

No. H.F. 503/165/5,

Dated 9th May, 1950.

Subject

TRIAL OF NEW UNIFORM CLOTHING.

References

Enclosure(s)

H.M.S. Implacable No. 50 of 4th April, 1950.

H.M.S. Theseus No. 50/3 of 20th January, 1950.

H.M.S. Agincourt No. 6444/30 of 21st March, 1950.

SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

(Copies to:-

Flag Officer Commanding,  
3rd Aircraft Carrier Squadron.  
Commanding Officers,  
H.M. Ships Implacable and Theseus.  
Captain (D),  
4th Destroyer Flotilla.  
Commanding Officer,  
H.M.S. Agincourt.)



Forwarded for the information of Their Lordships in accordance with A.L. V. 1361/49 of 25th March, 1949.

2. The following points are generally agreed:-

Class I and III Uniforms - Style.

- (a) The style and appearance of the new suits, including the external breast pocket and the width of the trousers, are well liked. There is some preference for a slightly wider trouser leg.

Class I Suits - Buttons.

- (b) These are satisfactory and can be introduced for a large scale trial.

Class II Uniforms - Jumpers.

- (c) The jumper with the front slide fastener is neither liked nor recommended.
- (d) Provided that the slide fastener works correctly, the jumper with the side slide fastener is satisfactory and easier to put on than the present type. Opinion is divided as to whether they are as smart, but this may be due to the fact that the suits were "made to measure" as opposed to the "tailor made" suit which the majority of ratings possess.
- (e) Although the coat style sleeves are comfortable, their appearance is disliked and they are not recommended.

Materials.

- (g) The wearing qualities of the new materials are satisfactory.

3. Opinion is divided on the following:-

Class I Suits - Material.

- (a) A majority prefers No. 1 Suits to be made of cloth, but there is some preference for Diagonal Serge.

Class II Uniform - Trousers.

- (b) In general, these are reported on favourably. For appearance, it is thought that the existing type of trousers is preferable.

Materials under trial.

- (c) Of the new serges, Pattern T. 74A is preferred for Class I and III suits, but not for Class II. - *weight*

4. It is considered that in general, these trials have been too limited in scope for conclusive results, but it is recommended that:-

(a) The following are introduced:-

- (i) The new styles of Class I and III suits, together with the external breast pocket and the wider trouser leg.
- (ii) The new type of button for extended trial, including stations abroad.

(b) No further action should be taken with regard to:-

- (i) Class II jumpers with a front slide fastener.
- (ii) Class II jumpers with coat style sleeves.

(c) Further trials should be arranged with:-

- (i) Class II jumpers with the side slide fastener.
- (ii) Class II trousers with the fly front.
- (iii) All types of material.

5. I would like to take this opportunity to press for the re-introduction of No. 1 suits at an early date as a compulsory article of uniform. I realise that the cost of this proposal would be considerable and that it might be necessary to restrict the proposal to C.P.O's and P.O's initially. I consider, however, that the re-introduction of No. 1 suits, which would further raise morale, might be well undertaken at the expense of the Materiel Votes, since the overall efficiency of the Navy depends as much on the men as on the technical excellence of the material which the men are called upon to operate.

*Thomas Vane*

A D M I R A L.