

197 INTRODUCTION OF RM RAINCOAT

1. The following detailed instructions are issued in amplification of DCI(RN) 908/67. Relevant extracts are to be published in unit and local orders at regular intervals.

a. *Fitting of Raincoat.* The complete measurement specifications are set out in Appendix 1. The length of back allows the coat to fall approximately 5" below the knee and the length of sleeve is sufficient to cover a lovat tunic sleeve. Due to the difficulty of tailoring foam-backed material no tailoring alterations will be permitted in the first instance until experience of fitting has been gained. *Considerable tolerance will therefore be necessary in fitting standards*, the guiding rule being that the coat shall fit comfortably, and present a neat appearance. Fitting is to be over lovat uniform.

b. *Special Measure Raincoats.* Special measure coats will only be provided for garments outside the stock range. Demands should be placed on SVSO SW Area for each coat accompanied by completed self-measurement forms (S.88). Measurements should however be taken by unit tailors whenever possible. A monthly return is to be made to the Commandant General Royal Marines (copy Director of Victualling 8C) commencing on 30th September, 1967 until further notice giving the total number of special measures ordered each month. The contract allows for only 5% of issues as special measures, based on the recommendation by the Director of Inspectorate of Stores and Clothing that it should be possible to fit the majority of ranks from stock sizes.

c. *Badges.* Officers will wear the anodised rank badges, they at present wear on the greatcoat fitted to the plain slip-on sleeves (Vocab 35919). The NCOs badges are miniature white chevrons, crowns, wreaths etc., stitched on to the slip-on sleeves.

d. *Package, Carriage and Care of Raincoats.* Foam-backed material is particularly susceptible to heat and creasing and the following instructions are therefore to apply:

(1) In transit, raincoats are either to be worn or carried and not packed in baggage. It is not to be included in the scale of kit to be taken abroad (RMRO 251/66).

(2) Raincoats are to be hung when not in use.

(3) Pressing with an iron is not permitted.

(4) Coats are normally to be dry cleaned only. Light sponging only on the surface to remove slight stains is permissible, but the foam backing must not be soaked internally.

(5) Unit stocks of Raincoats are to be hung up within clothing stores and not left boxed or stacked on racks.

e. *Greatcoat Pools.*

(1) As far as is practicable, greatcoats withdrawn are to be separated by sizes.

(2) Ceremonial and dutymen pools for both officers and other ranks are to be set up as directed by MGRM. The percentage sizing figures set out in BR98 (Victualling Manual) should be used as a guide in determining the extent of sizes required. Present stocks of greatcoats should be incorporated in such pools.

(3) In selecting greatcoats for Pools, a percentage should be selected with rank badges attached. Where NCOs cannot be fitted from the appropriate "rank" size, rank badges may be sewn on at public expense by unit tailors. Present stock holdings of chevrons are to be set aside for this purpose. Once fitted, badges of rank are normally to remain.

(4) The balance of greatcoats, not required for pools, are to be separated into serviceable and unserviceable and returned to SVSO SW Area. Serviceable greatcoats are to be suitably packed by sizes and return notes endorsed "Maintenance Reserve for Loan Issues". Such greatcoats will be retained by SVSO SW Area and may be demanded for:

(a) Maintenance of Pools.

(b) Additional commitments which cannot be met from pools.

(c) HM Ships for ceremonial loan pools as necessary dependent upon the expected ceremonial requirements of the RM Detachment concerned.

f. *General.*

(1) The raincoat may be worn with plain clothes provided the detachable rank sleeves are removed. It may be retained on discharge by any rank who has completed more than 3 months service.

(2) Ranks not in possession of a greatcoat are required to purchase a raincoat at the full Fleet Issuing Price.

(3) Service documents are to be carefully scrutinised to establish entitlement before issue is approved.