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Medical Officers' Uniform

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DOCUMENTS.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' UNIFORM.

(Communicated by W. G. PERRIN)

The following letters relative to the establishment of a uniform for the Medical Officers of the Fleet give details which have not hitherto been published).

Sick and Wounded Office,

13th May, 1805.

His Majesty having been pleased by his Order in Council of the 23rd January last to direct that the Medical Officers of the Royal Navy should wear a distinguishing Uniform and have a similar rank with the Officers of the same class in His Majesty's Land Service to be subordinate however to that of the Lieutenants of the Ships and Vessels wherein they may be employed during the period of their service, although their appointments may be of prior date, we beg you will submit to their Lordships' consideration the enclosed scheme of a Uniform for the different ranks of Officers in the Naval Medical Service.

We have sent herewith as a pattern a Coat such as we propose for the Surgeons of ships from which their Lordships will be enabled to judge of the whole: the small Buttons on the Collar are intended to bear a similar device with the others as soon as a Die can be struck.

We enclose also for their Lordships' consideration an Extract from a letter on this subject, which we have received from the Medical Officers of the Royal Hospital at Haslar, and a printed copy of the Order for Establishing the Uniform of the Medical Staff of the Army.

We are, etc. . . .

Sick and Wounded Office,

21st May, 1805.

We have received your letter of the 17th instant acquainting us that the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are pleased to approve the Uniform proposed by us for the Medical Officers of His Majesty's Navy, substituting blue cloth for black velvet in the Lappels, Collar and Cuffs, and direct it to be worn accordingly.

We beg to suggest to you for their Lordships' consideration the propriety of an Order on the subject being issued by their Lordships in the London Gazette, and further should there not have been already any General Order issued in regard to the Rank established for those Officers by His Majesty's late Order in Council we would submit whether it might not be proper that some Order respecting it should be given at the same time.

We are, etc. . . .

SCHEME OF A UNIFORM FOR THE DIFFERENT RANKS OF OFFICERS IN THE NAVAL MEDICAL SERVICE.

PHYSICIANS.

Full Dress.

Blue Cloth Coat with blue Cloth Lappels, Cuffs and Collar, Collar to stand up, two rows Gold lace half an inch wide round the Cuffs and Collar, three Buttons on Pockets and Cuffs, white lining, white Cloth Waistcoat and Breeches, plain hat.

Undress.

Blue Cloth Coat, blue Lappels and round Cuffs, three Buttons on Cuffs and Pockets, fall down blue Collar, Waistcoat and Breeches, White or Blue Cloth as may be convenient.

SURGEONS.

Undress.

Coat the same as the Physician, but without Buttons on Cuffs or Pockets, Waistcoat and Breeches of White or Blue Cloth as may be convenient.

Full Dress.

Coat the same as the Physician with the exception of Gold Lace, White Cloth Waistcoat and Breeches, Plain Hat. Surgeons of Hospitals to wear two embroidered Button-holes on the Collar : Surgeons of Ships one.

DISPENSERS IN HOSPITALS.

Blue Cloth Coat lapelled, blue Collar to stand up, round Cuffs, Waistcoat and Breeches, white or blue as may be convenient, plain Hats.

ASSISTANT SURGEONS AND HOSPITAL MATES.

Blue Cloth Coat without Lappels, plain round Cuffs, stand up Collar, Waistcoat and Breeches of white or blue Cloth as may be convenient.

All Medical Officers to wear the sword established for Officers of the Navy.

Those serving afloat to wear a Button with plain Anchor in an Oval.

Those serving in Hospitals to wear a similar Button, with the addition of H.S. (for Hospital Staff).