

*Air Min going to compare lightly*

*Kennet*

Tel.No. Trafalgar 8811  
Extn. 6408

AIR MINISTRY,

INFORMATION DIVISION,

WHITEHALL GARDENS,

LONDON, S.W.1.

Ref.: Inf.2(b)Facs.

6th February, 1954.

Dear Sir/Madam,

New designs for the No. 1 Home Dress uniform for both officers and airwomen of the Women's Royal Air Force have now been approved and will be shown to the press in Room No. 27, 3rd Floor, Air Ministry, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1 at 3.30 p.m., on Thursday next, February 11th, 1954.

A new tropical dress designed for wear by all ranks of the Women's Royal Air Force will also be shown.

Officers and airwomen will model both the new and old type of each uniform for comparison and the Director of the Women's Royal Air Force, Air Commandant N.M. Salmon, will be present, along with other officers who will be able to explain points about the new designs.

The new No. 1 Dress uniform has been designed by Mr. Victor Steibel.

If you desire to be represented will you please notify me on Trafalgar 8811, Extn. 6408.

Yours faithfully,



(C.J. GRAVENER)  
for Chief Information Officer

The Editor,

*\* Copies sent to all newspapers*

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PRESS NOTES.

NEW W.R.A.F. UNIFORM FOR HOME AND OVERSEAS

New designs for No. 1 Home Dress uniforms for both officers and airwomen of the Women's Royal Air Force have now been approved and a new tropical dress has been designed for wear by all ranks in tropical climates.

NO. 1 HOME DRESS UNIFORM

The design of the present No. 1 Dress for officers and airwomen of the Women's Royal Air Force is, with the exception of the skirt, based on the service dress of the Royal Air Force.

The new uniforms have been designed by Mr. Victor Stiebel specifically for the feminine figure; the jacket is shorter, the shoulders less square and the waist more emphasised. The close fitting, single breasted jacket is beltless, has four gilt R.A.F. buttons, and is cut away in front with well rounded corners. The two front and back panels have piped seams. Unlike the present style, the jacket has no breast pockets, but has two pockets below the waist.

The slightly flared skirt with six panels is considered more practical and becoming than the present straight skirt.

The officers' uniform differs from the airwomen's in the design of the pockets and will continue to be made of blue-grey barathea. The airwomen's designs will be made of blue-grey worsted serge as hitherto.

Officers will shortly be able to order the new design from their tailors and it is hoped that the first supplies of the new uniforms for the airwomen will be received early in 1955.

Except on ceremonial occasions when black service-pattern laced shoes are worn, the new style uniforms may be worn with plain black punched calf welted court shoes. The court shoes will be an optional item of dress which may be purchased by both officers and airwomen.

W.R.A.F.

W.R.A.F. TROPICAL DRESS

The present tropical uniform for officers and airwomen of the Women's Royal Air Force is a jacket and skirt in khaki drill for ceremonial occasions, and a khaki drill skirt and poplin shirt for working dress.

The new one-piece tropical dress for both officers and airwomen is made in cotton tussore of a biscuit shade. It has an open neck and short sleeves and the bodice is buttoned to the waist with three detachable R.A.F. buttons. The skirt has seven panels and a front box pleat. The dress is worn with a stitched belt with an R.A.F. buckle. Gilt buttons will be worn for ceremonial occasions and black plastic ones for normal working duties. It is hoped that supplies of this dress will be available before the end of this year.

Information Division,  
Air Ministry,  
Whitehall Gardens,  
London, S.W.1.

11th February, 1954.

DESIGNER'S NOTES

From:- Victor Stiebel at Jacqmar  
16, Grosvenor Street, London, W.1.

Mr. Victor Stiebel's main purpose in designing a new uniform for the W.R.A.F. was to produce a garment whose proportions would conform to women's post-war shape. A woman's shape, does change from time to time and the square shoulders, flat bust and longish jackets of pre-war are no longer in fashion.

The new beltless jacket is shorter than the old, the waist is clearly defined, the shoulders are unpadded and there are no breast pockets. The gored skirt is a little fuller.

Service details of the uniform - badges of rank, medal ribbons and so on - remain the same.

The shape of the uniform is now the shape of any practical suit that a woman with a reasonable figure would buy for herself today.

11th February 1954.