

OFFICERS FULL DRESS

1925

Except for the Divisional Bands, full dress had not been generally reissued to the Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marine Light Infantry after World War I, although one detachment was given a special issue for wear on a Royal Tour. Consequent upon the amalgamation of the two branches of the Corps a new Royal Marines full dress was authorised, but not issued until 1925, which was worn on ceremonial occasions until September 1939.

Generals and Colonels - RM Officers of Generals' rank continued to wear the same pattern full dress as army generals with no distinctive regimental features. From 1925 to 1929 Colonels Commandant (Brigadiers from 1928) and Colonels Second Commandant at the three Divisions and the Depot continued to wear regimental full dress, as they had in the RMA and RMLI. For this brief period they wore the regimental (blue) full dress as described below, but with two three quarter inch (19 mm) bands of gold lace on the cuff. Like army officers of similar rank their trousers had a one and three quarter inch stripe and they wore the gold and crimson silk sash and cocked hat. Their sword, slings and knot were all of regimental pattern.

White Wolseley Pattern Helmet – similar to that described later for other ranks but of superior quality.

Tunic – Blue cloth with scarlet collar fastened with two hooks and eyes at its squared edges with slightly rounded corners, gold wire edging and three-quarter inch gold lace of special pattern and Corps badges. (The collar badge for RM Band Officers included a gold embroidered lyre over the Globe and Laurel). The shoulder straps were of twisted gold cord, a small button at the top of the loop and badges of ranks embroidered in silver wire. Nine large gilt regimental buttons at the front and at the back two slashes at the bottom of the skirt each with three large regimental buttons. The cuffs had a three-quarter inch gold lace band and three pointed slashes each with a large regimental button surrounded by gold lace. Sash – 2 and three quarter inches wide crimson silk net, folded with two pleats, with two tassels 14 inches long. Worn round the waist with the tassels hanging on the left side immediately behind the front sling of the sword belt.

Gloves – white wash leather.

Full Dress, Officers

Overalls – tight fitting blue trousers with a quarter inch welt, strapped below the boot.

Boots – Wellingtons

Sword – Infantry pattern with nickel plated steel scabbard.

Sword Belt Slings – gold wire lace three quarters of an inch wide on red Morocco leather, suspended from a belt worn over the tunic but under the sash when the sword is carried.

Commissioned Officers from Warrant Rank and Warrant Officers – The gold lace round the cuffs and collar of the tunic was half inch instead of three quarters. Trousers replaced overalls and black ankle boots with plain toe cap instead of Wellingtons. A crimson Morocco leather sword belt with a distinctive buckle replaced the crimson sash, and a matching sword knot.