

Any further communication should be addressed to -

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London, S.W.1.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

15 June, 1949

quoting "V.1/682/49"

Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth - *Reply sent*
(Ref. No. 4679/S.5278/1/10 dated 7/12/48)

Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth - *Reply sent*
(Ref. No. 3379/P.321/22 dated 8/12/48)

Commander-in-Chief, The Nore - *Reply sent*
(Ref.No. 565/622/1/48 dated 25/2/49)

Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet. - *Reply sent*

Flag Officer Air (Home), - *Reply sent*
(Ref. No. 86/245/3 dated 11/1/49)

Flag Officer Commanding Scotland and Northern Ireland - *Reply sent*
(Ref. No. 4304/162/2 dated 22/11/48)

} Letter
to
each

Uniform Regulations (Ratings) Dress No.8

I am to acquaint you that various proposals concerning the wearing of No.8 dress by ratings have been considered by the Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee and a copy of the recommendations made by the Committee together with a draft A.F.O. is forwarded herewith.

2. I am to request that you will furnish your comments on the proposed A.F.O.

3. In view of the present financial stringency it is necessary to defer implementation of the proposal in paragraph 6(i) and (ii) of the Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee recommendations concerning wearing of branch badges, but I am to request that you will indicate your views on the alternative proposals concerning the position in which such badges should be worn by C.P.O's on Action Working Dress Shirts.

4. It has also been suggested that the name "Action Working Dress" is rather cumbersome and that the dress might in future be known as "Action Dress" although the latter is not so fully descriptive of its use, I am to request that you will also furnish your views on this proposal.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS,



GRAMS:—
Admiral, Chatham.
TELEPHONE:—
Chatham No. 3221.
(Extensions 210 and 519).



OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF THE NORE. *Dag V*

ADMIRALTY HOUSE

CHATHAM

27th August, 1949.

No. 2451/622/2/49.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

(Copies to:— Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.
Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.
Flag Officer Commanding, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
Flag Officer Air (Home).)



UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) DRESS NO. 8.

The draft A.F.O. forwarded with Admiralty Letter V.1/682/49 of 15th June, 1949 is concurred in, but it is considered that paragraph 2 (e) should be amended to ensure uniformity in the wearing of shirt collars either inside or outside the jacket collar. It is suggested that shirt collars should be worn turned down outside the jacket collar.

2. It is considered that C.F.O.'s Branch Badges should be worn over the left hand breast pocket.

3. There appears to be little advantage to be gained by a change of title. "Action Working Dress" accurately describes its functions, and the everyday use of the term "No. 8's" obviates the necessity of the common use of this rather cumbersome title.

Henry Moore

ADMIRAL

R. NL 7502/48.

D. of H

Referred.

62M.
13/1.



Office of Flag Officer Air (Home),
Lee-on-Solent, Hants.

11th January, 1949.

SDDV 14/11
ADW
28/11

UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) - DRESS NO. 8.

No. 86/245/3. ✓

The Secretary of the Admiralty.



(Copy to:- The Commanders-in-Chief, Portsmouth, The Nore,
Plymouth.
The Flag Officer Commanding Scotland and
Northern Ireland.)

NL 25/11 7502/48.

Be pleased to inform Their Lordships that the proposals contained in the Flag Officer Commanding Scotland and Northern Ireland's No. 4304/162/2 of 22nd November, 1948 are concurred in, but it is considered that the regulations should state that a waist belt is to be worn with No. 8 dress.

2. The following further amendment is therefore proposed:-

After "blue substantive badges" add "blue service pattern waist belt".

R. Prill.

VICE ADMIRAL

D. of V.

Office of Flag Officer Air (Home),
Lee-on-Solent, Hants.

18th August, 1949.

UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) - DRESS No. 8.

No. 3327/245P/3.

The Secretary of the Admiralty.

(Copy to:- The Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
The Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.
The Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
The Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.
The Flag Officer Commanding
Scotland and Northern Ireland.)

The draft Admiralty Fleet Order forwarded with Admiralty Letter V.1/682/49 of 15th June, 1949, is agreed.

2. It is considered that Chief Petty Officers' branch badges should be worn on the shoulders.

3. The title "Action Dress" is considered adequate. It is suggested that the heading of the Admiralty Fleet Order should read "ACTION DRESS (No. 8)".

A. P. L. L.

VICE ADMIRAL

Telegrams

Admiral, Devonport.

Telephones

Plymouth 61101, 61201
Devonport 370, 371, 691

The Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth,
Mount Wise,
Devonport.

PART NL 7502/NL

V. RECEIVED
13 DEC 1948

48
Dof V 27/11
8th December, 1948.

No. 3379/P.321/22.

SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

(Copies to:-

Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, Nore.
Flag Officer Commanding
Scotland and Northern Ireland.
Flag Officer Air (Home).)

11 DEC 1948
REGISTRY

UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) - DRESS NO. 8.

Be pleased to inform Their Lordships that the proposals contained in Flag Officer Commanding Scotland and Northern Ireland's No. 4302/162/2 dated 22nd November, 1948, are concurred in. It is further proposed that jerseys, when worn, should be under the shirt. NL 28/11

Robert Burnes

ADMIRAL

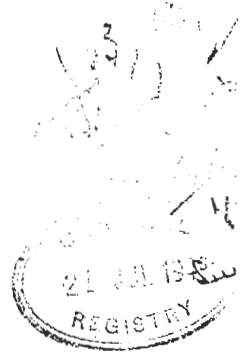
Telegrams
Admiral, Devonport.

Telephones
Plymouth 61101, 61201
Devonport 370, 371, 691

The Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth,
Mount Wise,
Devonport.



19th July, 1949.



No. 1767/P. 321/1.

SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

(Copies to:-

- Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
- Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
- Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.
- Flag Officer Commanding Scotland
and Northern Ireland.
- Flag Officer Air (Home).)

UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) DRESS
NO. 8.

Be pleased to inform Their Lordships that the draft Admiralty Fleet Order, enclosed with Admiralty Letter V1/682/49 dated 15th June, 1949, is generally concurred in.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 (o) (iii) of the draft Admiralty Fleet Order I deprecate the wearing of No. 8's on any occasion of entering or leaving harbour, with the exception that it might be worn on occasions when ships' companies are not fallen in. It is also suggested that the words "In such cases " should be omitted from the second sentence of paragraph 2 (e). This would make it clear that the non-wearing of ties in Class I and III uniform is not dependent on cool or cold conditions.

3. It is considered that the shoulder position would be more suitable for the wearing of branch badges by Chief Petty Officers.

4. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Admiralty Letter quoted above it is suggested that a more descriptive abbreviated title would be "Working Dress".

ADMIRAL.

1948

OFFICE OF FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING
SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND,

ROSYTH, FIFE.

22nd November, 1948.

No. 4304/162/2.

SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.(Copy to:- Commander-in-Chief, Nore.
Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.
Flag Officer Air (Home)).UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) - DRESS NO. 8.

With reference to the Appendix to the Navy List dated June, 1948 - Naval Uniforms (Ratings), Section II - page 118, be pleased to inform Their Lordships that the question of wearing of black ties and serge jackets with No. 8 Dress by ratings not dressed as seamen requires clarification.

2. It is proposed that a tie should not be worn with this dress and that the wearing of a serge jacket should be optional. The following amendment to the regulations quoted is therefore proposed:-

| Dress No. | Classes I and III | Class II. |
|-----------|--|--|
| 8 | Light Blue Shirt without tie, dark blue Trousers, blue substantive badges, serge jacket may be worn. No medal ribbons on the shirt. Blue or white Cap vide Section IV paragraph 2. | Light Blue Shirt and Dark Blue Trousers, blue substantive badges. No medal ribbons. Blue or White Cap vide Section IV paragraph 2. |

VICE-ADMIRAL.

OFFICE OF FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING
SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND,

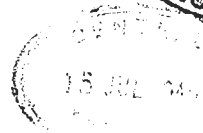
ROSYTH, FIFE.

13th July, 1949.

No. 1652/162/2

SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

(Copies to:- Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.
Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.
Flag Officer Air (Home).)



UNIFORM REGULATIONS (RATINGS) DRESS NO. 8

With reference to Admiralty Letter V.1/682/49 of 15th June, 1949 be pleased to lay before Their Lordships the following comments on the proposed draft Admiralty Fleet Order:-

- (a) This dress to be known as No. 8 with the description "Action Working Dress" and occasion of use defined in the Uniform Regulations.
- (b) Branch badges to be worn on the left side of the chest, by those who normally wear them. This would mean that Chief Petty Officers are distinguished for rank by their Cap badge only.
- (c) The wearing of jackets and jerseys to be at the Senior Officer's descretion. Paragraph 2 (c) of this Admiralty Fleet Order to be amended accordingly.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J.R. ...'.

VICE-ADMIRAL



Commander-in-Chief,
Home Fleet,
at Weymouth.

8th July, 1949.

No. 929/HF.165/141.

SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

WEARING OF NO.8 DRESS.



With reference to A.L. V.1/682/49 of 15th June, 1949 about Action Working Dress, be pleased to inform Their Lordships that the provisions of the draft A.F.O. forwarded therewith are concurred in.

2. It is recommended that blue branch badges should be worn on the shirt in this dress and in White Tropical Dress, those of Chief Petty Officers being worn above the left pocket.

3. The proposal to rename this dress "Action Dress" is not concurred in; the new name is not so descriptive as the present name, for which an adequate short title - No.8's - already exists.

4. The following amendments to the draft A.F.O. are proposed:-

Para.2 (c)(iii) - To read "It may be worn when entering or leaving harbour, in accordance with Station or Fleet Orders."

Para.2 (e) - In the seventh line, for "over" read "under". The last sentence to be deleted.

5. The amendment to paragraph 2 (e) of the draft A.F.O. is proposed in view of the recommendations in paragraph 4 (c) of the Committee's report, and the undesirability of requiring Petty Officers and Leading rates to sew badges on to jerseys. Furthermore a rig consisting visibly of a jersey and overall trousers is not considered desirable.

6. I do not agree with the proposal that men in Class I and Class III should not wear ties when wearing jackets over action working dress. Ties can easily be put on and taken off with the jacket. If no tie is worn, the question arises as to whether the shirt collar should be worn inside or outside the coat, both of which methods look slovenly.

A D M I R A L.

WEARING OF BADGES WITH NO. 8 DRESS.
(The Captain, H.M.S. EXCELLENT's No. H.106/4 of 12th
November 1948).

II.

No. 4679/S/5278/1/10.

ADMIRALTY.

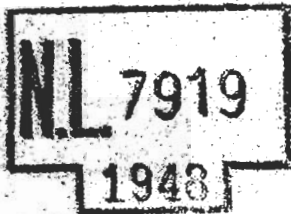
(Copy to :-

The Captain, H.M.S. EXCELLENT.)



Forwarded for consideration of Their Lordships,
concurring.

2. It is considered that an Admiralty Fleet Order
covering all aspects of No. 8 dress is desirable, and a
copy of the instructions issued to the Portsmouth Command
is enclosed.



Portsmouth.
7th December 1948.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'A. Williams'.

Admiral.

NO. 8 ACTION WORKING DRESS - DESIGN AND WEARING OF.

Handwritten: A.W. 1

From ... THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, PORTSMOUTH.

Handwritten: B. 1/2

Date ... 23rd June 1949.

No. 1900/C/5279/1/3.

Handwritten: M. G. 1/3

To ... THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Handwritten: A. W. 1/3
- file of
- 1/3



Be pleased to inform Their Lordships, with reference to Admiralty Letter V.1/682/49 of 15th June 1949, that the draft A.F.O. forwarded under cover of that letter is concurred in generally, with the exception of paragraph 2(e).

2. It is considered that when jerseys are worn with No. 8 Dress, the jersey should be worn under the shirt and Portsmouth Command Standing Orders at present provide for this. The objections listed by the Admiralty Uniform and Clothing Committee would be outweighed by the greater uniformity of appearance, protection to the jersey, and the avoidance of the need for badges on jerseys.

3. When serge jackets are worn with this dress by men in No. 1 and No. 3 Uniform, the shirt collar should be worn outside the coat collar.

4. It is considered preferable for Chief Petty Officers to wear branch badges on the shoulders, and for Petty Officers to wear them on the sleeve, two inches from the top.

5. The suggestion that No. 8 Dress be known as "Action Dress" is concurred in.

Handwritten signature: A. Willis

Admiral of the Fleet.

EXTRACT FROM P.C.S.O. 301.

NO. 8 WORKING DRESS

The following regulations for the wearing of No. 8 Working Dress are promulgated for guidance:-

- (a) No. 8 Working Dress is an alternative to No. 3 dress and a substitute for No. 5 dress. It is to be kept clean and smart.
- (b) It is never to be worn by 'duty men' or for night clothing.
- (c) It is not to be worn outside an establishment, ship or the precincts of a Dockyard, except by working parties moved as a body of men on foot or in motor transport.
- (d) It may be worn when entering or leaving Harbour, except when ships are visiting foreign countries, paying organised visits to ports in the British Isles, or on semi-ceremonial occasions such as leaving for a commission abroad.
- (e) In cold weather Chief and Petty Officers may wear serge jackets in conjunction with this dress, in which case a tie is also to be worn.
Junior ratings are to wear jerseys underneath the shirt, the sleeves of which are to be buttoned at the wrist. In hot weather the sleeves of the shirt may be rolled up above the elbow.
- (f) Blue substantive badges are to be worn on the left arm of the shirt by Petty Officers and Leading rates.
- (g) White or blue caps are to be worn according to the seasonal change in home waters.
- (h) It is to be the normal dress for training classes, but Commanding Officers may exercise discretion where the nature of the instruction makes No. 8's unsuitable.
- (i) Notwithstanding the dress directed by the Commander-in-Chief, it is at Commanding Officers' discretion to order No. 3 dress on days when divisions are held so that Divisional Officers may see their men in the dress.
- (j) Under suitable circumstances it may be authorised by Commanding Officers for landing parties.
- (k) The introduction of this Dress has made the wearing of overall suits unnecessary, except for really dirty work, e.g., scaling, painting, turret sweepers and for work in boiler rooms and machinery spaces. OVERALL SUITS ARE THEREFORE PROHIBITED EXCEPT FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

SUBJECT:

NO. 8 DRESS.

FROM: THE COMMODORE, ROYAL NAVAL BARRACKS, CHATHAM.

DATE: 17th February, 1949.

No. M.23- 2.

TO: THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, THE NCRS.

With reference to NCRS No.622/1/49 of 8th February, 1949, the amendment to the Uniform Regulations (Ratings) concerning No. 8 dress, proposed in the Flag Officer Commanding Scotland and Northern Ireland's letter No. 4304/162/2 of 22nd November, 1948, is concurred in generally, but it is suggested the following are desirable amplifications:-

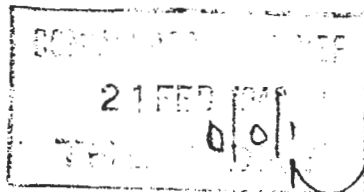
NL 25/11

Class I and III

add "Optional waistbelt".

Class II

add "Waistbelt is to be worn.
Jerseys may be worn under the
shirt".



REAR ADMIRAL.

SUBJECT ... UNIFORM FOR RATINGS - BADGES ON NO. 8 DRESS.

FROM ... THE CAPTAIN, H.M.S. EXCELLENT, PORTSMOUTH.

DATE ... 12th November 1948. No.H.106/4.

TO ... THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, PORTSMOUTH.

No. 8 Working Dress has been issued to be worn as an alternative to No. 3 dress and as a substitute for No. 5 dress. In order to be able to distinguish ratings of different branches, and seaman ratings of different specialist qualifications, it is submitted that blue badges should be worn on the right arm, as well as the substantive badges on the left arm.

2. This dress would then meet the requirement of providing a means of distinguishing ratings in action and when under training, and would comply with the general practice of the wearing of badges.

3. It is submitted that an A.F.O. on the wearing of badges on No. 8 dress is a requirement and that P.C.S.O. 301 para (f) should be amended.



P.V.M. McLaughlin

(P.V. McLaughlin)
CAPTAIN.

ACTION WORKING DRESS

Reports from the Fleet indicate that certain minor modifications are necessary in the design of Action Working Dress.

A number of suits of Action Working Dress of a modified design have been manufactured and are being issued for trial. The modifications include an improved design of shirt with buttoned flaps to the pockets and trousers with increased seat and leg measurements and improved waist suspension.

2. Considerable experience of this dress has now been obtained, and the following instructions for its wear are promulgated:-

(a) Action Working Dress is to be the standard dress in action in all but cold climates.

(b) As a working dress, No.8 Dress replaces No.5 Dress, and is an alternative to No.3 Dress.

It is not to be worn by "Dutymen" in harbour as "night" clothing.

(c) It is not to be worn outside a Ship, Establishment or the precincts of a Dockyard except:-

(i) by working parties moving in a formation (state) or travelling in motor transport.

(ii) It may be worn as an anti-malarial dress ashore at the discretion of the senior officer.

(iii) It may be worn when entering or leaving harbour for exercises.

(d) It may be worn by landing parties.

(e) In cool or cold conditions, men in Class I and Class III Uniform may wear serge jackets in conjunction with this dress and men in Class II Uniform may wear jerseys. In such cases, men in Class I and III Uniform are not to wear ties. Men in Class II Uniform are to wear their jerseys over their No.8 dress. P.O's and leading rates dressed as seamen should wear red substantive badges on their jerseys.

(f) Blue Substantive and Branch Badges are to be worn to enable Ratings to be easily distinguishable in action. Chief Petty Officers are to wear such badges on the shoulders of their shirts (centrally over the left pocket). Good conduct and skill badges are not to be worn with this dress.

(f) (g) Blue or white caps are to be worn with this dress,
according to the season.

(g) (h) Until a new design of trouser has been introduced,
blue Service web belts are to be worn with this
dress.

Commanders-in-Chief, Abroad, may dispense
with the wearing of the belt in hot climates
for reasons of comfort, if desired.

3. Blue shorts for wear with Action Working Dress Shirts
on foreign stations have been designed and will be introduced
shortly.