



Polo Or Pith Helmet By Gieves Of London  
Gieves & Hawkes

Sold



REF: 30532

Height: 19 cm (7.5")

Width: 28 cm (11")

Depth: 38 cm (15")

## Description

Gieves Royal Navy Officer's Tropical Helmet, Pith Helmet, Solar Toppee.

A good Gieves Ltd. 'Wolseley pattern' solar topee (also known as a pith helmet, safari helmet, sun helmet or solar topi). The cork sun hat is a lightweight cloth-covered helmet designed to shade the wearer's head and face from the sun. The topi is in great condition (a little stained), it has a 6 panel linen body with a cloth band (or puggaree), leather chin strap, leather & crimson silk sweatband and with green cotton brim lining. Pith helmets were used by colonial forces in the mid-19th century and were also often used for Polo. Size 7 ? The inside with trade label 'Gieves Ltd. Royal Naval Outfitters, 21 Old Bond St, London, W', and written in ink 'C Haydn - Tovey' and 'W.T.Look'.

Resin display hat block not included but available to purchase separately priced at £110 + VAT.

The pith helmet was often worn by European travellers and explorers in the varying climates found in Southeast Asia, Africa, and the tropics, also with the expansion of the British Empire from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century it was routinely issued to European military personnel serving overseas in hot climates.

Providing greater protection from the sun than the old Colonial pattern helmet, the 'Wolseley pattern' had a distinctive swept-back brim and is named after Garnet Wolseley, 1st Viscount Wolseley. It was the official universal sun helmet worn by the British Army from 1899 to 1948.