

Helmets WP.1

Subject: Helmets W P  
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Before the war everyone wore leather chin straps but from 23 April 1926 officers wore chin-chains when the full dress tunic was worn. They were eventually going to be worn by all ranks, however in May 1939 there were insufficient stocks and issues were confined to ranks in ships. However in June they were worn by a Company street lining for Their Majesties' drive to the Guildhall and were being retained by the ranks concerned on completion of the duty. From some notes I have that Vivian Dunn made, he said that they were issued to Band and Buglers in December 1938 for the 1939 Royal Tour of Canada.

In Sep 1939 a circular was issued stating that helmets were not to be worn in ships or shore establishments for the duration of the war. A separate circular in 1940 stated that chin chains were to be returned to store. In 1943 another was issued stating that personal issue of helmets was discontinued and all helmets were to be returned to store.

After the War RMRO 1452/45 stated that RM Bands would revert to wearing white helmets, belts and pouches. This was cancelled by 293/47, which apparently said the same thing! In 1956 they were being worn by RM ranks (as opposed the band ranks) on special occasions. However they were issued to ships' detachments when I was at sea in 1951 and they were worn by the Commando Brigade for Presentation of Colours in Malta in 1952. An RMRO wasn't issued until 1964 ordering them to be issued to ships' RM detachments.