

# COMBAT BOOTS



History of Combat Boots Boots have been worn by soldiers since the age of Ancient Assyrians and Romans as a regular part of military apparel. Though the boots they wore were quite different from the boots that don the feet of modern day soldiers, having consisted of only soft leather and sometimes pieces of animal bones as togs. The boots that the Ancient Romans wore, called caligae, were sometimes open in the toe or heel for easy maneuverability and comfort, regardless of the dangers of having exposed feet in battle.

Still, those boot designs were persistent up until the English Civil War, in which soldiers were issued three pairs of thick, soft leather ankle boots with rawhide soles and leather straps to keep them tied on. The soldiers would wear a different pair of boots for every march to be sure that each pair was getting broken in and worn at the same rate. The idea was in the event of a military emergency, a soldier needed to have shoes that were in decent enough shape to be immediately shipped off to war.

After that, from 1660 to the 1800’s, military boots were very similar to civilian shoes, containing buckles rather than ties. From the mid 1800’s until the start of World War I, in 1914, armed forces employed the use of Hessian style boots, which were taller, almost knee length, and snug around the calf with a buckle on the back of the leg. Later, the trend regressed back to ankle boots with buckles because the soldiers found that it was difficult to run or fight in the taller boots due to discomfort and poor range of motion. Buckled or stringed ankle boots were standard issue until the 1960’s when the United States Military started issuing

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