

The Committee has examined the matters concerning the wearing of No. 8 Action Working Dress, which have been raised by:-

- (a) F.O.S.N.I. Proposal that men in Class I and Class III Uniforms should not wear a tie when a uniform jacket is being worn over this rig,
- (b) F.O. Air (Home) Proposal that men wearing Action Working Dress should wear a blue pattern Service waist belt.
- (c) C. in C. Plymouth. Proposal that jerseys when worn should be worn under the shirt.
- (d) C. in C. Portsmouth (i) Proposal that Branch Badges should be worn on Action Working Dress. (ii) Proposal that an Admiralty Fleet Order covering all aspects of No. 8 Action Working Dress is desirable.

2. (i) The Committee is of the opinion that Branch as well as substantive Badges should be worn on Action Working Dress: The wearing of badges will ensure that the various types of Rating can be distinguished at all times when wearing this dress. It is not recommended that good conduct badges or skill badges should be worn.

(ii) This dress is the standard Action Dress in temperate, warm and hot climates and, since in action a large proportion of Ratings wear anti-flash gear, and consequently no caps, the Committee considers that Chief Petty Officer rates should wear their Branch Badges on this dress to enable them to be easily distinguished.

(iii) Since when anti-flash gloves are worn in action, the normal position of the Chief Petty Officer's badge, i.e. on the cuff, is obscured, and since when Action Working Dress is worn as a working rig in warm or hot weather, the sleeves are frequently rolled up, the Committee considers that Chief Petty Officers should wear the Blue Badge either over the left-hand shirt pocket, in a central position, or should wear their badges on the shoulders of their shirts.

(iv) The Committee was equally divided on the question of the shoulder or breast position; both are new positions for the wearing of badges by Ratings. The shoulder position has possibly the advantage of giving increased prestige to Chief Petty Officers, since this position is normally reserved for Officers' rank badges.

(v) The Committee is of the opinion that, if the wearing of badges by Chief Petty Officers on Action Working Dress shirts is approved, the question of whether they should not similarly wear their Branch ~~and~~ Badges on their Tropical Shirts will have to be considered.

Note:- It will be appreciated that the Artificer Branches will wear no distinguishing badges on Action Working Dress, since they do not possess such badges, but it is presumed that this would be acceptable. The Committee noted that midshipmen wear no branch badge.

3. When jackets are worn with Action Working Dress, it is normally for the reason of obtaining extra warmth, and consequently they may be discarded by the wearer when he no longer needs the additional covering.

The Committee is of the opinion, therefore, that ties should not be worn with Action Working Dress by men in Class I and Class III rigs.

The Committee is, however, examining a proposal at the moment to allow the wearing of the Action Working Dress Shirt with No. 3 Dress, both with a view to reducing laundering, and with a view to reducing the number of articles of kit required by men in war. In this case, the wearing of ties is recommended.

4. With regard to the wearing of the jersey with the Action Working rig by men in Class II Dress, there are several considerations which arise:-

- (a) The jersey is worn to obtain extra warmth, and it frequently occurs that during the period that a Rating is wearing his jersey, the weather becomes warmer, or the man moves from an exposed position to a sheltered position, such as between decks, etc. In this case the man might well be more comfortable and work better with his jersey off, and for this reason, it is obviously better that the jersey should be worn over the Action Working Dress Shirt, so that it can be easily doffed or donned.
- (b) The comfortable fit of Action Working Dress, especially in regard to the fitted waist belt requires that a man's shirt and trousers, should be of the normal fit for his size. If this is so, and he is called upon to wear a jersey underneath his shirt and trousers, the shirt will frequently not button up and the trousers' fitting becomes uncomfortably tight.

The result is that when the average sailor is wearing a jersey with his Action Working Dress, he looks untidy and the shirt and trousers are strained.

The wearing of extra underclothing beneath an Action Working Dress Shirt is less bulky and gives similar or greater warmth than the wearing of a jersey.

- (c) On the other hand, the wearing of the jersey under the Action Working Dress Shirt gives a certain measure of protection to the jersey against grease, dirt, etc., and also enables a degree of outward uniformity to be achieved, while allowing such men as feel cold to wear their jerseys as additional underclothes.

The Committee considers that, both from the point of view of smartness and comfort, the jersey should normally be worn over the Action Working Dress Shirt.

If it is approved for jerseys to be worn over Action Working Dress, the Committee considers that P.O's and leading rates dressed as seamen should wear their Substantive Badge (in red) on the arm of the jersey.

5. The method of securing the waist of the present Action Working Dress trousers is not entirely satisfactory, and the trousers have been re-designed and will shortly be issued for trial.

While the wearing of a belt may be comfortable in temperate and cold climates, the wearing of a belt in warm and hot climates is frequently uncomfortable.

The Committee consider that, until the trials of the new pattern trousers are satisfactory and the new designs can be generally issued, a Service waist belt should be worn with Action Working Dress; Commanders-in-Chief, Abroad, to be given discretion as to whether belts with Action Working Dress are to be worn on their Stations or not.

6. Summary of Recommendations.

The Committee recommend that:-

- (i) Blue Branch Badges should be worn on Action Working Dress.
- (ii) Chief Petty Officers should in future wear their Branch Badges on Action Working Dress Shirts, the badge either being worn over the left pocket, or badges being worn on each shoulder.
- (iii) Men in Class I and III Uniform should not wear a tie with Action Working Dress when a jacket is worn.
- (iv) When additional warmth is required, jerseys should be worn over Action Working Dress Shirts; P.O's and leading rates dress as seamen wearing Red Substantive Badges on their jerseys.
- (v) Until a more satisfactory type of trouser fastening is introduced, the blue Service belt should be worn with Action Working Dress, but Commanders-in-Chief, Abroad, should be authorised to dispense with the wearing of the belt on their Stations, if they so desire.

7. A draft A.F.O. incorporating the above suggestions is attached.

8. Since there does not appear to be complete uniformity amongst the Commanders-in-Chief and Flag Officers at Home, it is suggested that a copy of these recommendations and the draft A.F.O. should be forwarded to Commanders-in-Chief at Home and to Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, for their remarks.

Submitted.



CHAIRMAN  
Admiralty Uniform Clothing Committee

2nd March, 1949