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CHEVRONS AND GOOD CONDUCT BADGES FOR KHAKI DRILL TUNICS OF ROYAL MARINES.

From COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, MEDITERRANEAN STATION

"Queen Elizabeth" at Gruz.

Date 7th July, 1932

CENTRAL
10 JUL 1932
REGISTRY

No. 1118/156/56.

To SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

R. M. O. 18 JUL 1932

With reference to A.F.O. 1217/32, paragraph 32, be pleased to submit for the consideration of Their Lordships the following remarks and suggestions concerning chevrons and good conduct badges for khaki drill tunics, Royal Marines, which are forwarded with a view to being considered as convenient or when the Uniform Regulations are next under review.

2. The khaki on khaki worsted chevrons and good conduct badges at present issued are considered unsuitable and are unpopular with the men, and it is recommended that consideration may be given to the introduction of chevrons and good conduct badges of a different pattern.

3. The khaki on khaki worsted badges are backed by a heavy dark material, and, in accordance with Dress Regulations, are not sewn on the garment but are fastened with hooks and eyes. The khaki worsted backing of the badges, in comparison with the material of which the khaki drill tunics are made, makes an "odd" contrast, and, in practice, the hook and eye method of fastening the badges to the garment is unsatisfactory, as it is both untidy and insecure. The same set of chevrons or good conduct badges must be worn with the same tunic, otherwise they do not fit the eyes on the tunic.

4. It is not anticipated that any improvement would result from the amendment of the Dress Regulations to permit of the badges being sewn on the garments. The washing of the badges with the garment would cause them to fray at the edges, and render frequent replacement necessary or would alternatively present a most untidy appearance.

5. The badges of distinction of all types issued for wear with khaki drill tunics are manufactured on backing of khaki drill and are sewn on the garments. This accentuates the "oddness" of the khaki on khaki worsted badges when these are worn together.

6. It has been a prevalent practice for Royal Marines of the Mediterranean Fleet to purchase chevrons and good conduct badges on a backing of khaki drill. The result of this is non-uniformity of clothing.

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7. The following patterns are submitted with samples as being suitable for wear with khaki drill tunics :-

- (a) The braid at present used for making up khaki chevrons to be used on a backing of khaki drill instead of khaki cloth. This pattern badge could be sewn on the garment and would "match" the material of which the khaki drill tunic is made. It can also be washed with the garment without fraying or running. If adopted, however, it is suggested that a better pattern of braid which would not deteriorate in appearance to the same extent as the present, should be introduced.
- (b) A scarlet braid similar to that used for making up the present scarlet on blue badges to be used on a backing of khaki drill. It is essential that the dye used for the braid should be "fast". This pattern badge would present a better contrast than the one now in use and would add to the military appearance of the garment. It is at present in use in certain Army Regiments for ceremonial and leave purposes. Attached is a specimen that has been soaked in boiling water. Although the red has not "run", it has faded.

8. It is considered that the most satisfactory pattern would be khaki badges on a backing of khaki drill. Authority would be required for these to be sewn on by the tailor at the Royal Marine Clothing Depot.

Emil van der ...

A D M I R A L .