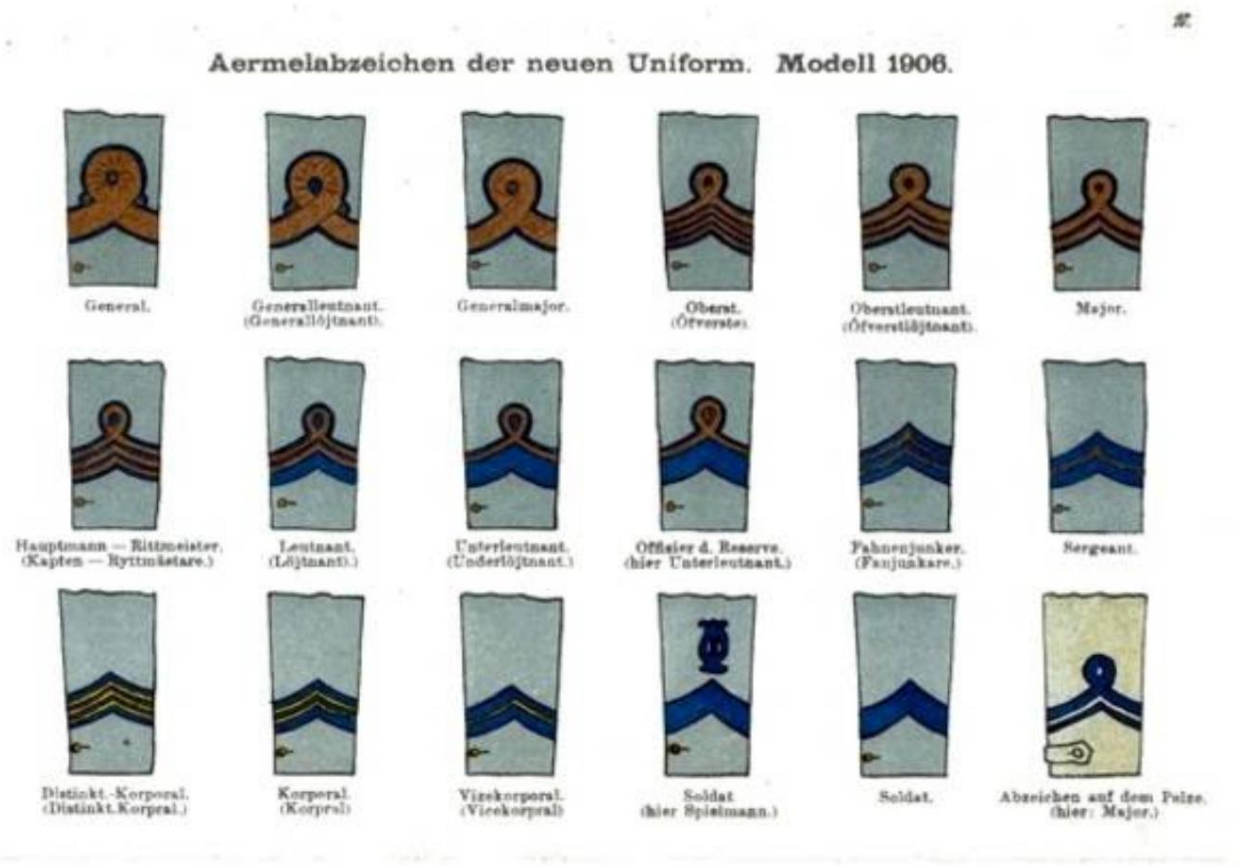
The plan comes from *Die schwedische Armee*, published by Moritz Ruhl, ca. 1910 [1](#)) and is found as a

del af The Vinkhuijzen Collection of Military Uniforms, NYPL Digital Gallery.

In the rendering here, the uniforms appear more light blue than grey, which may be due to my photo editing, which removed unfortunate shadows etc.

The crop of the general in parade uniform comes from the original planch.

## Degree sign m/1906



### Sleeve insignia for uniform Model 1906.

Fra The Vinkhuijzen Collection of Military Uniforms, NYPL Digital Gallery.

General	Lieutenant General	Major General	Oberst	Lieutenant Colonel	Major
Captain/rhythm master	Lieutenant	Second Lieutenant	Reserve officer (second lieutenant)	Officersaspirant (Master Sergeant)	Sergeant
Corporal 2) — (distinction corporal)	Corporal	Lance Corporal (Vizekorporal)	soldier (musician)	Soldier	Major (Winter Uniform)



Positions Artilleriet.

*Lance Corporal at  
the 9th Artillery  
Regiment (Positions Artillery Regiment).*  
Fra The Vinkhuijzen  
Collection of Military Uniforms,  
NYPL Digital Gallery.

### **Uniform Model 1903 (m/1903) - test uniform**

In 1902, the first modern uniform was introduced as an experiment. The uniform was introduced in the 9th Artillery Regiment (*Positions Artillery Regiment*), which i.a. manned the fortress Karlsborg [3](#), in 1903 [4](#). The uniform was designated Model 1903 (m/1903).

The uniform was grey, but with a green and brown tinge.

A triangular hat inspired by the Carolingian period was introduced as new headgear.

Although the illustration of the soldier is from the 9th Artillery Regiment (*Positions Artillery Regiment*), the uniform is, as far as I can tell, Model 1906.

### **Steel helmet Model 1921 and 1926 (m/1921 and m/1926)**

The first Swedish steel helmet was introduced in 1921 after a series of trials with different helmet types used during the First World War.

See the excellent overview in Swedish Helmets for details of the Model 1921, which was available in a tall and low version, as well as the 1926 version and the later 1937 version, which was then also used by the Danish Brigade in Sweden. The Spanish-language website Cascos del Siglo XX (Joseba Revuelta) also has a larger section on the various Swedish steel helmets.

The photographs below, taken before 1939, clearly show the Model 1910 gray uniform, easily recognizable by the dark blue stripe on the trousers, as well as the blue angles on the sleeves and the blue collars.



*Hand grenade launcher [5](#),  
wearing uniform Model 1910 and  
steel helmet Model 1921.  
From Source 2.*



*Machine gunner [6](#) wearing  
, uniform Model 1910  
and steel helmet Model 1926 (?).  
From Source 2.*

## **Uniform Model 1923 (m/1923)**

The experiences of the First World War contributed to a new "gray brown green", with brown as the predominant colour, uniform being introduced in 1923 (m/1923). However, it took some time before the uniform actually replaced the gray Model 1910 uniform.



The Swedish Model 1923 uniform.

The plan originates from Nordisk familjebok (1926), Bind.38 (Wikimedia).

From left:

1. Major, General Staff
2. Lieutenant, Infantry
3. Private, Cavalry, in winter uniform
4. Second Lieutenant (*Underlöjtnant*), Cavalry (apparently still with cape from the Model 1910 uniform)
5. Private, the infantry, in field uniform
6. Sergeant (*furir*), the artillery

## Degree sign w/1923

		Uniform m/23													
		Generalspersoner			Regementsofficerare			Kompaniofficerare			Underofficerare		Underbefäl		
Mössa															
Krage															
		General	General-löjtnant	General-majör	Överste	Överste-löjtnant	Major	Kapten (Ryttmästare)	Löjtnant	Fänrik	Fanjunkare (Styckjunkare)	Sergeant	Furir	Korporal (Konstapel)	Vicekorpral (Vicekonstapel)

Degree insignia for uniform Model 1923.

From Source 3.

## Uniform Model 1939 (m/1939)

## Uniformer Armén (utom hemvärnet)



### Hemvärnet



### Marinen



### Flygvapnet

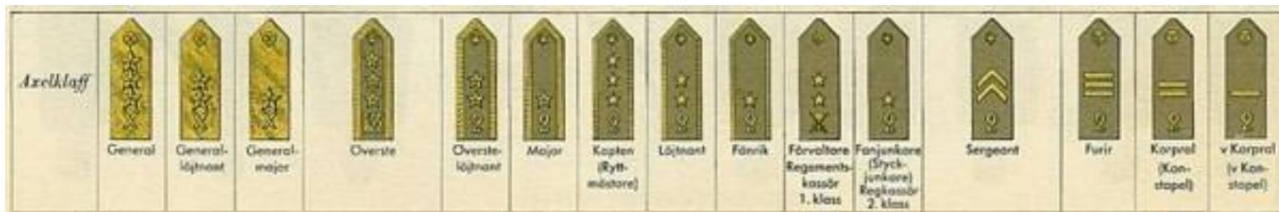


The Swedish Model 1939 uniform.7).  
From the Association of Standby Time 1939-1945.

The Swedish field uniform Model 1939 was made of grey-brown fabric. It replaced the gray field uniform Model 1910 and the gray-brown Model 1923 of the interwar period.

The uniform was used by the entire Swedish army, except for the Home Guard (*Hemvärnet*), for which a special uniform of roughly the same cut was made.

## Degree sign w/1939





Degree insignia for uniform Model 1939.

From Source 3.

## Department marks w/1939



Department badges for uniform Model 1939.

From Source 3.

## Sources [8](#)

1. Uniforms of the Swedish army, 1900s (Hans Högman Genealogy and History Site).
2. *Citizen's book on national defense* by Erik Malmström (ed.), General Staff, Stockholm 1939.
3. Uniforms - equipment (Pansarcentralen, Thorleif Olsson). Examples of the uniform systems m/ä (= modell/older - 1872 and 1886), 1910, 1923 and 1939 are shown here.
4. Uniforms of the Swedish army, 19th century (Hans Högman Genealogy and History Site).
5. Swedish regiments - Unit name and unit number (Hans Högman Genealogy and History Site).

## Postscript - Older model uniforms

Source 3 mentions that uniform items from before 1910, which were used to some extent with later uniform systems, were designated *m/äldre* or *m/ä*; these were the dark blue uniforms introduced in 1872 (double-breasted uniform coats) and for the infantry in 1886 (single-breasted); the dark blue uniforms of the artillery were also introduced in 1872, but changed in 1880 (see Source 4 for details).





Artilleris-Officiers. Gala. Dienstanzug. 1. Art.-Reg. „Svea“. 2. Art.-Reg. „Göta“. 3. Art.-Reg. „Wendes“. 4. Art.-Reg. „Norrland“. 5. Art.-Reg. „Uppland“. 6. Art.-Reg. „Småland“. 7. Art.-Reg. „Gottland“. Positions-Art.-Reg. Dienstanzug. Boden-Karlsborg. Festungs-Art. Artilleristen Gala. „Köller“ für sämtl. Artilleristen

Artillery uniforms of an older model.

Fra NYPL Digital Gallery 9).

## Swedish artillery regiments, approx. 1910

The official designation of the artillery regiments mentioned on the Moritz Ruhl plate is, cf. Source 5, as follows:

- Svea Artillery Regiment (A 1)
- Göta Artillery Regiment (A 2)
- Wendes artillery regiments (A 3)
- Norrland Artillery Regiment (A 4)
- Uppland Artillery Regiment (A 5) 10)
- Småland Artillery Regiment (A 6)
- Gotland Artillery Corps (A 7)
- Boden-Karlsborg Artillery Regiment (A 8) 11)
- Positions artilleriregementet (A 9)

### Other things

The term *Kollet*, used in connection with figures 2 and 12, originally denoted a short-sleeved dress for cavalry; later it denoted a short dress, sweater or jacket 12).

Per Finsted

### To note:

1) The reference to this publication is found in *Uniforms of the World* by Fred Gilbert Blakeslee, originally published by EP Dutton, New York, 1929, republished by Kessinger Publishing, LLC in 2004; available online as a Google Book.

2) The degree, which was really more of an honorary title, was used from 1858 to 1914, when it was replaced by

*furir*, which can be roughly translated as sergeant, while the Swedish grade *sergeant*, can be roughly translated as chief sergeant. The rank of *distinction corporal* was not used in the artillery, where the corresponding rank was chief constable (*förste konstapel*). See more about Swedish military ranks in [Militära service ranks in the army - History \(Hans Högman Genealogy and History Site\)](#).

3) See e.g. [Karlsborg fortress \(Wikipedia\)](#). The fortress was completed as a fortification in 1918.

4) The designation was used from 1901 to 1927, after which the name of the unit from 1892 to 1901, the *Karlsborg Artillery Regiment*, was adopted; the designation was used until 1937. The regiment was then called *Bergslagen's artillery regiment* until 2000, when the regiment was disbanded. From Source 5.

5) The hand grenades are possibly of the *m/18 hand grenade type*.

6) The machine gun is a *submachine gun m/37*. See [Submachine guns in the Swedish defense by Karl Olof Björnell \(Göta Vapenhistoriska Sällskapet\)](#).

7) The illustration originates from *Soldatinstruction för Infanteriet, 1944*, a Swedish counterpart to *Lærebog for Hærens menige*. Excerpts from the same sheet are, among other things, also used in my article [The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - Uniforms](#), [The Danish Brigade in Sweden 1943-1945 - More about the Brigade's Air Force](#) and [The Swedish Army 1939-1945 - Artillery](#). The uniform shown here from the Coastal Artillery is a Model 1942, as this part of the Swedish Navy had until then worn the Navy's uniforms; see also [The Swedish Navy 1939-1945 - The Coastal Artillery](#).

8) As a supplement, refer also to [Swedish Army Uniforms \(Grants Militaria Photo Gallery\)](#), which reproduces examples of the different uniform systems used in the 20th century.

9) I assume that the plate originates from the series *Die schwedische Armee*, published by Moritz Ruhl, ca. 1910. The NYPL Digital Gallery contains another 7 plates of the same type - see [NYPL Digital Gallery](#).

10) The designation was used from 1904 to 1927; from 1928 to 1951, the designation was *Norrbotten Artillery Corps (A 5)*.

11) The designation fortress artillery used on the German planche cannot be found in the list of artillery regiments in Source 5, but the regiment manned the artillery in the Boden fortification. About the fortification, see e.g. [Boden's Fortress & Rödbergfort and Boden's Fortress \(Wikipedia\)](#).

12) From *Alverden's uniforms in colors* by Preben Kannik, Politikens Forlag, Copenhagen 1967.