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**INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING
KIT AND EQUIPMENT
FOR OFFICERS**

1942

By Command of the Army Council,

L. Dornoch.

THE WAR OFFICE,
25th December, 1942.

NOTE.

(a) The notes included in this pamphlet are intended only as a guide to officers unfamiliar with all of the details of the subject.

(b) The pamphlet is in no sense a regulation and notes included herein correctly set out the position as it existed at the time of issue but subsequent amendments to the respective regulations may have brought about changes and officers are advised to consult their C.Os. for information on this point.

UNIFORM—HOME SERVICE.

On being commissioned, an officer is given an outfit allowance.

For details see para. 14.

1. He is also furnished with a list of the uniform items which he is bound to provide—see Appendix A. The following points should be noted :—

- (a) An allowance of clothing coupons for the provision of the initial outfit is issued by the C.O. or, in the case of those commissioned direct from civil life, by the appropriate War Office branch, etc., which issues the officer with his joining instructions. This allowance of clothing coupons, details of which are given on A.F. H1124, covers a scale of items larger than that for which an officer receives outfit allowance—see Appendix A. The difference represents additional items for the provision of which no money allowance is granted.
- (b) The upkeep of this uniform is the responsibility of the officer and no further grant is made for this purpose. An annual maintenance allowance of clothing coupons is issued.
- (c) An officer is not bound to purchase any item of uniform not included in this list, e.g., a waterproof coat which is a very useful garment and which he is permitted to wear on non-ceremonial occasions. It is entirely for the officer to decide what additional items he shall purchase.
- (d) The list does not include items of underwear, etc., e.g., vests ; it is understood that the officer entering the Army from civil life will already be in possession of a full outfit of such items which can continue to be worn in the Army.
- (e) The greatcoat referred to in the list is the long universal pattern which is obligatory for all officers, except general officers and colonels and officers of household troops, for whom the British Warm is regulation. This garment may also be worn by other officers when off duty but must be maintained in addition to, and not in substitution of, the long greatcoat.
- (f) Many unnecessary items of clothing and equipment, etc., are on the market and officers are advised to keep to essentials.

2. Every officer has complete freedom in the choice of his tailor ; there is no such thing as a "regimental tailor" and officers cannot be required to place their orders with any firm other than the one of their own choice.

3. Officers who desire to do so are permitted by Army regulations

to purchase items of uniform *of other ranks pattern*, e.g., battle dress, from army stores. Officers should make their requirements known to their C.O. or, where not serving with a unit, to the nearest R.A.O.C. clothing depot. (See para. 11.) The surrender of clothing coupons will be necessary in certain cases.

4. Every officer is issued with the following items free by his unit :—

Cape, anti-gas	1
Discs, identity	2
Dressing, field	1
Respirator	1
Eyeshields	6
Ointment anti-gas outfits	2
Web equipment, sets, pattern 1937	1

5. Cold Climates.

- (a) An officer proceeding to serve in a cold climate will require the whole of his home service kit.
- (b) In the case of certain destinations officers are entitled to a free issue of certain items of cold climate clothing from Army stocks. Particulars should be obtained from the C.O. of the unit.
- (c) Officers will also be well advised to consider whether they ought not to provide themselves with any heavier underclothing than they wear at home, and which is not issued free (see sub-para. 5 (b)) and probably a larger quantity.
- (d) Stocks of officers pattern boots, shirts, underclothes, etc., are maintained at certain garrisons overseas from which officers may obtain their requirements, on payment, after arrival. (See para. 13.)

6. Sub-Tropical and Tropical Climates.

On being ordered to a tropical station officers are, in certain cases, entitled to a further grant towards the cost of providing drill clothing (see para. 14); also an issue of clothing coupons to cover their provision. (See para. 1 (a) .)

In the interests of security two standard scales of tropical clothing as shown below have been drawn up as a guide and officers will provide the articles in one of these two scales as instructed in the embarkation orders. The quantities shown are those suggested by the Cs.-in-C. overseas concerned. In view, however, of the shortage of cotton materials in this country and their cost, and the possibility of diversion of the unit or draft to an alternative destination after sailing, officers are advised to limit purchases before embarkation to their essential needs for the voyage. On arrival at destination, they can complete their requirements as indicated in paras. 11 and 13, or from local tailors who frequently make up garments more cheaply than the military tailor at home.

	<i>Coupon Value (each)</i>	<i>Normal Scale</i>	<i>Special Scale</i>
Helmet or pith hat	—	1	—
Hat slouch, with lining	—	—	1
Bush shirts and/or tropical shirts both with long sleeves	5	4	—
Trousers, tropical	9	—	3
Shirts, tropical (long sleeves)	5	—	3
Shorts, khaki drill pairs	5	6	3
Trousers, khaki drill	8	2	2
Stockings	3	4	2
Hose tops	3	2	2
Puttees, long	3	—	2
Puttees, short	3	1	—
Vests, thin	4	6	4
Drawers, thin pairs	3	6	4
Boots, mosquito (a)	—	—	1
Pyjamas	8	—	3
Socks, thin	3	—	3
Total coupons		129	152

(a) Issued free from store.

It will be observed that the khaki drill jacket is omitted, it having been agreed that this garment is not an essential item under war conditions.

7. Other items which an officer might not maintain at home, but which it is advisable he should include in his kit are :—

Cardigan or pullover.

Holdall, containing knife, fork, spoon, hair brush, shaving brush, razor, soap and mirror, comb and tooth brush.

Housewife.

Clasp knife.

METHOD OF OBTAINING UNIFORM, ETC.

8. At Home.

(a) Service dress, and also all other items of officers pattern, i.e., shirts, boots, etc., must be obtained under arrangements to be made by the officer with his own tailor. Service dress uniform may be made up in barathea, whipcord or serge, at the discretion of the officer, so long as it is of the correct sealed pattern shade. (Samples of this shade have been distributed to the trade or may be seen at the pattern room of the War Office.) There is no standard quality; an officer decides this point for himself, but as his uniform is likely to be subject to fairly hard wear, he will be well advised to bear this in mind when making his selection.

(b) Officers are advised that it is possible to obtain service dress garments made up in certain standard materials, e.g., barathea; these materials, which are known as "Priority 'A' cloths" are of hard-wearing quality and the completed garments are sold at agreed prices. The materials can be identified by an orange and white stripe on the selvedge and full particulars are available with all firms of military tailors. Officers purchasing under this scheme should be furnished with a certificate by the tailor that he has been supplied with the actual material ordered and showing the standard price.

9. A further scheme is in operation under which an officer can get his uniform made up by his tailor in whipcord obtainable from army stocks and at a specially controlled price. This scheme, together with a list of tailors who are working it, is dealt with in a special pamphlet supplied to each officer on being commissioned.

10. Battle dress (all items) and working overalls of other ranks pattern are permitted to be worn by officers and are only obtainable from the R.A.O.C. on payment. An officer is permitted to have his battle dress made up by his own tailor, but the material *must* in all cases be purchased from the R.A.O.C.

11. Officers may purchase from the R.A.O.C. any materials, articles of clothing and necessities of army (i.e., other ranks) pattern under conditions laid down in War Clothing Regulations, 1941, paras. 103 and 104 of which are quoted hereunder, and in certain cases the surrender of clothing coupons will be necessary:—

" 103. Materials and articles of clothing and necessities of army pattern will be supplied to officers on prepayment at the rates laid down in the vocabulary of clothing and necessities, provided that the quantities are not excessive, and are required as articles of clothing to be maintained by an officer for military purposes. Stock size garments only will be issued, any necessary fitting or alteration being at the officer's expense. Should it be impossible to fit an officer from stock size garments, materials may be issued on repayment in lieu, if available, to be made up at the officer's expense under arrangements made by him. Officers will make good loss or damage to articles issued free, e.g., anti-gas capes, except when such loss or damage is due to circumstances outside the officer's control. The provisions of this paragraph will be applicable also to members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. Q.A.I.M.N.S.(R), T.A.N.S., and officers of the A.T.S., so far as concerns articles appropriate for use by women."

" 104. Issues under para. 103 will normally be obtained through a unit; if this is not practicable, they will be obtained by officers direct from a clothing depot. Officers drawing materials or garments on repayment will be asked to sign a statement (A.F. W3225) authorizing the cost of the issues to be deducted from their pay. The A.F. W3225 will be attached to the relevant debit voucher prepared by the issuing officer."

Special facilities also exist at overseas stations whereby officers may purchase from army stocks certain clothing of *officer's pattern* (see para. 13).

12. When Ordered Overseas.

Officers requiring a tropical outfit normally obtain the uniform garments from their tailor; alternatively they may purchase garments of *other ranks quality* from army stocks (see para. 11), and which are similar in pattern.

If officers decide to purchase kit from the trade, it is essential for security reasons that they should not give their tailors any idea of their destination or date of sailing, even if the destination or date is only based on speculation.

13. When Serving Overseas.

Officers obtain replacements either from local tradesmen where such exist, or they may make purchases of other ranks quality garments from army stocks under para. 11.

Special facilities also exist at certain overseas stations whereby officers may purchase from army stocks certain clothing of *officers pattern*; this mainly consists of underclothing, the principal items being :—

Vests (various kinds), drawers (various kinds), collars, braces, socks, boots, shoes, pyjamas, shirts, handkerchiefs, etc.

14. Outfit Allowance.

On being commissioned for the first time, an officer receives an outfit allowance of £35 (or £45 in the case of officers of horsed cavalry regiments and R.A.V.C.) to cover the provision of home service dress uniform in accordance with the scale set out in Appendix A.

Officers who have received an initial grant of £35 will, on being ordered to proceed to a station where tropical dress is worn receive a supplementary grant of £10, but £5 only will be issued to those officers who have already received the maximum amount of £45.

Claims should be made on A.F. O1608 to the paymaster or army agent from whom the officer receives his first issue of pay.

15. Equipment.

Camp kit.

Officers proceeding overseas should be in possession of the following items of camp kit which are issued free by the R.A.O.C. :—

Basins, camp	..	..	..	..	..	1
stand	..	..	..	..	..	1
bags	..	..	..	..	..	1
Baths, camp	..	..	..	..	..	1

Bedsteads, camp	..	..	..	..	1
canvas top	..	..	..	..	1
extension piece (for officers 6 feet in height or over)	..	..	..	..	1
bags	..	..	..	..	1
Buckets, water, canvas	..	..	..	..	1
Chairs, camp, officers	..	..	..	..	1
Sheets, ground	..	..	..	..	1
Valises, officers	..	..	..	..	1
straps	..	..	..	sets	1
Pillows, hair, small	..	..	..	..	1

In the event of a complete camp kit not being available or not likely to be available, such articles as are available will be issued, and a money allowance in lieu of the remainder will be issued at the vocabulary rates, plus 33½ per cent., but exclusive of Purchase Tax, by the Officer-in-charge, Army Pay Office (Officers' Accounts), Stockport Road, Manchester, on receipt of a certificate from the C.O.O. of the issuing ordnance depot specifying the items not available, showing the vocabulary rate of each.

Blankets.

Officers are entitled to a personal issue of three blankets, brown, single, and these blankets should accompany officers on all changes of station.

Special equipment for tropical and sub-tropical climates.

Officers proceeding to stations where curtains, mosquito, or curtains, sandfly, are required will receive a free issue before embarkation or after arrival.

Special equipment for cold climates.

An officer required to serve in a cold climate will receive a free issue of a "Bags, sleeping, double" before embarkation.

16. Compensation for Loss or Damage.

Compensation from army funds for loss of, or damage to, an officer's effects is governed by Allowance Regulations, 1938, Section 15.

- (a) Officers are advised to take out an insurance policy to cover all their personal effects (including uniform and equipment) against all normal risks, e.g., fire, theft, loss in transit, the W.D. will not compensate for losses due to such risks which can be covered by insurance. The payment of the premium is the officer's responsibility. Officers are warned that their ordinary household policy does not cover their effects when absent from their homes on military duty, so the advice of their insurers regarding a comprehensive policy should be sought.
- (b) Compensation for loss through enemy action in the United Kingdom is not admissible from army funds and officers

should include their military effects in any insurance which they may effect under the War Damage Act, 1941. Advances of compensation for the replacement of military uniform and equipment are allowed from army funds under certain conditions (*see* A.C.I. **1422** of 1941, as amended by A.C.I. **1893** of 1941).

- (c) On receipt of embarkation orders for service overseas an officer should apply through his unit, transit camp, or direct to the War Office, F.3(A), for cover against Marine *War* Risks for articles which are normally used for his military duties, including his uniform and equipment. The cost of the premium will be borne by army funds. Arrangements for any additional cover required for other personal effects should be made direct by the officer to the Secretary, War Risks Insurance Office, 147/8, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3 (for full details *see* A.C.I. **2192** of 1942).
- (d) Losses due to enemy action in the field will be compensated from army funds for necessary articles of military uniform and equipment as laid down. The scale is based on the lists of articles contained in this pamphlet.

17. Weight of Clothing and Equipment.

The weights of the principal items of officers' clothing and equipment are as listed at Appendix B.

APPENDIX A.

**List of Uniform Officers are Required to
Provide during the Present Emergency.**

(Outfit allowance is based on this list.)

<i>Items</i>	<i>Coupon Value per Item</i>	<i>Horsed Cavalry</i>	<i>All Others</i>
SERVICE DRESS.			
Cap, S.D.	2	2 (h)	—
Cap, F.S. drab (or other appropriate pattern)	2	—	1 (h)
Jacket, service dress	16	2	1
Trousers, service dress, pairs	8	—	1 (c)
Breeches, mounted pattern, pairs	8	2 (a)	—
Greatcoat	25	1	1
Shirts	7	2	2
Collars	1	4	4
Tie	1	1	1
Field boots, pairs	7	2 (b)	—
Ankle boots, pairs	7	—	2
Gloves, pairs	2	1	1
Spurs, pairs	—	1	—
Whistle and lanyard	—	1	1
Belt, Sam Browne, or cloth	—	—	1 (f)
Sam Browne equipment, sets (including S.B. belt, complete)	—	1 (g)	—
Sword	—	1	—
Web equipment, sets, pattern 1937 (including haversack)	—	—	1 (d)
Waterbottle	—	1 (e)	1 (e)
Web equipment, sets, Cavalry pattern 1940 (including haversack)	—	1 (d)	—
BATTLE DRESS.			
Blouse	—	—	1 (e)
Trousers	—	—	1 (e)
Cap, F.S., drab (or other appropriate pattern)	2	—	1 (e)
Anklets, web, pairs	—	—	1 (e)
Overalls (working clothing, provided as necessary)	—	—	2 (e)

NOTES :—

- (a) One pair of trousers, S.D. may replace one of these garments.
- (b) Or ankle boots and leggings, or ankle boots and puttees, subject to the approval of C.O. of regiment.
- (c) Or trews, tartan, in the case of Scottish regiments.

- (d) Will be issued free, by the R.A.O.C., to officers temporarily commissioned.
- (e) To be obtained from the R.A.O.C. on payment.
- (f) A cloth belt may be worn instead of the S.B. belt.
- (g) When the sword is not worn note (f) will also apply to these officers.
- (h) In all arms for which it is appropriate a coloured field service cap may be provided in addition for wear, as an optional item, when not on duty.

Insurance. Officers are advised to insure the whole of their personal effects (including military uniform and equipment) against the ordinary risks of civil life. (See A.C.I. 1844 of 1941.) For insurance against War Damage see A.C.Is. 1422 and 1893 of 1941, and insurance against Marine War risks see A.C.I. 2192 of 1942.

Compensation from army funds is only admissible in respect of losses of military uniform and equipment within the scales laid down in A.C.Is. and subject to the conditions laid down in Allowance Regulations, 1938, Section 15. Failure to insure may involve officers in serious financial loss.

APPENDIX B.

Weights of Principal Items of Officers'

Clothing and Equipment.

					lb.	ozs.
SECTION C.L.						
<i>Officers' Clothing.</i>						
Boots, ankle, brown, with laces	..	pair			3	4
Braces	..	..	..	..	—	4
Brushes, hair	..	..	..	..	—	4
Brushes, shaving	..	..	..	..	—	2
Caps, S.D. (soft)	..	..	..	..	—	8
Caps, F.S.	..	..	..	..	—	4
Coat, Trench (waterproof)	..	..			4	14
Collars for shirts, thick	..	..	..		—	1
Collars for shirts, thin	..	..	..		—	$\frac{1}{2}$
Drawers, cotton, short, interlock	..	pair			—	4
Drawers, cotton, long, interlock	..	..			—	9
Drawers, woollen, thick, long	..	..			—	10
Drawers, woollen, thick, short	..	..			—	8
Drawers, woollen, thin, long	..	..			—	9
Drawers, woollen, thin, short	..	..			—	6
Gloves, leather, unlined	..	..	..		—	2
Greatcoats, G.S.	..	..	..		7	—
Handkerchiefs, cotton, hemstitched	..				Negligible	
Lanyards	..	..	..	..	—	1
Pyjama suits, thin	..	..	pair		1	2

<i>Item.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Scarves, woollen	—	8
Shirts, thick	1	1
Shirts, thin	—	6
Shoes, brown pair	2	5
Socks, woollen „	—	4
Stockings, khaki „	—	6
Ties, drab	—	—
Vests, cotton, cellular	—	—
Vests, cotton, interlock	—	8
Vests, woollen, thick	—	12
Vests, woollen, thin	—	6
Pullover	1	1
Battle dress, suit	4	3
Anklets pair	—	8
K.D. Jacket	1	4
K.D. Trousers pairs	1	2
Shorts „	—	14
Helmet, foreign service	—	12
Hosetops pair	—	4
Shirts, tropical	1	3
Blouse, tropical	1	8
S.D. Suit	5	4
Bush shirt	1	5
Belt, Sam Browne (with one brace)	1	—
Boots, rubber, knee pair	6	—
Officers set of web equipment, '37	6	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
<i>Officers' Camp Kit.</i>		
Basins, camp	1	—
bags	—	8
stands	4	—
Baths, camp	2	—
Bedsteads, camp, bags	—	8
canvas top	7	—
frames	14	—
* Extension pieces :—		
canvas	2	—
sockets	2	—
Buckets, water, canvas	1	—
Chairs, camp, officers	6	—
Valises, officers	6	—
Straps, sets	2	—
Sheets, ground	3	8
Blankets (3, each 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.)	13	8
Pillows, feather, small	—	14

* For officers 6 feet in height or over.