

Public (1895) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 981

DATED, 29th Nov. 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

MILITARY STORES.

Communicating to the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces,
a despatch from the Secretary of State enclosing a letter from the
Director of Army Clothing regarding the socks complained of obtained
through the War Office and adding that samples obtained by the Store
Department have been pronounced as superior to the War Office supply.

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Gobt. of {1895} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 981, 29th November 1895.

NOVEMBER.

Military Stores.

Communicating to the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces a despatch from the Secretary of State enclosing a letter from the Director of Army Clothing regarding the socks complained of obtained through the War Office, and adding that samples obtained by the Store department have been pronounced as superior to the War Office supply.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper:—

Despatch from the Right Honourable Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 7th November 1895, No. 2, Military (Stores).

In reply to your Military letter, No. 11, dated 12th March 1895, I have to inform you that the socks complained of were obtained through the War Office in common with the other soldiers' necessaries demanded, and I enclose, for your Excellency's information, a letter, dated 30th August 1895, from the Director of Army Clothing on the subject.

2. Samples of seamless socks obtained by the Store department of this office were sent out for trial in 1894 and were favourably reported on in the enclosures to paragraph 11 of Military letter from the Government of India, No. 110, dated 18th June 1895. These samples are considered by competent judges in this country to be superior to those issued for the service by the War Office, which form the subject of the present complaint.

ENCLOSURE.

From H. DE LA BERE, Esq., Assistant Director of Clothing, to the Director-General of Stores, India Office, Whitehall, S.W., dated Grosvenor Road, London, S.W., 30th August 1895, A.C.D./ India Regts./ 7076.

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, S.7762, forwarding complaints of socks supplied by this department for use in India, I have the honour to inform you that in 1892, after an extended trial, it was decided to adopt the seamless sock as the universal pattern. On the one hand the troops declared almost unanimously in its favour and objected to the older pattern, and on the other the military authorities finding a most marked decrease in the cases of foot-soreness, &c., of men while on the march decided that the seamless sock contributed appreciably to the comfort and efficiency of the troops.

The adoption of this pattern was notified to you in the list of changes of patterns for November and December 1892, forwarded with the letter of 12th January 1893, C.P./Patterns/ 6861 and a demand for patterns was received from you dated 8th April 1893, No. S.W. 3620.

To perfect this sock as far as possible it was decided in June 1893 to send samples to different hosiery manufacturers and to invite each to produce a sock on the basis of the sample and his knowledge also of the service for which it was intended might suggest.

Several patterns were received from different manufacturers, but on trial the question narrowed itself down to the comparative merits of three description known as A, B and C. The A pattern was the seamless sock originally approved and sealed. B and C were expected to be improvements on that pattern.

The reports received in 1894 on the three varieties whilst in favour of seamless socks were yet so conflicting as regards the superiority or otherwise of one pattern over another that when contracts for the requirements of the years 1894-95 and 1895-96 were put out equal quantities of each description were ordered, reports upon which are now being received and considered.

The supply of socks for 1894-95 complained of by the troops in India was made at a time when the A seamless pattern only had been tested to any large extent, and it was notified on receipt of your demand (S.W. 5189, 24th June 1893) by this office letter I./Regts./ 6248 dated 1st July 1893, that the seamless pattern socks would be supplied.

When supplies for use in India were made last year this department was not in a position to decide upon the respective merits of the three descriptions of socks and the A seamless pattern was again issued.

The trials of the various patterns are not yet completed, but the reports on the A sock now coming in though generally favourable are not so favourable as those upon the B and C patterns and the A sock therefore will probably not be ultimately adopted.

In regard to the reports which accompanied your letter under reply, in which the Superintendent, Army Clothing Department, Madras, expresses the opinion that the inferior wearing qualities of the sock arises from their being made of hard worsted, I have to point out that the socks are made of soft wool known in the trade as "wheeling yarn."

These are the only socks obtained by this department since the non-seamless "Line" sock was made obsolete in 1892, and they have been issued on all your demands received since June 1893. Should the B or the C pattern be finally adopted for the Army the usual notification of the same will be made.

ORDER—No. 981, Public, dated 29th November 1895.

Communicated to the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces with reference to G.O., No. 1427, Military, dated 12th March 1895.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, Madras Command.
 „ Superintendent, Army Clothing.
 „ Controller of Military Accounts.

Exd. S. J. Pereira.

A.C.D./India Regts/7076.

Royal Army Clothing Department

Grosvenor Road,

London S.W.

30th August 1895

Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 8th instant, S.7762 forwarding complaints of socks supplied by this Department for use in India, I have the honour to inform you that in 1892 after an extended trial it was decided to adopt the seamless sock as the universal pattern. On the one hand the troops declared almost unanimously in its favour and objected to the older pattern, and on the other the military authorities finding a most marked decrease in the cases of footsoreness &c. of men while on the March decided that the seamless sock contributed appreciably to the comfort and efficiency of the troops.

The adoption of this pattern was notified to you in the list of changes of patterns for Nov, and Dec. 1892 forwarded with the letter of 12.1.93 C.P./Patterns/6861 and a demand for patterns was received from you dated 28.4.93, No. S.W 3620.

To perfect this sock as far as possible it was decided in June 1893, to send samples to different hosiery manufacturers and to invite each to produce a sock on the basis of the sample and his knowledge also of the service for which it was intended might suggest.

Several patterns were received from different

manufacturers

The Director General of Stores,
 India Office,
 Whitehall. S.W.

George Hand

manufacturers but on trial the question narrowed itself down to the comparative merits of three description known as A.B. and C. The A pattern was the seamless sock originally approved and sealed. B. and C. were expected to be improvements on that pattern.

The reports received in 1894 on the three varieties whilst in favour of seamless socks were yet so conflicting as regards the superiority or otherwise of one pattern over another that when contracts for the requirements of the years 1894-95 and 1895-6 were put out equal quantities of each description were ordered, reports upon which are now being received and considered.

The supply of socks for 1894-5 complained of by the troops in India was made at a time when the A. seamless pattern only had been tested to any large extent, and it was notified on receipt of your demand (S.W.5189, 24.6.93) by this Office letter "/1.Regts/6248 dated 1.7.93 that the seamless pattern socks would be supplied.

When supplies for use in India were made last year this Department was not in a position to decide upon the respective merits of the 3 descriptions of socks and the A. seamless pattern was again issued.

The trials of the various patterns are not yet completed but the reports on the A. sock now coming in though generally favourable are not so favourable as those upon the B. and C. patterns and the A. sock therefore will probably not be ultimately adopted.

In regard to the Reports which accompanied your letter under reply in which the Superintendent A.Clothing Dept. Madras expresses the opinion that the inferior wearing qualities of the sock arises from their being made of hard worsted, I have to point out that the socks are made of soft wool known in the trade as "wheeling yarn".

These are the only socks obtained by this Department
since

since the non-seamless "Line" sock was made obsolete in 1892, and they have been issued on all your demands received since June 1893. Should the B. or the C. pattern be finally adopted for the Army the usual notification of the same will be made.

I am, &c.,

(Sd) H. De la Bere.

Asst. Director of Clothing.

no 17.

Copy letter from the
Director of Army Clothing
dated 30th August 1895

Referred to in Madras
Military (Stores) Despatch
No 2 of 7th Nov 1895.
para 1

1132.

MILITARY (STORES),

No. 2.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR
IN COUNCIL FORT ST. GEORGE.

My Lord,

In reply to your Military Letter
No. 11 dated 12th March 1895, I have
to inform you that the socks complained
of were obtained through the War Office
in common with the other Soldiers'
necessaries demanded, and I enclose for
Your Excellency's information a letter,
dated 30th August 1895, from the
Director of Army Clothing on the
subject.

2. Samples of seamless socks
obtained by the Store Department of
this Office were sent out for trial in
1894, and were favourably reported on
in the enclosures to paragraph 11 of
Military Letter from the Government of
India No. 110, dated 18th June 1895.
These samples are considered by
competent judges in this country to be
superior to those issued for the
service by the War Office, which form
the subject of the present complaint.
I have the honour to be,

My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,

2224

Off. 1422 & 12 March 195
N-16

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED. { Order complete. Letter only. Order complete with Letter.

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

NOT FILLED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
P = Print abstract only.
Q = Print heading only.

Military (Stores)

7th November 1895

From
The India Office
Military Stores
No. 2

The
Letter to Fort St. George
No. 2

Dated 7th 11-95
Received 27th 11-95
Enclosure 1

N. 48

Order No. 981 d/29 Nov 95
Mis. Jo.

Subject

Stating that the socks referred to in Military letter no. 11 dated No. 3-95 were obtained through the War office and enclosing a letter from the Director of Army clothing on the subject.

Communicated

To the Lieut Genl Comd-
manding the Forces, with
reference to ^{SO.} ~~SO.~~ (Indy)
No. 1424, dated 12 March
1895.

3.53.
for CS.
29.11.5.

To The Lieut Genl Comd-
ing Forces
Supp Army Clothing 6
Lack of Mail 6

M. P.

27/11/95