

R.M. Officers - Proposed Changes in Uniform.

The introduction of Lovat Service Dress provides an opportunity to revise certain aspects of the dress of senior Royal Marines officers:-

- (a) to increase the distinction between these officers and their Army counterparts in certain dresses - the present similarity has been a source of some high level criticism; and
- (b) to reduce the number of changes in dress at present necessary on promotion.

The Admiralty Board of the Defence Council accordingly propose that the following changes in the dress of senior Royal Marines officers should be implemented:

GENERALS AND MAJOR GENERALS

a. All Uniforms - Buttons

General Officers to wear Corps or Mounted Lion and Crown buttons, instead of the pattern worn by Army Generals, on all uniforms except on gorget patches and on shoulder straps on Mess Dress.

b. No.1 Dress

General Officers to wear the Royal Marines "open necked" tunic instead of the Army pattern 'high necked' tunic with No.1 (Non-Ceremonial) Dress. The Army pattern tunic to continue to be worn with No.1 (Ceremonial) Dress.

COLONELS AND ABOVE

c. Mess Dress

Colonels and above to retain the same general design of mess jacket as other Royal Marines Officers instead of changing to the Army style Mess jacket except that rank insignia will be worn on shoulder straps and an

embroidered Corps insignia on each of the lapels.

d. Lovat Service Dress

Colonels and above to be permitted to wear with Lovat Service Dress a forage cap similar in design to the present khaki cap but with a top of Lovat shade.

If approved the changes listed above would begin with officers promoted on 30th June, 1954. Officers already promoted Colonel would wear their present mess dress until retirement.

I enclose a specimen of the Corps insignia for wear on mess jacket lapels by Colonels and more senior officer and would be grateful if you would take Her Majesty's pleasure on the proposed uniform alterations.