

SUBJECT:

TRIALS OF UNIFORM CLOTHING

FROM: THE COMODORE, ROYAL NAVAL BARRACKS, CHATHAM.

DATE: 31st March, 1950. No. 300/8.

TO : THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, THE FLEET.

The following report on the results of the trials of uniform clothing (classes I and III) carried out during the past six months and the conclusions drawn is forwarded with reference to Admiralty Letter V.1361/49 of the 25th March, 1949.

Cloth Pattern No. 4 - 5 Suits.

2. All suits have worn satisfactorily, but are now beginning to show signs of wear along the edges of the jackets and on the seats of the trousers. They have kept their appearance fairly well. Three ratings stated that they preferred the trial cloth to the standard cloth, and that for No. 1 suits they preferred cloth to diagonal serge. In all cases the style and the width of the trouser leg were considered satisfactory. The breast pocket was popular. There were several complaints about the dye which affected the underclothes to such an extent that in some cases they had to be changed every 24 hours when the suits were first issued.

Cloth Pattern No. 5 - 5 Suits.

3. All were satisfactory, but three are showing signs of "bagginess" at the knees of the trousers. Three ratings stated that they preferred the standard cloth to the trial cloth and that for No. 1 suits they preferred cloth to diagonal serge. The style and trouser leg were satisfactory and the breast pocket was popular. There were several complaints that the dye affected the underclothes.

Cloth Pattern T.11 (Standard Cloth) - 1 Suit.

4. This suit was outstanding in every way; the cloth, appearance and style being popular. The breast pocket was popular and the trouser-leg width considered satisfactory.

Diagonal Serge Pattern No. 3432 - 5 Suits.

5. All wore satisfactorily and kept their appearance fairly well. Three now show a tendency to shine. The trial serge was preferred to the standard pattern, but all the ratings declared they preferred cloth for a No. 1 suit. Trouser-leg and breast pocket all popular, but there were complaints about the dye and all the suits have faded.

Diagonal Serge Pattern No. T.63 - 5 Suits.

6. All have worn satisfactorily and kept their appearance. So far they show no tendency to shine. All ratings stated they preferred the trial serge to the standard pattern. Style, trouser-leg and breast pocket were all popular. Ratings wearing these trial suits stated they preferred a diagonal serge suit as a No. 1 suit. There were complaints, however, regarding the dye and the suits have lost their colour.

Diagonal Serge Pattern No. T.797 (Standard Diagonal Serge) - 1 Suit.

7. Nothing but praise for this suit. It has kept its colour and appearance, and has worn extremely well. Style, trouser-leg and breast pocket were all popular, the diagonal serge suit was preferred as a No. 1 suit.

Serge Pattern No. T.74A - 2 Suits.

8. Both have worn satisfactorily and kept their appearance. There has been no sign of "bagginess" or shine. The trial serge was preferred to the standard pattern. The style was not popular, a double-breasted jacket being preferred. The breast pocket was not required, an additional inside one being considered more desirable. A good serge and a more satisfactory colour than Pattern T.78.

Serge Pattern No. T.78 - 2 Suits.

9. Both have worn satisfactorily and kept their appearance. There has been no sign of "bagginess" or shine. The trial serge was preferred to the standard pattern. Again the single-breasted style was not popular, a double-breasted jacket being preferred. The breast pocket was not popular, an additional inside one being preferred. The trouser-leg was considered satisfactory. A good serge, but of rather a light colour.

Serge Pattern No. T.76 (Standard Serge) - 1 Suit.

10. This suit did well for three months, but has now badly deteriorated. It has become thread-bare and is of little further use, a double-breasted jacket would be preferred. In this case the breast pocket was popular. The trouser-leg was considered to be satisfactory.

NOTE: All suits were worn for an average of six days per week during the period of the trials.

General Remarks and Conclusions.

11. Cloth. The standard cloth T.11 has proved to be superior to the other trial cloths. There were no complaints about the material. In fact it was generally praised for its hard wearing qualities and appearance. Suits made of this material are, therefore, strongly recommended as the No. 1 suit of the future.

12. Diagonal Serge. Although the majority of the ratings stated they preferred the trial serge to the standard pattern, the latter has proved its superiority. The colour and the hard-wearing qualities were generally remarked upon. It is, however, not considered that a diagonal serge suit would be suitable or universally popular as a No. 1 suit, but it is recommended as an optional No. 2 suit.

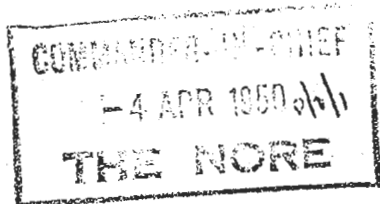
13. Serge. The standard serge was definitely inferior to the other two patterns. Pattern 74A is considered the most satisfactory because of its colour. Both the trial serges wore very well.

14. Breast Pockets. These were generally popular with the cloth and diagonal serge suits, but they were not considered necessary with the ordinary serge suits.

It is doubtful, however, whether the innovation of a breast pocket in any of the suits is at all desirable or necessary. It is felt that there would be a tendency for ratings to carry pens or pencils in this pocket and possibly have a portion of a handkerchief protruding. To those ratings doing parade and guard duties, the pocket would be a nuisance. It is, therefore, considered that an additional inside pocket would be more suitable than any breast pocket.

15. Trouser-leg and Waist Belt. These two new features were generally popular and should be introduced. The extra width of the trouser-leg helps to retain the creases in the trousers. The pleated waist-belt makes the suit more comfortable and the trousers hang much better.

16. Substitute Gilt Buttons. These have greatly improved the appearance of the suits and in all respects they are considered satisfactory. It is, therefore, recommended that they should be adopted without any further trial or delay.



*Peter Cazale*

COMMODORE