

4637

ADM 22770

1933.)

1951

DATE

4 October, 1954.

Director of Victualling

## MARKINGS TO BOARD

## SUBJECT

~~Secretary~~  
~~Fourth Sea Lord~~  
~~Second Sea Lord~~  
~~(Any request)~~  
~~Second Sea Lord~~  
~~Fourth Sea Lord~~  
~~Second Sea Lord~~

Introduction of white Uniform  
 for Royal Marine Officers and  
 other ranks.

## FORMER

| Referred to                     | Date                   | Referred to | Date | NOTATION ONLY                  |          |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------|--------------------------------|----------|
|                                 |                        |             |      | Referred to                    | Date     |
| C.G.R.M.                        | C.G.R.M.<br>6 OCT 1951 |             |      | <del>C.G.R.M.</del><br>1/10/51 | 30.10.51 |
| N.                              |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| C.W.                            |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| D.W.C.                          | 31.10.51               |             |      |                                |          |
| S.F.                            |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| U.S.F.                          |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| See markings<br>-Yellow jacket) |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| P.A.V.                          |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| G.P.                            |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| G.P. 1951                       |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| C.O.                            |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| G.A.                            |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| U.S.N. 17 JAN 1952              |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| U.S.                            |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| 15 FEB 1952                     |                        |             |      |                                |          |
| V. RECEIVED<br>8-FEB 1952       |                        |             |      |                                |          |

P.A. 25 yrs

D. 24/3/59

ADM 1/22770  
10/10/1952  
RM 15/12/52  
Introduction of white uniform for Royal Marines for ceremonial and walking out purposes in tropical climates

C.G.R.M. concurs in these proposals for the gradual introduction of White Uniform for wear by Royal Marines for ceremonial and walking out purposes in tropical climates.

2. Regarding para. 8 of D. of V.'s Minute, it is proposed that the badges of rank to be worn on White Uniform shall be as follows:-

- (a) Quartermaster Sergeants, Staff Bandmasters and Band Masters - the existing gold on blue badges worn with No. 1 dress.
- (b) Colour Sergeants, Sergeants and Corporals - gold chevrons on a scarlet background as at present worn with No. 1 dress.

It is proposed also that Good Conduct badges consisting of red badges on a white background made of washable materials should be worn by Royal Marines other than NCOs on White Uniform. The Naval pattern blue on white badge is not considered suitable for this purpose. It is not desired that any specialist badges should be worn with White Uniform except, of course, the Kings Badge; the present gold on blue pattern worn with No. 1 dress would be suitable for white clothing.

3. A very early decision will be required if the new uniform is to be obtained for the Royal Marines embarked in s.s. "Gothic".



(W.W. DAVIDSON)  
for CGRM  
10th October, 1951.

Concur in D. of V's proposals in his paragraph 9.



for HEAD OF N. BRANCH(2).  
11th October, 1951.

It is not to be expected that the Treasury will object to the provision of Army No.3 Dress for Royal ~~Marine~~ officers who take part in the Royal Tour in the S.S. GOTHIC and C.W. has no special remarks to offer on this limited aspect.

2. As regards the issue of No.3 Dress to R.M. officers generally C.W. suggests that on the basis of the present proposal some opposition may arise in view of the following considerations.

3. The Army officers' old scale of uniform included 2 K.D. Jackets and 3 K.D. Trousers and 1 K.D. Jacket was sacrificed to obtain 2 No.3 White Suits. The Army officer, however, possessed no Mess Jackets as such but will use his No.3 Suit for ceremonial occasions, walking out and mess wear.

W/10/1952  
RM 15/12/52

ADM 1/22770  
Introduction of white uniform for Royal Marines and other ranks

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The Royal Marines wore white uniform as their ceremonial uniform in tropical climates until after the 1914-18 war when they changed to khaki. The badges worn by the Royal Marines with their white uniform were red on white background and secured in the same way as the blue badges worn by sailors in white uniform.

2. I understand from C.G.R.M. that in the Army white uniform which is to be introduced, the badges are to be gold; it will, of course, be necessary to make them detachable.

3. Gold badges will shortly be available from Service sources for Naval ratings and No. 1 dress has been introduced for C.P.O's and for P.O's drafted abroad after a certain date. It is anticipated that an approach will shortly be made to the Treasury to get their agreement for No. 1's for all P.O's.

4. In V.4813/51 a proposal has been made that Naval ratings should be supplied with badges of rank, Specialist Qualification badges and Good Conduct badges free. This is already the case for Royal Marines but hitherto Naval ratings have been required to pay for their badges.

5. If in the future non-commissioned officers of the Royal Marines are to wear gold badges with their white uniform, Petty Officers and later Leading Rates may feel dissatisfied in having to make do with blue badges on their No. 6 uniforms.

*W. Harder*

MEA/520.

(C.C. HARDY)  
DIRECTOR OF WELFARE AND SERVICE CONDITIONS  
6th November, 1951

It is understood that this paper was put in a yellow jacket at the request of D. of V. when he received from C.G.R.M. the attached docket in which he says that he must get a decision by November 14th about the uniform for the Royal Marines who will be embarked on the GOTHIC.

2. Treasury sanction will be required for the proposals in this paper and this must be sought for the proposals as a whole, including the proposal for the GOTHIC. Even if we could isolate the GOTHIC proposal Treasury sanction would still be required and there would be little point in getting the uniforms for this occasion only unless the proposals generally are approved.

3. The proposals are admittedly very desirable - we do not want the Royal Marines to be behind the Army in smartness of appearance. But we appear to have done quite well with the existing uniform for some 30 years and can hardly claim that it is essential to change it now, at a considerably increased cost as would appear from Statement B enclosed. It would be surmised that the Treasury would most probably object to our proposals on the grounds that in the present poverty of the country we cannot afford this new commitment, which does not appear to be essential.

4. D. of V. may wish to remark further before the paper is submitted, in view of the comments since his remarks of 5th October. C.W. in remarks of 31st October points out some possible reactions in the proposal for officers. Are there similar possibilities for the proposals for ratings?

*A.B. Birnie*

for Head of G.F.  
6th November, 1951.