

The Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee have considered the detailed proposals in Memo No. 33/61 enclosed for introducing the new uniforms proposed for Royal Marines and R.M.F.V.R. officers and other ranks on the lines approved provisionally by the Board.

2. The Committee have inspected specimens of the proposed new lovat uniforms now undergoing trials and the new raincoat.

3. The Committee recommend as follows:-

- (a) Phasing. In order to spread the cost, the new uniforms and items should be introduced in stages as set out in para.5 of the memorandum.
- (b) New Entry Kits. Revised scales for new entries should be introduced as indicated in Appendices A and D to the Memo.
- (c) Serving Personnel. The basis of introduction for serving officers and other ranks should also be in accordance with the proposals in Appendices A and D.
- (d) Badges. The arrangements detailed in Proposal A in Appendix B should be adopted in preference to the alternative in Proposal B.

(Although Proposal A will be slightly dearer by some £250 per annum and will mean that Royal Marines other ranks wear only gold badges with temperate climate uniforms, it avoids providing a whole new range of green on scarlet badges and the administrative cost and effort of introducing, procuring, stocking and issuing them).

- (e) Stocks of Superseded Items. The various measures detailed in para.9 of the memorandum should be adopted as necessary to ensure a minimum of waste of existing items.

4. The Committee have also reviewed the action being taken on the comments made and points raised by the Board and their views are:-

- (a) Chevrons - Size and Colour. The chevrons now proposed for other ranks' lovat uniforms, which are two-thirds of the size of the present Royal Marines chevrons and gold on green in colour, are considered acceptable.
- (b) Buttons) Bright buttons should be adopted for other
Distinctions of Rank) ranks as in the present specimen suits.
 (See also Recommendation No. 496 dated 8th December 1961, proposing adoption of anodized buttons and badges for Royal Marines).

After seeing an officer and other rank dressed in their appropriate new uniforms, the Committee are satisfied that the officers' style of uniform plus rank insignia on the shoulder and cap, and Sam Browne belt when worn, should provide sufficient distinction.

- (c) Cloth Belt)
- (d) Use of crease resisting material) Awaits reports of trials
for Lovat Uniform)

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- (c) Cloth Belt)
- (d) Use of crease resisting material for Lovat Uniform) Awaits reports of trials

- (e) Feasibility and Cost of replacing the current Khaki Tropical Dress with Lovat Green.

ADM 1/27970

The Committee understand that it would not be a practical proposition to obtain in cotton materials the multi coloured effect of the lovat material woven in a worsted or terylene/worsted mixture. A solid colour approximating to the general shade of the lovat material could be obtained but considerable difficulty in manufacture is to be anticipated in obtaining a consistent shade.

The Committee also feel some doubt whether, even if such a change in colour of R.M. tropical uniform could be made, the new items could entirely meet the requirement for the present khaki items which are also used by other naval services and these would therefore have to be stocked in addition.

Having regard to the above points and also to the heavy initial expenditure that would be involved in a change (because of the need for ~~extra~~ free issues to all to ensure uniformity), the Committee are of the opinion that the proposal should not be pursued at this stage.



Chairman

Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee.

5th January, 1962.

Recommendation No. 504.

MR/CCB.27

Concur in the above recommendations of the A.U.C.C. which deal with the detailed proposals for the introduction of new uniforms for the Royal Marines given in A.U.C.C. Memo. 33/61 enclosed. Board approval and Treasury sanction for the proposed arrangements are now required.

2. The background to the proposals is given in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the A.U.C.C. memo. The extent to which they have so far been brought to the notice of the Board and the Treasury is summarised below:-

- (a) on V.542/2/59, following War Office proposals for improvements in Army dress, Board approval was given to informing the Treasury in September, 1959, (in letter flagged A), of comparable improvements being considered for Royal Marines dress and giving them the following rough approximation of costs:-

Initial costs of the order of £250,000/£300,000, spread over four years.

Recurring additional annual costs - not expected to exceed £25,000.

- (b) on V.551/4/60, in Second Sea Lord's minute of 17th October, 1960, approval in principle was given to a change in R.M. dress and a specific small expenditure was approved for trials of the proposed new lovat suits;

Number No.
The " " ranks to

C.G.R.M.'s recommendations in para.5(a) and (b) of the foregoing minute regarding blue uniform accord with the proposals now under consideration Treasury.

2. The new lovat uniforms are being shown on request to First Lord and 1st on Friday, 11th May at 1200 hours in First Lord's lobby. This opportunity taken to display suits with bronze, and with bright anodised, buttons and ornaments for purposes of comparison in considering the recommendation in C.G.R.M.'s para.

ADM 1/27990

K. Hayward
DIRECTOR OF VICTUALLING.
8th May 1962.

Noted; I see no objection. I think, however, that First Sea Lord and First Lord would wish to see this paper.

A. P. Omond
U.S.N.
9th May, 1962

On Friday, 11th May, the First Lord, First Sea Lord and Second Sea Lord saw the Royal Marines final uniform proposals and approved:-

- (a) The Lovat Service Dress as paraded for officers and other ranks, including the bronze buttons and ornaments as in C.G.R.M.'s minute of 7th May. It was also decided that bronze badges should be worn on berets.
- (b) The new blue uniform for other ranks.
- (c) Endorsed C.G.R.M.'s proposals in para.5(a) of his minute dated 7/5/62.

2. It was agreed that a new pattern raincoat for R.Ms. was required but the design demonstrated was not considered to be acceptable and the C.G.R.M. was invited to reconsider the pattern.

3. D. of V. referred. Copy of this minute to C.G.R.M.

A. G. Hawke
Secretary to Second Sea Lord.
15th May, 1962.

ADM 1/27990

(j) Royal Yacht White Dress

Present provision of gold on blue Rank badges and red on white Good Conduct badges to continue.

(k) Combat Dress (Not RM Band)

Khaki on khaki serge rank badges to be worn by NCOs of Commando units and SBS. Rank insignia to be worn on a brassard by Glr/Sgts and below in training units, but RSM and QMS to wear khaki on khaki serge badges.

(l) Raincoat

Requirement for rank badges to be considered when a decision has been made on the type of material to be used.

(m) Khaki Battledress

Present arrangements to provide a full range of all badges in khaki on khaki serge ^{to continue} until April 1964.

(n) Khaki Greatcoat

Present arrangements to provide khaki on khaki serge Rank badges only, to continue. The quantity required will reduce when greatcoats are withdrawn from general issue and held for loan issue only.

2. The wearing of the RM Commando Flash, Dagger Formation Sign and Amphibious Warfare Flash after the introduction of Lovat Service Dress is still under consideration. The RM Dress Committee will discuss this at their next meeting in April 1963.

3. The gold on green Glr/Sgts insignia should, if the cost will allow, consist of the three chevrons and the same arm badge at present provided for wear on blue uniform. If cost does not permit, the insignia should be three chevrons and a crown.

4. New rank insignia/SQ badges for the following are being or will be dealt with separately:-

- (a) Staff Bandmaster - RM 169/62.
- (b) Bugler Quartermaster Sergeant - RM 462/62.
- (c) Design of metal wrist badges for Drum and Bugle Major.
- (d) RM Provost - RM 301/62.

A.C.L. Callaway
(A.C.L. CALLAWAY)
for OGRM