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

DATE 20TH JANUARY, 1950, AT PORTSMOUTH. No. 50/3.

TO THE FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING, THIRD AIRCRAFT CARRIER SQUADRON.

The following remarks are forwarded in accordance with the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet's Min. II No. H.F. 165/171 of 7th April 1949 to Admiralty Letter V 1361/49 of 25th March 1949.

2. The evidence as a result of the trial and experiences of wearing this experimental uniform seem to be:-

(a) The suits were badly tailored and did not fit. The men concerned suffered some embarrassment at their messmates justified references to "pantomime Jacks". The sartorial demands of the average sailor require tight fitting jumpers which these were far from being.

(b) The serge used was considered to be better but thicker than the ordinary and as such preferable for winter but not for summer. On the whole the ordinary serge was preferred for an all purpose summer/winter suit.

(c) The side zip was well liked in principle: the front zip was not. However, even the side zip is only acceptable if it can be black and fool-proof which those concerned were not. The side zip ran off the rails at the top and the jumper had to be taken off for adjustment each time this happened. Several Liberty Boats were missed due to this.

(d) The old tight buttoned wrists were much preferred to the new loose wrists. "Tightness is all" epitomises the sailors' idea of a smart jumper.

(e) Opinion on fly versus flap was divided and strongly held by each protagonist. The great compromise was for flaps with pockets cut through the outside of the flap. The flies were held to bulge and spoil the silhouette. As one said "with a flap you can't go about with your flies undone".

(f) Pockets. The only pockets required are one inside the left breast for the pay book and two in the flap of the trousers. All others are redundant and a nuisance.

(g) Sleeve linings. The sleeve linings stick to the arms in hot weather or "when out dancing" and are not liked.

3. Summary.

It appears that what is wanted is:-

- (a) A suit which fits tightly.
- (b) Made of the same serge as that for trial but of a lighter weight.
- (c) A fool-proof black side zip.
- (d) Tight at the wrists.
- (e) Flap trousers with two pockets through the outside of the flap. No hip pocket.
- (f) One Pay Book pocket in the left breast of the jumper.

TRIALS OF NEW UNIFORM CLOTHING

4. The answers to the questionnaires are shown in the attached appendix. Only one patt. 5 cloth suit was made.



A. B. S. U.
CAPTAIN.