

3 li April,

Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.

(Ref. No.112 (Med.2005/15 dated 22nd January 1953))

I am to acquaint you that Their Lordships have had under consideration the interim reports from various commands on the limited trials of caps with white plastic tops. The opinions expressed in these reports are not unanimous and Their Lordships consider that further experience is necessary before a decision is reached on the general introduction of these caps. Arrangements are therefore being made for extended trials of caps with white plastic tops for both officers and seamen and a further communication on this subject will be made when the caps are available.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.

SGD. J. LAWSON

EJT/CGB. 27



Any further communication should be addressed to:-

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London, S.W.1.
quoting "V.1A/881/53.

27 January, 1954.

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

Copies to:- Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.
Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic.
Commander-in-Chief, America and West Indies.
Flag Officer Air (Home).
Flag Officer, Scotland.
Superintending Victualling Store Officer, Southern Area.
Superintendent, H.M. Victualling Yard, Malta.
Superintending Victualling Store Officer, Singapore.

I am to acquaint you, with reference to Admiralty Letter V.1A/1455/52 of 25th March, 1952, that Their Lordships desire that more extended trials should now be carried out of officers' and ratings' caps with white plastic tops and also of white plastic covers for wear with officers' and ratings' peak caps.

2. As previously indicated, the intention would be that, if successful, the white plastic-topped caps might eventually replace the present blue and white caps and cap covers for wear throughout the year and in all climates. It is also contemplated that, if it is decided to proceed with this change, white plastic cap covers might be provided during the transitional period for wear with existing blue peak caps.

3. White plastic-topped caps and plastic cap covers for trial have been allocated to Commands as shown in enclosure 'A' to this letter. It is intended that the caps and covers should be worn for a continuous period of 12 months and that so far as possible representative officers and ratings from all branches of the Service should participate in the trials, in order to test the suitability of the articles under the widest possible range of conditions.

4. I am to request that Commanders-in-Chief concerned will nominate selected ships and establishments to carry out wearing trials on the foregoing basis and that particulars of the allocation within each Command may be notified to the authorities shown in the final column of enclosure 'A'. Their Lordships incline to the view that, in order not to interfere more than necessary with uniformity in headgear while the trials are taking place, it would be desirable if the trials at Home were to be concentrated in the Plymouth area and I am to suggest that, subject to his own views, the Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet, should consider nominating a Devonport manned ship to carry out the Home Fleet trials.

5. The caps and covers supplied for the trials are to be issued on loan to the individual officers and ratings selected to wear them, and will be subject to withdrawal on conclusion of the trials or for examination during the period of trial as may be necessary in accordance with paragraph 8 below.

6. I am to request that reports on the suitability of the trial caps, on the basis of the questionnaire set out in enclosure 'B' to this letter may be forwarded after the articles have been worn for three months, and again after a full twelve months' wear. Separate questionnaires should be completed in respect of each of the three different patterns of caps supplied. It will not be necessary for separate questionnaires to be completed in respect of the plastic cap covers, but any particular difficulties experienced with these articles, as distinct from the peak caps with plastic tops, should be brought out in the reports.

7. I am also to request that the reports to be forwarded after twelve months' experience should contain your general views on the acceptability of (a) the

plastic topped caps for wear all the year round in place of the present blue and white caps and cap covers, (b) the plastic cap covers for wear with blue caps by officers and ratings in Class I and III uniform as an interim arrangement.

8. In the event of any faults in the trial caps becoming apparent by the date of the report to be rendered after three months, specimen caps illustrating these faults should be sent to the S.V.S.O. Southern Area. In any event, two specimen peak caps and two seamen's caps should be forwarded from each Command to the S.V.S.O. Southern Area for examination after three months' wear. Specimen caps should also be returned for examination at any other time during the course of the trials in the event of serious faults becoming apparent at that stage. All caps which are returned to S.V.S.O. Southern Area for examination should be carefully packed to ensure that no damage in transit is sustained.

9. The quantities of caps to be returned on completion of the trials will be communicated separately at a later date, when instructions will also be given regarding the disposal of the remaining caps and cap covers issued for the trials.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS.



ENCLOSURE 'A'

Trials of White Plastic Topped Caps

ALLOCATION TO COMMANDS

Command	Officers' Caps	Peak Caps for Ratings in Class I & III Uniform	Cap Covers (for Officers or for ratings in Class I & III Uniform)	Seamen's Caps	Issuing Authority
Home Fleet	20	40	15	75	S.V.S.O. Southern Area, Roche Court, Fareham, Hants.
Flymouth Command	20	40	15	75	As above.
Mediterranean Station	20	40	15	75	S.V.Y. Malta.
Far East Station	19	39	14	73	S.V.S.O. H.M.S. V.Y. Singapore.

Note: (i) The caps and covers will be provided in a range for four sizes, viz. $6\frac{3}{4}$, $6\frac{7}{8}$, 7, $7\frac{1}{8}$.

(ii) The seamen's pattern caps, Size 7, will differ from the other sizes in that the grey waterproof lining is omitted (see also Enclosure 'B', Part II (5), Note, and (7)).

(iii) The caps and covers for issue by S.V.Y. Malta and S.V.S.O. Singapore are being despatched to them by S.V.S.O. Southern Area.

ENCLOSURE 'B'

Trials of White Plastic Topped Caps

QUESTIONNAIRE

PATTERN OF CAP

(Insert "Officers", "Class I & III" or "Seamen's" as appropriate.
A separate Questionnaire should be completed in respect of each pattern).

Date of commencement of trial

Date of report

PART I

Please state below the total number of caps of the above pattern allocated for trial and give some indication of how distributed between Officers/Ratings in the different branches of the Service.

PART II

(Note: The answers given to the following questions will be regarded as generally applicable to all caps of the pattern under report unless otherwise indicated. Where there are exceptions, the approximate proportion of the caps affected should be stated, and an indication given of whether the fault or criticism is broadly confined to caps issued to Officers/ Ratings in any particular Branch (es).

1. Are the caps considered satisfactory in respect of shape and appearance:
 - (a) When new?
 - (b) At the date of this report?
2. Has any breakdown of the plastic fabric occurred? If so, where?
.....
3. Has any discolouration (i.e. "yellowing") occurred?
4. (a) Does the plastic material become soiled in wear? If so, please give details.....
(b) Could the caps be cleaned satisfactorily?
5. How does the weather protection afforded by the plastic topped caps compare with that given by existing pattern caps:
 - (a) When new?.....
 - (b) At the date of this report?

(Note: When reporting on seamen's pattern caps separate answers to this question should be given in respect of (i) Size 7 and (ii) Remaining sizes - see Note (ii) to Enclosure 'A').

6. How do the caps compare, as regards comfort when worn in hot weather, with the existing pattern caps - i.e. blue cloth cap (with piqué or marcelline cover) or seamen's white caps, as applicable?.....
7. (Seamen's caps only). Does hair dressing have any adverse effect on caps, size 7 (i.e. those without waterproof lining)?

MESSAGE

IN

UNCLASSIFIED

From: C. in C. Plymouth

29 MAR 1954

270956 March

Date: 27.3.54.

Rec'd: 1137

To: General at Plymouth

Info: Admiralty C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, F.O. Scotland,
C. in C. Home Fleet.

trial of White cap covers, new type

My 131155.

Officers and Ratings from EAGLE, APOLLO, VENUS, and BATTLEAXE
will also participate starting about 4th April.

270956

N.C.W. (2)
N.P. (2)
D.W.S.C. (2)
D. of V. (3)

MFI/19/19

Any further communication
should be addressed to -

The Secretary of the Admiralty,
London, S.W.1.

ADMIRALTY, S.W.1.

26th November, 1954

quoting "V.1A/881/53".

Commander-in-Chief, Home Fleet	} Letter to each Ref. Admiralty Letter V.1A/881/53 of 27th January, 1954
Commander-in-Chief, Plymouth.	
Commander-in-Chief, Mediterranean.	
Commander-in-Chief, Far East Station	

Copies to:- Commander-in-Chief, The Nore.
Commander-in-Chief, Portsmouth.
Commander-in-Chief, East Indies.
Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic.
Commander-in-Chief, American and West Indies.
Flag Officer, Air (Home).
Flag Officer, Scotland.
Superintending Victualling Store Officer, Southern Area.
Superintending Victualling Store Officer, Singapore.
Superintendent, H.M. Victualling Yard, Malta.

I am to request that interim reports on the trials of caps with white plastic tops for officers and ratings and of white plastic covers for wear with officers' and ratings' peak caps may be forwarded to reach the Admiralty not later than 31st January, 1955, indicating whether any definite conclusions have been reached in the light of the experience so far gained in the wearing trials. Specimens of any caps which may have developed defects during the trials should be forwarded to reach the Superintending Victualling Store Officer, Southern Area by the same date.

2. Certain reports which have been received indicate that the seamen's caps have not proved altogether satisfactory owing to flaking of the plastic material on the crown and discolouration at stitching of crown seams. Their Lordships desire particularly to ascertain to what extent these difficulties have been experienced.

BY COMMAND OF THEIR LORDSHIPS,



Onboard H.M.S. NEWCASTLE,
at Singapore.

Office of the Flag Officer,
Second-in-Command,
Far East Station.

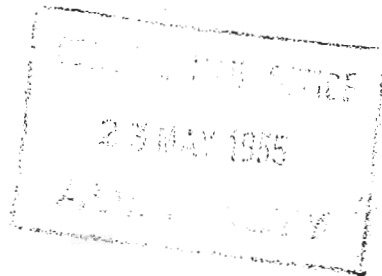
MS 22915
15th May, 1955.

No. 52/2FE/760/13

THE SECRETARY OF THE ADMIRALTY.

(Copies to:-

The Commander-in-Chief,
Far East Station.
The Commanding Officer,
H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM.)



TRIALS OF WHITE PLASTIC TOPPED CAPS AND CAP COVERS

Be pleased to inform Their Lordships that H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM will have completed ten months trials of the Plastic White Topped Caps and Cap Covers in accordance with Admiralty Letter V. 1A/881/53 dated 27th January, 1954 on paying off in July, 1955. A report on her experience with these items to that date will be forwarded in due course.

2. It is requested that instructions for the disposal of the Caps and Cap Covers on trial in H.M.S. BIRMINGHAM on paying off may be communicated.

R. Atomyrill

for REAR ADMIRAL