

## STYLE

With Paul Ewart



# Call To Arms

Effortlessly alpha, military-inspired fashion is back in a new refined incarnation – and it's a must-wear for the sartorially astute.

I remember myself as a clueless 13-year-old wannabe indie kid, making my first foray into the world of fashion – otherwise known as buying clothes without my mum. It was the mid-'90s and the word emo didn't exist yet, but the fashion item of choice for tortured adolescents was an olive-green German army jacket (with Depeche Mode and Metallica patches sewn on). Having invested in said army jacket, my military wardrobe grew to encompass survival satchel, various combat trousers and an array of singlets. Recycled army surplus and the once-ubiquitous cargo trousers ruled the wardrobe for the latter part of the '90s. I look back and cringe.

Military trends, however, are something of a fashion perennial. Thanks to a regiment of menswear designers military is, once again, back. This season, designers have eschewed the uniforms of the ground troops in favour of the refined stylings of the officer ranks. No camouflage or survival gear here. We're talking precise tailoring, elegant cuts, epaulettes, military insignia and luxe fabrics.

D&G, Alexander McQueen, Gareth Pugh, John Galliano and Burberry have all referenced, modified and transformed the combat uniform in their collections, specifically outerwear. For colder months, the trusted combat jacket may be ultra-masculine and tough but a serious military-style coat needs to embody glamour – a little less pavement, a little more penthouse. Think single- or double-breasted with brass button detailing. Balmain Homme's naval-inspired double-breasted sportscoats or D&G's patterned musketeer jackets are great for versatile day-to-day wear. Burberry have taken a more restrained approach, showing tailored pea coats inspired by French WWII naval uniforms while John Galliano, with a typically theatrical bent, has a collection of 18th Century seafaring, swash-buckling looks that wouldn't be out of place in an Adam Ant video.

Paul Ewart is a freelance lifestyle, fashion and travel journalist. Originally from the UK, he has lived in the Middle East and now calls Sydney home.

## How To Wear It

Balance the strength of the jackets with toned-down trousers or solid, dark denims and opt for a colour palette of military hues (black, navy, olive green).



## Wear With

The trend coincides with the 50th anniversary of Dr Martens. If you're going all-out military, a pair of lace-up DM boots is an essential

component. Just make sure they're seriously polished. After all, this season's wardrobe should say we're emerging from an economic crisis, not battling our way through one.





### Wowie Bowie

Hong Kong-born Bowie Wong has had something of a meteoric rise since his move to Australia, where he launched his eponymous fashion and lifestyle label. But with a fan base comprising Madonna and George Michael, this isn't really surprising. His latest trans-seasonal men's collection is inspired by Japanese Yukatas and the architectural lines of Manhattan skyscrapers. Made in high quality cashmere, any of Bowie's luxe, fashion-forward designs are a great style investment. See [bowie.com.au](http://bowie.com.au)

### Going Deep

The deep V-neck T-shirt has been with us for several seasons now. Unless you're an advocate of showing off sizeable man cleavage (so Eurotrash!) or a scrawny pigeon chest, there hasn't really been an agreeable option on the deep V-neck aesthetic – until now. Thanks to the likes of Clemente Talarico, Neil Barrett and Burberry Prorsum, the deep V-neck cardigan offers an option for men of all chest types. Just make sure you wear something underneath.



### The Beautiful Game

The Dolce & Gabbana duo have a special talent for persuading Italy's most talented – and hottest – sporting stars to shed their gear in the name of fashion (think last year's underwear campaigns fronted by members of both the Italian swimming and rugby teams). Now, with the World Cup approaching, the label has turned its attention to soccer and has enlisted the help of five players, including Udinese's current top scorer Antonio Di Natale and Juventus striker Vincenzo Iaquinta, to showcase its new collection of underwear and gymwear. Available mid-May. Go to [dolcegabbana.com](http://dolcegabbana.com)