

The Committee have considered the reports from Flag Officers concerning the draft A.F.O. on the wearing of action/working dress. A summary of the reports is attached. (Appendix A).

2. It will be seen that there are differences of opinion on various points and the Committee's recommendations are as follows:-

(a) Wearing of Action/working dress when entering or leaving harbour.

(i) Commander in Chief, Plymouth, deprecates the wearing of action/working dress when entering or leaving harbour except when Ship's companies are not fallen in. Commander in Chief, Home Fleet, suggests that the A.F.O. should state that this dress may be worn when entering or leaving harbour in accordance with Station or Fleet orders.

(ii) Recommendation

In the circumstances the Committee recommend that the amendment proposed by Commander in Chief, Home Fleet should be adopted as this also meets the objection stated by Commander in Chief, Plymouth;

(b) Wearing of Jerseys with No. 8 dress by men in Class I<sup>I</sup> uniform.

(i) Commanders in Chief, Portsmouth and Home Fleet, are still of the opinion that the jersey should be worn under the shirt but other Authorities (including Commander in Chief, Plymouth, who previously advocated the wearing of the shirt underneath) agree that the jersey should be worn over the shirt.

(ii) Recommendation

Since uniformity in the Fleet is desirable the Committee adhere to their recommendation that the jersey should be worn over the shirt. This is supported by the majority of Commands and is considered preferable from the point of view of both smartness and comfort. So far as numbers of ratings are concerned the total serving in the two Commands which advocate the wearing of the jersey under the shirt is probably about half the total in the four Commands which favour the wearing of the jersey over the shirt.

(c) Wearing of Jackets with No. 8 dress.

(i) Commander in Chief, Home Fleet, considers that ties should be worn when jackets are worn as otherwise the collar looks slovenly but Commanders in Chief, Nore and Portsmouth, consider that the collar of the shirt should be worn outside the collar of the jacket. Other Commands do not indicate their views on whether they consider the shirt collar should be worn under or over the jacket although they signify their agreement that ties should not be worn and Commander in Chief, Plymouth, suggests that the A.F.O. should be amended to show that the wearing of ties is not dependent on climatic conditions. F.O.S.N.I. considers that the wearing of jackets (and jerseys) with this dress should be at the Senior Officers discretion.

(ii) Recommendation

In the circumstances the Committee recommend that the shirt collar should be worn outside the jacket. This

appears to be accepted by the majority of Commands and would also preserve uniformity with the wearing of the shirt collar outside the jersey by men dressed as seamen - vide (b) above.

(d) Proposal that "action/working dress" should be re-named "action/dress".

(i) Commander in Chief, Portsmouth, and Flag Officer Air (Home) agree with this proposal but Commanders in Chief, Nore and Home Fleet and F.O.S.N.I. do not recommend any change in title as "action/working dress" accurately describes its use and the short title "No. 8's" obviates the common use of the full name. Commander in Chief, Plymouth, suggests that "working dress" would be a more descriptive abbreviated title.

(ii) Recommendation

In view of the concensus of opinion in favour of retaining the present name the Committee recommend that no change should be made but that the heading of the A.F.O. should include both the full name and the short title "No. 8's".

(e) Position in which branch badges should be worn on action/working dress by C.P.O's etc.

(i) Commanders in Chief, Portsmouth and Plymouth and Flag Officer Air (Home) recommend that C.P.O's should wear branch badges on the shoulders of action/working dress whereas Commanders in Chief, Home Fleet and Nore consider that C.P.O's should wear branch badges over the left pocket. F.O.S.N.I. recommends that C.P.O's should ~~wear~~ wear their branch badges but that other rates should wear ~~their~~ their branch badges over the left side of the breast with this dress.

(ii) The Committee have examined specimens of action/working dress shirts with badges over the left pocket and on the shoulders. As it is difficult to identify the badges worn on the shoulders the Committee consider that it would be preferable for C.P.O's to wear branch badges over the left pocket. This also has the advantage that only one badge is necessary instead of two for the shoulders.

(iii) As regards the proposal by F.O.S.N.I. that C.P.O's should not wear branch badges with this dress it is considered that the wearing of branch badges on action/working dress by C.P.O's is necessary to enable them to be distinguished in action when they would not wear their caps. The Committee discussed, whether the badges worn over the left pocket might be obscured by equipment worn in action but decided that this would not be so. Other ratings would wear their branch badges in the normal position i.e. on the right arm.

(iv) Recommendation

The Committee recommend that branch badges should be worn with action/working dress as soon as this is financially practicable, C.P.O's to wear their branch badges over the left pocket and other ratings in the normal position on the right arm. The provision of badges for this dress replaces those provided for the white working dress in the pre-war kits

at any rate so far as men dressed as seamen are concerned.

3. A revised draft A.F.O. incorporating the Committee's recommendations shown under paragraph 2, a - d, above is attached. (Appendix B). Even if approved it may not be possible to implement the recommendation at paragraph 2 e (iv) for some time and it is proposed that the A.F.O. should be now issued as draft attached.



Chairman

ADMIRALTY UNIFORM AND CLOTHING COMMITTEE<sup>q</sup>

21st November, 1949

mo/ccb/28

Concur with the recommendations of the Admiralty Uniform & Clothing Committee and the revised draft A.F.O. (Appendix B) enclosed as slightly amended in pencil. The modified suits of A/W Dress referred to in paragraph 1 of the A.F.O. were supplied from Risley in November and reports from C's. in C. Home Fleet and Mediterranean are now awaited.

2. It has been represented by C.in C. Portsmouth in his submission of 15.11.49, No. 3164/C 5279/1/3, in V.4953/49 attached that there is a strong tendency for ratings to decorate the shirt pocket of No. 8 dress with their initials and that an A.F.O. should be issued prohibiting this practice. It is suggested therefore, that it would be appropriate to add a paragraph 4 as follows to enclosed draft A.F.O.

"It has been brought to notice that there is a tendency for ratings to decorate the shirt pocket of A/W Dress with their initials. This practice is not permitted and C.O's should take suitable steps to ensure that A/W Dress is not defaced".

3. It is proposed that further consideration should be given to the question of wearing branch badges with A/W Dress (Paragraph 2(e)IV of the Committee's recommendations) after issue of the enclosed A.F.O. on the wearing of this dress generally.

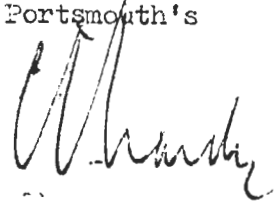
Submitted.



DIRECTOR OF VICTUALLING  
3rd December, 1949

ccb28/md

D.W.S.C. concurs generally in the draft A.F.O. as amended, and in D. of V's minute paragraphs 2 and 3 dated 3rd December, 1949, except that after further consideration he now considers that jersey should be worn under the shirt with Action Working dress, ~~for~~ for the reasons given in paragraph 2 of the Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth's letter 1900/C/5279/1/3 dated 23rd June, 1949.



(C.C. HARDY)  
DIRECTOR OF WELFARE AND SERVICE CONDITIONS  
12th December, 1949

MEA/520.

V 4953/49 which deals with the  
replacement of No 8 dress shirts by  
the embroidery of initials on the  
pocket and which has been  
recently received, has been  
attached




(R. C. ST. JOHN)

RCST

2. 1. 50.

It has been decided that jerseys, when worn,  
are to be worn under the shirt of No 8 Dress.

2. D of V is requested to amend and re-submit  
the draft AFO

  
RCST to 4 SL

21 March 1950

It is proposed that para. 2 (e) of the draft A.F.O. be amended to read as shown in revised draft x enclosed.

2. In a submission dated 29th ulto in V.1273/50 attached C. in C. Portsmouth has ~~reported~~ <sup>represented</sup> that there is a tendency for Action/Working dress to be worn for very dirty work with the result that the suits are disfigured with paint, grease etc. This results in substantial expense to ratings for replacements. Although it was intended that Action/Working dress should replace the wearing of overalls to a large extent for ordinary work, it was intended that the latter should be used for very dirty work. It is for consideration whether the opportunity ought to be taken to include a reference to this matter in the proposed A.F.O. and it is suggested that the following might be added to para. 2(b):-

"Overalls should be worn for [very dirty] work when clothing is likely to be [seriously] damaged or disfigured by contamination by paint, grease etc."

3. Will D.W.S.C. and D.T.S.D. please remark before submission to the Board.

*Stinson*

Director of Victualling  
15th April, 1950.

Concur with D. of V's minute dated 15th April, 1950, but suggest the words, which have been put in brackets in the proposed addition to 2(b), should be omitted.

*C.C. Hardy*

(C.C. HARDY)  
DIRECTOR OF WELFARE AND SERVICE CONDITIONS  
19th April, 1950

MEA/520.

*Concur in D.W.S.C's 19.4.50.*

*W. Knowling*  
*for D.T.S.D. 22.4.50*

The revised draft A.F.O. marked "X" enclosed, incorporates amendments to paragraph 2 (b) and 2 (e) as set out in remarks dated 15th April, 1950, of this Department subject to the modification suggested by D.W.S.C. to which no objection is seen

Submitted.

*W. J. H. Hurd*

DIRECTOR OF VICTUALLING.

29<sup>th</sup> April, 1950.

fb/719

*Approved as amended*

*W. J. H. Hurd*

*ACST for 4'8L*

*2<sup>nd</sup> May 1950*

A.F.O. To  
B.50.  
O.T. 10  
1950