

(Revised—June, 1933.)

V. 546 | 6 | 54

FROM WHOM

DIRECTOR OF VICTUALLING

DATE

22nd April, 1954.

MARKINGS TO BOARD

SUBJECT

Secretary

Fourth Sea Lord

Second Sea Lord

COLONELS, R.M. AND ABOVE

PROPOSALS AS REGARDS DRESS:-

- (a) Overalls, Wellington Boots and Spurs.
- (b) Scarlet Mess Jacket and Blue Mess Vest.
- (c) New Ceremonial Dress for Generals.

PRO

FORMER

~~PA/25 VTS~~

Referred to

Date

Referred to

Date

NOTATION ONLY

Referred to

Date

G.G.R.M.

N.P.

Naval Sec.

G.F.H.

U.S.F.

Day V

V. RECEIVED  
29 MAY 1954

10. 8. 54.

V. RECEIVED  
26 AUG 1954

C.G.R.M.

D. of V.

V. RECEIVED  
26 OCT 1954

C.G.R.M.

D. of V.

V. RECEIVED  
18 SEP 1954

PA/25 VTS  
6.11.58.

PA/25 VTS

With reference to Dress Regulations, RM Officers, Page 146, paragraphs 1 and 2, CGRM wishes to revert to the traditional pattern scarlet mess jacket and blue vest, i.e. the Army pattern, for General Officers and Colonels. As the RM pattern mess jacket and vest cannot be altered to the Army pattern the proposal will entail, on promotion to Colonel, the provision of a new mess jacket and vest at a cost of approximately £35. No increase in present grants payable on further promotion to higher rank will be necessary.

2. As a measure of economy it is further proposed that officers concerned who are in possession of the RM pattern jacket and vest should be permitted to continue to wear them until replacement becomes necessary.

3. If approved, the following amendments to the Dress Regulations will be necessary:-

Delete Mess Jacket and detail and substitute:-

"Mess Jacket. Scarlet cloth with blue cloth roll collar. Pointed cuffs of blue cloth, 6 inches deep at the points, and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches behind, a 1 inch slit at the seam. Shoulder straps of blue cloth edged with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch oak leaf pattern gold lace, fastened at the points with small mounted buttons. Badges of rank in silver embroidery. No buttons on the front of the jacket, and no gold braid or piping."

Insert New Item:-

"Mess Vest. Blue cloth, no collar, fastened with four  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch mounted buttons."

Paragraph 2. After "Mess Jacket" and detail

Insert "Mess Vest": as for Generals.

4. This proposal is part of the effort CGRM is now making to raise the general standard of Corps dress to something approaching the pre-war standard. The wearing of the RM pattern mess dress by Colonels and General Officers was a measure of economy, a practice which it is felt ought not to continue indefinitely. The appointment of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh as Captain General of the Royal Marines, which entailed the provision of the correct dress, emphasises the need for the similar wearing of correct dress by at least the Colonels and General Officers promoted in the future. The average number of promotions to Colonel each year is three.

(D. H. W. SANDERS)  
for CGRM.

9th October, 1953.

4. The items comprising the present R.M. No.3 Dress and the proposed new Dress for General Officers R.M. compare as shown below:-

R.M. No.3

Blue tunic  
Blue trousers  
Forage cap  
Boots ankle  
  
Gloves. Brown, cape  
Whistle and lanyard  
Sam Browne belt and brace

Proposed New Dress

+ Blue tunic (Army No.1 Dress)  
+ Overalls  
+ Forage cap  
+ Boots (Wellington or George)  
+ Spurs  
X White wash-leather gloves  
  
X Crimson and gold waist sash  
X Gold shoulder cords  
X Gold sword sling  
X Crimson and gold sword knot  
X Sword and metal scabbard

Sword (with leather scabbard)

5. So far as paragraph 2(b) above concerns Mess Dresses for wear in temperate climates (Nos. 2B, 6A and 7), it is observed that a proposal to revert to the former arrangement under which R.M. Generals, Brigadiers and Colonels wore mess jackets and mess vests of the pre-war Army pattern is currently under consideration in paper R.M. 727/53 (paragraph 2 of C.G.R.M.'s minute dated 21st October above also refers).

6. With reference to paragraph 5(b) of C.G.R.M.'s remarks, the provision of the new Dress will in effect represent an unavoidable expense on promotion to General Officer, but its inclusion in the promotion grants would involve Treasury sanction which would present difficulties in view of the Army arrangements referred to in paragraph 1. On the other hand it may perhaps be assumed that the officers promoted in future, as well as officers already serving in these ranks, will be able to regulate their uniform replacements so as to avoid appreciable additional expense.

7. The grant for alteration of uniform for officers promoted to the rank of Major-General includes, inter alia, the cost of providing additional insignia for shoulder strap marks of rank and of changing buttons and gorget patches on two blue tunics included in the normal blue uniform outfit. It would appear that, if these proposals are approved, the effect would be broadly that for General Officers the suit of Army No.1 tunic and overalls would replace one suit of the Corps pattern tunics and trousers in the officers' outfits, although General Officers would continue to require the Corps pattern tunics and trousers for wear on occasions for which Nos. 4, 4A and 5 Dresses are prescribed. In these circumstances and having regard to the proposal at paragraph 5 (b) of C.G.R.M.'s minute it would appear reasonable that the present basis of assessment of the grant payable to officers on promotion to Major-General should be retained i.e. that the grants should continue to provide for alterations to two suits of Corps pattern. So far as Income Tax rebate is concerned R.M. officers receive the same rate of allowance as R.N. officers of equivalent rank and this allowance is therefore not affected by these proposals.

8. In these circumstances the additional expenditure involved in C.G.R.M.'s proposal would, on the basis of the information given in paragraph 6 of C.G.R.M.'s minute, be about £350 initially in respect of the provision of the ceremonial items (those marked \* in C.G.R.M.'s paragraph 4 above). There would also be a continuing commitment for replacement of these items as they became worn out but it is anticipated that this would on the average be very small.