

Any further communication should be addressed to:-

THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY,
LONDON, S.W.1.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

quoting V.1A/1455/52.

25th March, 1952.

Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet.)
Commander-in-Chief, Far East Station.) Letter to each.
Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.)

Copies to:- Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.
Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic.
Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies.
Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.
Flag Officer Air (Home).
Commanding Officer, H.M.S. VANGUARD.
Commanding Officer, H.M.S. NEWFOUNDLAND.

TRIAL OF OFFICERS' CAP WITH WHITE PLASTIC TOP

I am to inform you that Their Lordships have under consideration the possible introduction of white plastic topped caps for both officers and ratings. The intention would be that, if successful, these caps might eventually replace the present blue and white caps and cap covers for wear throughout the year and in all climates. This would effect some economy and simplification by avoiding the need for changing caps or wearing cap covers according to season and climate. As an interim measure consideration is also being given to the possibility of adopting a white plastic cover as an alternative to the white pique or marcelline cap covers for officers and for ratings not dressed as seamen.

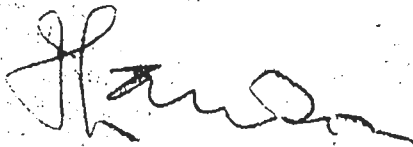
2. A trial of seamen's caps with plastic tops is proceeding and specimen officers' caps and cap covers have been made up and allocated for trial as follows:-

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Plastic topped cap
(with metal cap badge) | Commanding Officer,
H.M.S. VANGUARD. |
| 1 | Plastic topped cap
(for Lieut.Cdr. or below) | For trial at Singapore by an
Officer to be selected by
Commander-in-Chief,
Far East Station. |
| 1 | Blue Cloth Cap with
white plastic cover | Commanding Officer appointed
to H.M.S. NEWFOUNDLAND. |

3. I am to request that reports may be furnished on the basis of the enclosed questionnaires after (i) six months use (ii) twelve months use, after which the specimen caps and cap cover should be returned complete to the Director of Victualling for inspection.

4. The caps for Commanding Officers H.M. Ships NEWFOUNDLAND and VANGUARD have been supplied direct to these officers and the other cap is being forwarded to the Principal Victualling Store Officer, Eastern Theatre.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. W. ...', written over a light background.

R.N. OFFICERS' CAP WITH PLASTIC CROWN AND QUARTERINGS

Description.

A plastic topped cap has been developed to replace the blue cloth cap, worn with or without a pique cover. It is intended for wear all the year round.

Questionnaire.

1. Is the appearance of the cap satisfactory
 - (a) when new?
 - (b) after 6 months' wear?
 - (c) after 12 months' wear?
2. Has any breakdown of the plastic fabric occurred? If so, where?
3. Have you observed any signs of discolouration (i.e. yellowing) during wear?
4. (a) Does the plastic material become soiled in wear? If so, please give details.
(b) Were you able to clean the cap satisfactorily?
5. How does the cap compare with the blue cloth cap (with pique cover) as regards comfort, when worn in hot weather?
6. Do you regard the cap as acceptable for wear all the year round? i.e. in lieu of a blue cloth cap, worn alone and with a pique cover, as at present authorised.
7. Is the Metal Cap Badge a satisfactory alternative)
to the embroidered pattern)
 - (a) when new?
 - (b) after 6 months' wear?
 - (c) after 12 months' wear?

H.M.S.
VANGUARD
only.

CAP COVER PLASTIC FOR WEAR OVER R.N. OFFICERS BLUE
CLOTH CAP

Description.

A plastic coated cover has been designed for wear over the present pattern officers' blue cloth cap, pending the introduction of a peak cap with fitted plastic Crown and quarterings.

Questionnaire

1. Is the appearance of the blue cloth cap and plastic cap cover satisfactory?
 - (a) when new?
 - (b) after 6 months' wear?
 - (c) after 12 months' wear?
2. Has any breakdown of the plastic fabric occurred? If so, where?
3. Have you observed any signs of discolouration (i.e. yellowing) during wear?
4. (a) Does the plastic material become soiled in wear?. If so, please give details.
(b) Were you able to clean the cover satisfactorily?
5. How does a cap fitted with the plastic cover compare as regards comfort with one fitted with a pique cover, when worn in hot weather?
6. Do you regard the plastic cover as acceptable for wear all the year round?, i.e. in lieu of a blue cloth cap, worn alone and with a pique cover, as at present authorised.