

PROTECT

WAR

DUFFEL COAT



The Duffel Coat, made of heavy woolen fabric named for its birthplace in Duffel, Belgium, was commissioned by the British Navy to protect their sailors against the harsh cold and wind of the Atlantic during World War II. The Duffel is sometimes referred to as a Toggle Coat due to its characteristic wooden toggle fasteners, which replaced traditional buttons since they were easier to fasten with frozen fingers or thick gloves. Duffel Coats were purposely cut extra large so that they could fit over another coat in case of especially bad weather. In 1951, the surplus coats became commercially available to civilians, and have been a winter staple ever since.

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