

TRIALS OF NEW UNIFORM CLOTHING,

FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER, H.M.S. IMPLACABLE.

DATE 4th April, 1950. No. 50.

TO THE FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING,
THIRD AIRCRAFT CARRIER SQUADRON.

The following report on the trial of new uniform clothing is forwarded in accordance with The Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet's No. H.F.165/171 of 5th September, 1949, and replaces the earlier report contained in my No. 50 of 20th December, 1949.

Class I and III Uniforms.

2. These uniforms were issued for trial in June, 1949 to selected ratings. The cloth suits have been worn as No. 1 suits and the diagonal serge and blue serge as No. 3's. The style and appearance of the suits are satisfactory. Without exception, preference for an external breast pocket has been expressed. The width of the trouser legs is satisfactory. Blue cloth is preferred as No. 1 suits.

3. Cloth Suits. The suits of Pattern No. 5 and No. T.11 cloth have been worn for an average of three to four days a week for nine months. Both cloths have worn well and have retained their original appearance satisfactorily. The only fault found with the Pattern T.11 is that it is too hot in warm weather. Pattern No. 5 is entirely satisfactory and is preferred to the standard cloth.

4. Both ratings selected to wear suits of Pattern No. 4 cloth have been drafted from the ship and no remarks can therefore be offered on this type of cloth.

5. Diagonal Serge Suits. The ratings selected for the finer twill Patterns No. 3432 and T.63 left the ship after the suits had been worn four days a week for six months and six days a week for three months respectively. The material retained its appearance satisfactorily and there was no tendency for it to become shiny. The suit of standard diagonal serge T.79R has been worn practically every day for nine months. It has worn well but holds the dust and is rather hot. The finer twill diagonal serge material is free from these faults and is also preferred in respect of appearance.

6. Blue Serge Suits. These suits have been worn practically every day for nine months. The suits have worn well though a slight tendency to shine is just noticeable in the Pattern T.74A. This material however is preferred to the Pattern T.78 which is too heavy and less smart.

7. Gilt Buttons. It does not appear that any of the suits were fitted with the trial gilt buttons.

Class II Uniforms.

8. The trousers have been worn on an average five to six days a week for five months but the jumpers have had less wear. None of the ratings has worn his trial suit ashore as they say they prefer "their own".

9. Though these jumpers are comfortable and easy to put on, the appearance is ruined by the front slide fastener and for this reason this Pattern is not liked. Even if it were possible to hide the fastener, which seems improbable, the seam down the front and the less close fitting cut would still probably spoil the appearance to an unacceptable degree. No difficulty has been experienced in working the slide fastener even with a jersey under the jumper.

10. Pattern 'B' Jumper - Side Slide Fastener. The side fasteners make the jumper somewhat easier to put on but not sufficiently to warrant the loss in smartness. The slide fastener does not catch in other clothing but is inclined to come off the top of the runners. This compromise pattern is not recommended.

11. Coat Type Sleeves. These sleeves do not cause the jumpers to rise when the arms are lifted above the head except in the cases of jumpers made of the T.78 serge. Although the sleeves are reported by some ratings as more comfortable than the normal jumper sleeves, their appearance is disliked in nearly all cases. They are not recommended.

12. Trousers. The fly front trousers are preferred to the normal fall front trousers and are strongly recommended. The pockets are adequate though inclined to bulge a little. One rating wore braces for a short time and found them satisfactory.

13. Materials. Blue serge Pattern No. T.78 is not at all popular because it is too heavy and also takes up too much room in the locker. There seems little to choose between Pattern 74A and T.76.



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