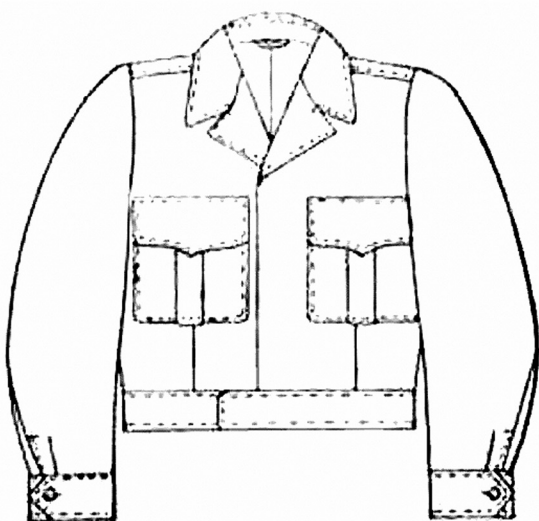


EVERYBODY'S

Jacket

By
Henry L. Jackson



Here's the first article of clothing for civilians that has come directly out of World War II

JUST before D-Day, a medium-sized package was brought to Marshal—then General—Montgomery in Supreme Headquarters. He unwrapped it, took out the contents and tried it on. He strutted a bit, looked at the right, then at the left sleeve, and pronounced his new battle jacket the finest uniform he had ever had. This was no small admission, for the British are no slouches at designing uniforms.

Each war seems to produce one article of wearing apparel which finds a permanent place in the wardrobe. In the first World War, it was the trench type of raincoat. Now comes the battle jacket. When the Quartermaster General's office announced last spring that our boys would be issued a new battle jacket for the European Theater of Operations and manufacturers took one look at it, they whooped with joy. Already it promises to become a civilian avalanche.



General Ike Eisenhower is responsible for putting our fighting men in Europe in battle jackets, has been wearing this model since the early part of this year. The general's jacket is buttoned at the bottom, his own idea. The one the boys will get is like this except it has an extension tab at the waistline

During this war, for the first time in military history, a change of uniform was made in the midst of action. The moving spirit behind the change was General Eisenhower, who insisted the boys going into Italy be given a practical combat uniform, good-looking enough for a date behind the lines.

Ike Jacket



Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, best known in the clothing world for his famous beret, wears a British battle jacket. The British version is slightly shorter at the waist than ours because the uniform is worn with high trousers and suspenders. The trousers of our troops are designed to be worn with a belt

A similar jacket had been worn for some time by the R.A.F. When our 8th Air Force boys arrived in England, they liked the jacket the English pilots were wearing and promptly went to English tailors and had themselves jacketed. It wasn't regulation. But who was to argue with the golden boys if they wanted to shoot down enemy planes wearing a well-tailored jacket—or star-spangled tights for that matter?

When our own officers abroad saw what the new jackets could do for the build—the way they broadened shoulders, nipped in waists and played up military trimness, they set up a howl and eventually got them.

The jacket is short, with a wide waistband and convertible collar which may be worn open or closed. It is tailored with regular shirt sleeves, which are adjustable, and has a full back, permitting a maximum of comfort. It has much in common with the Norwegian skiing jacket, which is a strictly utilitarian number. Yet polls taken among soldiers and their girls proved it was pre-



Harold William Gluck, 2d Lieut. in the U. S. Army infantry, a veteran of this war, honorably discharged on May 4, 1944. The jacket he wears, made for civilians, is of cotton water-repellent, wind-resistant cloth. Its collar may be worn buttoned up or down, and it has an extension tab waistband, two military pockets and shirt cuffs. It's fine for sports

Ike Jacket

ferred to the so-called dress uniform.

During the black days, when Great Britain was seriously considering regulation dress for civilians, this was the jacket they chose and, along with matching trousers, it was actually made and distributed in many parts of Great Britain. The Free French, the Poles, Czechs and Norwegians in London wore the British jacket, which differs from ours in that it's shorter, with a standing collar.

The battle jacket is perfect for the new "working country clothes," in which you can handyman around the house and grounds and yet look respectable if the neighbors drop in. It's fine, too, for hunting, golfing, fishing and is a natural for postwar flying.

You can get one in tweed, water-repellent cotton, leather, corduroy or flannel or camel-type cloth. Most stores around the country have them in stock or on order. If you have trouble locating one, drop us a line—we'll tell you the nearest place to get one.



Younger boys like the battle jacket, can wear it to school, for ice-skating, skiing and general knock-about wear. The girl, too, wears one with same military details. The battle jacket here, of tweed, slightly more dressy than the cotton type, is fine for going to the movies, golfing, etc. The Army uses the jacket for combat duty and dress, civilians like it for active sports, lounge

Collier's

October 14, 1944: p. 23