Camouflage: Unseen Soldiers　阿兵哥的迷幻色彩

Armies around the world may **vary** in size and strength, but there is one thing they all seem to have in common. Whenever soldiers head into battle, they do so **draped** in **camouflage uniforms**. These **deceptive** color patterns help modern-day warriors **stay out of harm's way** when danger **draws near**.

世界各国的军力可能有所差异，然而其中似乎有个共同点，那就是任何时候投入战场的士兵都身着迷彩军服。每当危险逼近，这些伪装的色彩图样协助现代的战士远离伤害。

Camouflage helps people **blend in with** their **surroundings** by making them appear to **merge with** whatever is around them, thus becoming harder to see. The Chinese were the first to use camouflage uniforms in battle, during the [Song Dynasty](). The difference was that the red uniforms worn by Chinese soldiers a thousand years ago were **meant** not to **disguise** them, but to stop the enemy from seeing their blood or injuries.

迷彩藉由让人们无论身在何处，看起来似乎皆融入其中，来协助人们与其所处环境融为一体，而变得不被发现。在宋朝期间，中国人首先在战场上运用迷彩军服，不同的是，中国士兵在一千年前所穿的红色军服并非用来伪装，而是为了让敌人看不出其鲜血或伤口。

The **dull** colors of modern camouflage first **made an appearance** on British soldiers during the 17th century. By 1857, British forces in India were using colored inks, and even tea, coffee, or mud to **dye** their uniforms to match the landscape. By World War I, the familiar green camouflage uniforms had become the **norm**, and experts such as professional artists and designers were **brought in** to design the perfect patterns to help soldiers hide.

现代的暗色迷彩首次出现于 17 世纪的英国军人身上。到了 1857 年，为了与自然环境相似，在印度的英国军队使用各色墨水，甚至是茶、咖啡或泥巴来染军服。到了第一次世界大战，我们所熟悉的绿色迷彩军服才成为常态，而且像是专业艺术家和设计师等专家们也加入设计完美的图样来协助士兵匿迹。

World War II marked the first time camouflage uniforms were **mass-produced** for all soldiers, rather than just special units. The most recent **innovation**, is **digital camouflage**, which **utilizes** digitally designed [micro-patterns]() to make the **outlines** of soldiers even harder to apply. It's all part of the **ongoing evolution** of this innovative tool of war that helps keep soldiers out of sight, and out of the line of fire.

第二次界大战开始，首次出现为全体士兵量产的军服，而非只为特殊单位订制。最新的变革是数字迷彩，利用数字设计的微小图样，使士兵的轮廓更难看得清楚。这就是正在发展中的新型战斗装备，它能协助士兵不被发现，而且不容易被击中。

－*by Joe Henley*

Vocabulary
stay out of harm's way：躲开危险 not liable to be harmed; away from any causes of harm

draw near 接近，靠近 to approach

blend in with 与…调和 to combine nicely with something; to mix well with something

surroundings [sə`raʊndɪŋz] n. 环境；周围的事物

merge [mɝdʒ] **with** 与…合并

disguise [dɪs`gaɪz] v. 掩饰，隐瞒；乔装

dye [daɪ] v. 染，把……染上颜色

innovation [ˌɪnə`veʃən] n. 革新，改革

outline [`aʊtˌlaɪn] n. 外形；轮廓

evolution [ˌɛvə`luʃən] n. 发展，进展

More Information

vary [`vɛrɪ] v.（彼此）相异，存在不同之处

drape [drep] v.〔用打褶的布〕披，盖；装饰

camouflage [`kæməˌflɑʒ] n. 伪装；掩饰

uniform [`junəˌfɔrm] n. 制服；军服

deceptive [dɪ`sɛptɪv] adj. 骗人的；造成假象的

dull [dʌl] adj. 晦暗的；无光泽的

make an appearance：露面,出席 to appear; to appear in a performance

norm [nɔrm] n. 基准；规范

bring in : 参加；加入 bring in a new person or object into a familiar environment

mass-produce [`mæsprə`djus] v. 大量生产；批量生产

digital camouflage 数位迷彩

utilize [`jut!ˌaɪz] v. 利用

micro-表示"小"，"微"

ongoing [`ɑnˌgoɪŋ] adj. 进行中的；不间断的

mean [min] v. 用意