

## CHAPTER 3

### OPTIONAL DRESS ITEMS

#### **Bespoke No 1 Dress uniforms -- Non-regular officers**

0301. As an optional alternative to the free issues tabled in the annexes to RAF GAI 6021, officers of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (including VR(T) branch) may elect to have their No 1 Dress uniforms privately tailored and may claim part reimbursement, as admissible for RAF/WRAF warrant officers, vide para 0305.

#### **Bespoke No 1 Dress uniforms -- Warrant officers and senior NCOs**

0302. As an optional alternative to Service supply, warrant officers and senior NCOs may have their appropriate patterns of No 1 Dress uniform privately tailored, at their own expense, by tailors who are prepared to provide this service in conformity with MOD specifications and sealed patterns. Part reimbursement of the cost will be subject to paras 0304 and 0305.

0303. Tailors are normally required to provide the appropriate uniform material, linings and buttons. However, to ensure conformity with approved patterns, rank and distinguishing badges and medal ribbons (as entitled) are to be provided by the customer from Service sources. It is also the customer's responsibility to ensure that uniforms are tailored to approved patterns and to verify that badges and medal ribbons are correctly positioned in accordance with the regulations in this publication.

0304. Part reimbursement is inadmissible if an individual has a No 1 uniform in his possession which is still serviceable for parade or ceremonial occasions. Reimbursement of private expenditure may be claimed up to the value of the entitled Service replacement. Claims should be sent to MOD (F6h(Air)), supported by the receipted tailor's bill and a certificate from the unit supply officer stating that the replaced uniform was unserviceable by reason of fair wear and tear, that a replacement No 1 Dress uniform has not been issued from Service sources and that the individual's personal clothing card (Form 667C, D or E) has been annotated to show the date on which the uniform was privately purchased.

0305. SNCOs who, on promotion to warrant officer, elect to purchase their first WO-pattern uniform from civilian sources may claim for reimbursement up to the value of the Service issue entitlement; expenditure in excess of this must be borne by the individuals. Claims should be sent to MOD (F6h(Air)), supported by the receipted tailor's bill and a certificate from the unit supply officer stating that issues in kind due to the individual on promotion have been suitably adjusted, and that the appropriate personal clothing card has been annotated to show the date on which the uniform was privately purchased.

#### **Purchase of baratheia cloth by officers and warrant officers**

0306. Approved baratheia for officers' and warrant officers' No 1 Dress uniforms may be purchased from Service sources as noted in the RAF DCI on prepayment purchase.

#### **Optional Mess Dress -- Warrant officers and SNCOs**

0307. Optional formal versions of Nos 5 and 8 Dress approved for WOs and SNCOs of the RAF and ancillary forces tabled in the annexes to Chap 2 are illustrated at Plates 8 and 13 (RAF), Plate 23 (PMRAFNS) and Plate 29 (WRAF). Material for the men's No 5 Dress is blue/grey worsted baratheia; for No 8 Dress jacket, white polyester cotton. The material for PMRAFNS and WRAF Nos 5 and 8 Mess Dress gowns is royal blue knitted jersey. Although officers' outfitters can provide these materials, they may also be bought from RAF sources by individual WOs and SNCOs, as noted in the RAF DCI on prepayment purchase. *Patterns may be obtained on personal application from MOD ADCRP(RAC).*

0308. For men's Nos 5 and 8 Dress described above:

- a. Rank badges are reduced size, gold embroidered, worn on right sleeve only, as shown in plates noted at para 0307.
- b. Buttons are anodized 30 ligne and 22 ligne (not the 'mounted' type as prescribed for officers' mess dress).
- c. Cumberbunds are unpleated blue/grey, in artificial silk or similar material, 5 in (12.7 cm) deep at the front and tapering to approx 3 in (7.6 cm) at the back.
- d. Gold embroidered miniature flying badges and miniature insignia/ribbons of orders, decorations and medals are available from officers' outfitters.
- e. The jacket of No 8 Dress is the same pattern as the officers but without fitments for shoulder straps.

- f. Shirts should be white, collar attached, plain pattern with long sleeves and double cuffs; conventional marcella type soft evening shirts may be worn.

#### **Airmens optional dress**

0309. For airmen who elect to wear white shirts and No 1 Dress trousers as No 8 Dress, cummerbunds should be of the pattern described in para 0308c. Shirts should be the plain version described in para 0308f, with single cuffs, button-fastened. Woven shoulder rank badges (on dark blue) should be worn by NCOs on white shoulder straps of the same dimensions as the shoulder straps of No 7 Dress shirts.

#### **Women warrant officers and SNCOs Mess Dress**

0310. For Nos 5 and 8 Dress (women):

- a. Rank badges and other insignia are illustrated at Plate 43; these are to be worn as illustrated at Plates 23 and 29. Warrant officer and master aircrew rank badges and medical and dental branch trade badges are Service supplied items; the other badges are supplied by the trade.
- b. Optional accessories are as prescribed for officers in para 0618.
- c. 'Miniatures' are as prescribed for men in para 0308d. The blue/grey backing of miniature flying badges may be trimmed to the embroidery edges to eliminate colour clash with the royal blue gown material.

0311. **RAF field service caps.** The RAF field service cap and badge are illustrated in Plate 31. The material is blue/grey worsted barathea of standard styling for Group Captains and below; the Air Officer's cap is piped in minerva blue. The occasions for wear are noted in column e Annex A, Chap 2. For stability in wear, it is advisable to order this cap in a size larger than the SD hat in use. In wearing, the lower button of the cap is to be centred on the forehead and 1 in (2.5 cm) above the line of the eyebrows; the cap should be tilted to the right so that the right hand edge is ½ in (1.3 cm) above the top of the wearer's right ear.

#### **Officers 'British warm'**

0312. Officers 'British warm' is illustrated at Plate 36. The material is blue/grey fleece cloth of the same quality specified for officers' greatcoats, with blue leather buttons. The shoulder ranking is blue/black braiding which may be sewn on or detachable. Women officers may elect left side buttoning.

#### **Officers cloaks**

0313. **PMRAFNS officers** (Plate 39). All PMRAFNS officers may wear a cloak of blue/grey barathea cloth, lined in maroon rayon; the three buttons are 27 ligne high-dome anodized. The cloak may be worn as outdoor cover for No 3 (ward) Dress and with formal dress when in transit to or from ceremonial functions.

0314. Not allotted.

0315. **Blue/grey woollen scarf.** The approved pattern is in woven blue/grey lambswool. Except on parade or when otherwise prohibited, this may be worn under personal greatcoats, the officers' 'British warm', raincoats or equivalent garments. In use, the scarf is to be so folded that not more than 1 in (2.5 cm) is visible above the neck of the outer garment.

0316. **WRAF miscellaneous items.** The following additional weather protectives are permitted for all women officers and airwomen:

- a. **Rainhood.** During wet weather a clear unpatterned plastic hood may be worn over uniform head-dress, except on parade or other ceremonial occasions.
- b. **Umbrellas.** Umbrellas may be carried or used while in uniform except on parade or other ceremonial occasions. Umbrellas should be plain handled, black, short or telescopic and not walking-stick type.
- c. **Overshoes/boots.** In wet or snowy conditions, civilian-type boots, overboots, overshoes or wellingtons may be worn with uniform, except on parade or other occasions as locally ordered. This footwear is to be black, plain pattern with low heels, made of rubber, leather or plastic and of such a length that the top of the boot is no higher than the base of the wearer's knee.

**0317. RAF stable belt and WRAF purse belt.**

- a. The RAF stable belt is web woven in RAF colours, and has leather straps and buckle fastenings. The standard width is 3 in (7.65 cm). When worn the dark blue stripe should be uppermost and fastenings secured over the left hip, as shown in Plate 4.
- b. The WRAF purse belt is web woven in blue.

**0318. Desert boots (RAF).** At the discretion of Cs in C, and air or other officers commanding independent establishments abroad, desert boots of approved shades and patterns may be authorized as working dress for RAF officers and airmen.

**0319.** Not allotted.

**0320. Brown leather gloves – Warrant officers and airmen/airwomen.**

- a. *Men and women warrant officers.* Officer pattern brown leather gloves may be purchased by warrant officers and worn by them on all occasions when officers are required to wear brown gloves.
- b. *Airmen.* Airmen below the rank of warrant officer may wear officer pattern brown leather gloves with working dress on occasions when gloves are noted as optional in column e of the tables at Annex A, Chap 2.

## NON-UNIFORM DRESS ITEMS

**Sports representative blazers, badges and ties****0321. The RAF sports representative blazer, badge and tie.**

- a. *Entitlement.* Only personnel who have represented the Royal Air Force, including the Women's Royal Air Force, at home in officially recognized senior inter-Service championships against the Royal Navy and/or the Army are eligible to wear the RAF sports representative blazer, badge and tie. To prevent their wear by unauthorized persons, every applicant for the blazer, badge and/or tie, is to obtain a certificate authorizing their wear, signed by the secretary of the particular RAF association/union for which they have played. This certificate is to be sent to, or produced for inspection by the firm from whom the blazer, badge and/or tie is ordered, whenever such an order is placed, regardless of whether the order is for first supply or replacement.
- b. *The blazer.* The RAF sports representative blazer may be either single-breasted or double-breasted in accordance with the specifications at para 0323.
- c. *Blazer buttons.* The RAF sports representative blazer buttons are identical with those worn on the RAF officer's No 5 Dress jacket and the blue waistcoat.
- d. *Blazer badge.* The RAF sports representative badge consists of an eagle and crown worked in white silk.
- e. *The tie.* The RAF sports representative tie has a dark blue background, with woven replicas of the sports representative badge  $\frac{1}{2}$  in (1.3 cm) in width distributed at intervals of approximately  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in (3.8 cm).

**RAF, R Aux AF and RAFVR general blazer****0322. The RAF, R Aux AF and RAFVR general blazer and associated badges.**

- a. *Entitlement.* The general blazer may be worn by serving and ex-members of the Royal Air Force and its ancillary Services including women officers and airwomen. A badge is not to be worn on the general blazer unless authorized in accordance with para 0325 below.
- b. *The blazer.* The RAF general blazer may be either single-breasted or double-breasted in accordance with the specifications at para 0323.

- c. *Blazer buttons.* The RAF general blazer buttons are chromium plated and indented with an eagle and crown. The buttons for the non-regular auxiliary and reserve forces are further indented below the eagle and crown, with the letters R Aux AF, RAFVR or RAFVR(T) as appropriate.
- d. *Blazer badge.* Subject to para 0325 below, entitled personnel may wear the appropriate command or formation sports representative badge.

**0323. Specification for blazers.**

- a. *Single-breasted blazer.* The single-breasted blazer is made of navy blue material, with three patch pockets and three large buttons on the front of the blazer and three small buttons on the cuffs.
- b. *Double-breasted blazer.* The double-breasted blazer is made of navy blue material, with three patch pockets, four large buttons on the front of the blazer and three small buttons on each cuff.

**0324. Command and formation sports representative badges.** Command and formation sports representative badges may be worn only by personnel who, in a type of sport for which the RAF sports representative badge is awarded, have represented a command at home or abroad (or a formation abroad that is authorized by MOD (Air) to award badges).

0325. From time to time personnel other than sports representatives will be authorized by MOD ADCRP (RAF) to wear the RAF representative blazer, eg the RAF Aerobatic Team, the RAF Police Dog Team.

**Service ties: RAF, R Aux AF and RAFVR**

0326. Past and present members of the Royal Air Force, Royal Auxiliary Air Force and Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve may wear the appropriate formation tie as described below:

- a. The Royal Air Force tie consists of alternate bands of dark blue and dark red, 1 in (2.5 cm) in width, the latter band being edged with light blue 3/16 in (5 mm) in width. The tie is cut diagonally, so that below the knot the colour bands run from top right to bottom left of the wearer.
- b. The Royal Auxiliary Air Force tie consists of alternate bands of dark blue, light blue and dark red. The dark blue band is 1 in (2.5 cm) wide and the other two bands are each 3/16 in (5 mm) wide. The light blue stripe is uppermost of the two narrow bands. Embroidered on the dark blue bands are dark red eagles, central to the band and spaced 1 in (2.5 cm) apart. The tie is cut diagonally so that below the knot the colour bands run from the top left to bottom right of the wearer.
- c. The Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve tie consists of two indented stripes of maroon and light blue, each 3/16 in (5 mm) in width and set on a dark blue background. The light blue stripe is uppermost and each pair of stripes is 2½ in (6.25 cm) apart. The tie is cut in such a way that below the knot the stripes run from the wearer's top left to bottom right.

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