

NEW UNIFORMS FOR ROYAL MARINES AND R.M.F.V.R.

OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS

The main points of the proposals are:-

- (a) Introduction of Lovat Service Dress, for officers and other ranks to replace battledress (which has outlived its usefulness as a dress for modern conditions and is being discarded by the Army) and blue uniform for everyday wear and on lesser ceremonial occasions.
- (b) Improved material for blue uniforms for other ranks for wear on important ceremonial occasions.
- (c) Introduction of an all-purpose khaki twill shirt to replace three existing patterns (i.e. khaki cellular, flannel and poplin) used for various conditions.
- (d) Provision of a jersey pullover for officers for wear with shirt sleeve order.
- (e) Introduction of a gabardine raincoat of Iona grey material suitable for wear with both blue and lovat uniform, to replace the present greatcoat for officers and other ranks and for officers also, the mackintosh.
- (f) Anodized buttons and badges, which do not need polishing, to be used on the new lovat uniforms instead of the existing gilt and gilding metal items (A proposal that anodized buttons should be introduced for R.M. blue uniforms as existing stocks of gilt and gilding metal items are used up has been made separately to the Treasury in letter dated 1st March, 1962).
- (g) Badges Regular Corps. The present and proposed arrangements for issue of badges to R.M. other ranks on introduction of lovat uniforms are shown in Enclosure III. It will be seen that the proposal is for wearing of gold badges on all suits, but to a restricted degree (i.e. no S.Q. badges) on the ceremonial suit and the second everyday suit. It is appreciated that this appears to provide a higher standard for Royal Marines than for Naval ratings, who are given gold badges for wear on their best suits only, but the reasons for it are as follows:-
 - (i) if gold on green badges are not to be worn on the second everyday suits it would be necessary to provide a whole new range of badges of a different type (e.g. green on scarlet) for the purpose.
 - (ii) the additional cost of the proposal using gold on green badges for both lovat suits is estimated at about £250 a year only as compared with the cost of using gold on green for one and green on scarlet for the other. This extra cost would of course be largely offset by the administrative cost and effort of introducing, procuring, stocking and issuing the separate additional range of badges.

- (iii) the proposed arrangement for optional wearing of gold on green specialist qualification badges on the second everyday suit links up with the arrangement under which men at present serving will provide the second lovat suit in their kit at their own expense in the normal course of kit maintenance
- (iv) it is expected that when the lovat uniforms have been in use for some time, the situation will be that for most men the normal course of uniform maintenance will be that they will always buy a new best suit (with gold badges) and keep as the second lovat suit in their compulsory kits the worsted suit (also with gold badges) which has been superseded as "best"

R.M.F.V.R. If the proposals for the exclusive use of gold on green badges for lovat uniforms for the Regular Corps are accepted, the position as regards badges for R.M.F.V.R. other ranks will need to be considered further in the light of the Treasury refusal to agree to gold badges for the Naval Reserves generally (Treasury letter 2-D.P.37/73/01 dated 22/9/61 refers). This is a relatively minor commitment, however, and under the arrangements referred to in para. 2 below it is envisaged that issue of lovat suits to the R.M.F.V.R. will not begin for some time after their first issue to the Regular Corps in 1964.

2. Phasing of Introduction. In order to spread the cost, the following phasing is proposed:-

(a) Regular Corps

- (i) 1964/65 - lovat Service dress and all purpose shirts for officers and other ranks,
- (ii) 1965/66 - raincoats for officers and other ranks.
- (iii) 1966/67 - improved blue uniform for other ranks.

(b) R.M.F.V.R. It is intended that issue of the new items of uniform to the R.M.F.V.R. should take place as residual stocks of the present items are fully utilised (see also para. 6 below).

3. Basis of Introduction. The present and proposed scales of issue to new entries of the various items of uniform concerned and the basis of introduction proposed for serving personnel for the various stages of the scheme are set out in Enclosures II, III and V. Enclosure IV shows the present and proposed future bases for K.U.A. for other ranks.

4. Comparison with other Service Scales. So far as the number of uniform suits is concerned, these proposals maintain the present position of the Royal Marines vis-a-vis officers and men of the other Services, i.e. the Royal Marines are provided with an extra suit. The reasons for this are briefly as follows:-

- (a) the dual role of the Royal Marines as both sailors and soldiers;
- (b) because of the major part they have to play in the ceremonial of the Navy, the Royal Marines are regarded as the equivalent of the Guards Brigade of the Army;